

MEET

Carol Connaughton

VOLUNTEER, CONVERSATIONS / ART & DEMENTIA TOURS PROGRAM



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NAME Carol Connaughton
LIVES Bolwarra Heights
FAMILY Nick & Sarah, Emily

BACKGROUND + EXPERIENCE

Carol left her childhood home in Wellington, NSW to study nursing at Marrickville District Hospital. She then studied Midwifery at RPA before further studies in Psychiatric Nursing and finally, Gerontology. Carol has always held an interest in the arts, and as a student nurse in Sydney, she and friends would pack a picnic and spend the day visiting the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Carol had found a vocation in Gerontology and worked in public and private hospitals for over thirty years.

After her marriage, Carol moved to the east coast of the USA where her son Nick was born. During this time she studied raku pottery at St Mary's College and set up a kiln in her yard on the banks of the Ptomac River, experimenting with different firing materials and methods. Carol returned to Australia where her daughter Emily was born before returning to the States to live in Silicon Valley, California. As soon as her children were old enough, she returned to nursing.

Carol has held a devotion to dementia which she has passed on to her daughter Emily who now works as a clinical psychologist specialising in Gerontology. Emily recently attained her PhD for research in the field of dementia and continues this work at Macquarie University. Might we cheekily add that Carol also enjoys an occasional fine wine, an interest shared by her winemaker son, Nick!

Now retired after a rewarding career, Carol has set up home in Maitland and is a vital member of the MRAG community. Her specialist training and clinical expertise have been invaluable in her work with our Art and Dementia visitors. Carol's gentle nature, professionalism and kindness towards the group visitors did not go unnoticed for long. In 2016, Carol was awarded the City of Maitland Service Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community through her work with the Conversations/Art and Dementia Program and she was later shortlisted for the 2017 Australia Day Awards.

Carol is very modest when it comes to promoting her own achievements. She quietly relates how deeply she feels the sadness of a person losing their identity and the effect it has on them and their family. Her face lights up when she tells how uplifting it can be to see a happy memory triggered by an artwork, especially those currently on show by Susan O'Doherty which feature vintage household items. Most of all, Carol loves the opportunity to take advantage of her skill set and experience to assist the program visitors. She gains so much satisfaction from and looks forward to spending time at the Gallery. Carol says that MRAG is like a second home to her and the Gallery Staff is like a family. Judging by the way Carol is greeted by at the Gallery, the MRAG community thinks of Carol as a family member too!



Director's Choice MRAGM Art Sale, 4 November 2016

Welcome to the Autumn edition of ARTEL. In the time gap between the deadline, submitting an article the printing and distribution of the magazine, much can happen – as was the case in the interval between me putting pen to paper and you receiving your Summer copy ARTEL, Summer 2017.

During this time gap, the Gallery hosted one of the MRAG Members Committee major fund raisers, 'The Directors Choice Art Sale. This was a most successful fundraiser, exceeding expectations with \$30,000 in art sales on the opening weekend alone; in total 92 art works sold with an after costs profit of \$12,338.04.

Many people assisted in the preparation of the Art Sale; Gallery staff, volunteers and Committee Members. Heartfelt thanks to Collections Manager Cheryl Farrell and all those who assisted in the preparation and running of the Art Sale.

Proceeds from events such as the Art Sale support the Free Art Sunday program, a key component of the Gallery's public arts program.

Another important event that occurred late last year, and one of particular interest to members, was the Members Christmas party. A great evening with just on 100 members present and from the comments I heard, a much enjoyed Christmas party. Everyone was treated to a first class buffet and long table seating, enabling Members to enjoy the meal, good company and music by singer guitarist Dave Wells accompanied by Andrew Wallace on double base. Thanks to our Events Coordinator, Andrea Pugh.

Andrea, assisted by new committee member Holly Fisher-Bidwell, is busy preparing the 2017 calendar of events. Presently, there are 2 coach trips to look forward to: The Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Art Prizes at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and a trip to Bondi to see *Sculptures by the Sea*. Dates for other events will be announced in due course and in plenty of time to book a place.

Now, I am asking for help: Events such as the Annual General Meeting, Art Sale, Members Christmas Party along with some admin tasks require considerable time by Committee Members, the majority of whom are in full time employment. Others have part-time work and family commitments, hence they are not always available when help is needed.

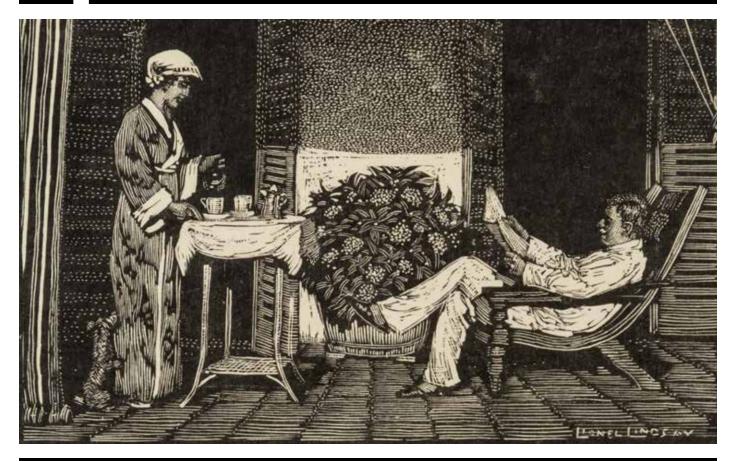
During 2016 the Committee discussed establishing a small "Committee Support Group" of members prepared to help out with events and promotional activities. If you are willing to help, just now and then, it would be appreciated. Not only would it assist your Committee members, it would also take pressure off Gallery staff and volunteers who have always, thankfully, come to the rescue.

If you would like more details, be part of a small 'on call' group willing to assist your MRAG Committee Members, please leave your name and phone number with staff at the front desk and I will contact you.

With thanks,

Jan.

FROM THE CULTURAL DIRECTOR BY BRIGETTE UREN



Lionel Lindsay, Morning Tea (detail), 1924, wood engraving, printed in black ink on paper, 7.3 x 9.7cm

Autumn is perhaps my favourite of all the seasons, colour for the most part my reason. Where Summer is bright and carefree, the light can also be bleaching (the pastures around my home this year have only been scorched tan with exhaustion as example!). Where Spring is inspiring for renewed growth, and Winter with its moody hues, I have always loved the depth and richness of colour that comes with Autumn, a sense of quality lived experience, even with a far more limited palette, the concept 'less is more' rings true.

At the surface level you would have noticed that for the last few years MRAG has endeavoured to offer more with less. There are numerous statistics to prove this has been a clever move, but it continues to demand more of the people intimately involved in the Gallery, such as staff, volunteers and community organisations. Our connections to community have dominated staff efforts of late, particularly in learning and audience development, and you will benefit from many of these as Members this season - Teena's Bathtime as a current example, so too the Flipside performances early April. Book early - even I missed out last year!

Many of you will be familiar with the 'old Gallery' - the lovely lower ground exhibition space. We are devoting this Gallery exclusively to the Collection from 2017, firstly with highlights from the Asian Collection in celebration of Chinese New Year, and thereafter for 12 months Lionel's Place (see Kim's article for more information). We may be showing fewer exhibitions in 2017 overall, however

the quality and depth of this exhibition will truly see you returning often to absorb the multiple layers in which Lionel Lindsay worked. I am delighted MRAG will be producing a children's book for the first time ever to accompany the exhibition, only possible due to the continued generosity of Max and Nola Tegel who donated the Lindsays in the first instance and WHO Printing who have come on board as catalogue sponsors.

The Gallery Shop discount is one of the key Member benefits and you would be wise to take advantage of this during Autumn. We have consolidated the artist suppliers we work with to 50 in the Gallery Shop, but expanded our range of cards, books and children's stock. Many of the artists we are supporting in the shop have started as up-and-coming and are developing a strong profile nationally. They work in limited quantities to ensure their work is constantly evolving and of the highest quality and now their reputations are growing they are increasingly in high demand. When so many public gallery shops favour the quirky massproduced items sourced often in China, we are one of the very few public galleries that can boast our artists are contributing to a thriving creative industry locally. It's just another way we are adding value to the MRAG experience.

Through the artistic program MRAG can readily represent all four seasons' colours at any one time, but the depth, quality and rigour in which MRAG functions all year is very much Autumn to the core.





(left) Claire Heasman, ICS Paintings Conservator, working on our Margaret Olley self portrait. (right) Anna from MRAG and Katie Wood, ICS Paper Conservator cleaning a Chinese handscroll. (below) Katie Wood, ICS Paper Conservator, working on Les Darcy funeral photographs

There are more than 4500 items in the MRAG Collection making it a significant cultural and valuable asset of the City of Maitland. As Collection Management Curator it is my role to manage the protection and care for this collection. Collection Management includes documentation and research, condition reporting, protection of the items while in storage, while they are being handled and when they are on display, ensuring that the artworks in the collection and the stories they tell are preserved for the future.

Conservation treatment is another important area in the care and protection of artworks and this includes cleaning, restoration and repair. Each year MRAG contracts various qualified practitioners to undertake conservation works on a small number of artworks from the collection on a prioritised basis of need and exhibition.

Last year, across two weeks in May, MRAG staff and three conservators from International Conservation Services (ICS) undertook a major project: to review the condition of the entire collection - yes all 4500 items! This meant viewing every single work and assessing and ranking its condition. The resulting Collection Condition Survey Report, along with our Collection Significance Assessment, will now help to inform future collection management decisions. During their stay at Maitland the ICS conservators also spent time with MRAG staff instructing us on basic conservation treatments such as cleaning and simple repairs. The ICS conservators also carried out more specialised treatment on a few items while we looked on. Although it was an intense two weeks - it was a worthwhile experience for our staff to be able to look more closely at most of the artworks in the collection and learn new skills from the ICS team in regard to caring for artworks, and for the collection management strategies going forward.

Top Conservation Tips

- Always handle unframed works with clean hands or with gloves
- Use archival, acid free materials for framing and storage
- Reduce fading by keeping artworks out of direct sunlight
- Try to keep artworks in a dust free, humidity and temperature stable environment
- Store framed works the right way up to prevent slipping in the frame
- Store unframed works flat preferably in an archival enclosure such as tissue, mylar, solander box







(left) Jim Anderson, *The Mask of Taurus or She Looks a Little Beefy* (detail), 1978, collage, 31 x 27.5cm (right) Locust Jones, *Back to the Dark Ages* (detail), 2016, ink, watercolour, shellac & pencil on paper, 150 x 1000cm

What is the news?

What is the news today and how is it reported, and then, how do we respond? Do we believe it? Are we suspicious and question it or do we not even care?

I am inspired as I write this when I come to realise that three exhibitions launching as part of the MRAG Autumn program for 2017 each have linkages to reporting news, making news, and responding to news. What is even more exciting is that these exhibitions are linked by news makers and news critics across the last century up to today.

The three artists I speak of are Lionel Lindsay, Jim Anderson, and Locust Jones.

Lionel Lindsay born in the later part of the 19th century represents a more romantic time in history. I use the term 'romantic' because it is a time only known by us today through second or third hand stories or interpretations, from picture contextualised in a past time. For this exhibition you are asked to consider Lionel Lindsay's place – yesterday and today, his place in the story of art history or even just a visit to his to 'his place' via the images, his legacy left behind. How is Lionel connected to the news? - he was a commentator of the news through his pictures and illustrations for numerous magazines and journals. Perhaps his longest relationship with the news was as illustrator with the hugely influential newspaper *The Bulletin*.

We then lead on to Jim Anderson – like Lionel, Jim Anderson is also a commentator of the news, with his work represented in this exhibition, some of which he did as a reporter and illustrator for the 'Hearsay News' from Bolinas California in the United States where Jim lived for over 15 years. But Jim is also a news maker. As Artistic Editor of Oz Magazine United Kingdom in the late 1960's

Jim along with his two colleagues Richard Neville and Felix Denis made international news headlines when they were charged with 'conspiracy to corrupt the morals of children...' which if proven would lead to time in prison for all three. They were eventually acquitted having been represented by a young Geoffrey Robertson now a well-known QC and fighter of Human Rights internationally. The OZ Trial, as it became known caused riots in the streets of London at the time; John Lennon and Yoko Ono in support of them wrote a song about their fight and the three are immortalised in a lithograph print by artist David Hockey – albeit without their pants on. Jim is still a critic of the news; now living back in Sydney; his artwork today still questions, still pushes boundaries and in our current political climate Jim is still critiquing the news but now as an Artist.

Locust Jones' art practice is very much about the news of today – indeed his artwork might be the title of that day's date based on the news he hears as he works in his studio. But Locust is not comfortable to accept that version of the news he hears on the radio or reads in the paper – although this does, in part, inform his art practice. Locust will just take himself right into it – take a trip to South Africa or Lebanon or where he needs to be to see firsthand and represent in his artwork that which is otherwise reported to us here in the relative safety of Australia.

So while in some ways I am want to now quote George Orwell, one who creatively questions concepts of the complexity of what is 'news', I am comforted and excited that in our gallery in Maitland we have the opportunity to present such diverse and exciting exhibitions which might raise questions and hopefully also push accepted boundaries of news, news makes and us as consumers of the news.

SAVE THE DATE!

OPENING: 6 MAY 2017 3.00-5.00pm





(left) Frank Murri, The Prime Ingredient in a Big Piece of Pi (π) – Panel # 1 (1-322 digits) [detail] 2016, timber, acrylic and ink on board, 94 x 58 cm (right) Joan Ross, BBQ this Sunday BYO (detail),2011, digital animation, 5 minutes. Joan Ross is represented by Bett Gallery, Hobart and Michael Reid Gallery, Sydney.

DAVID CAPRA TEENA'S BATHTIME, 2015, MCA JACKSON BELLA ROOM COMMISSION

4 February - 28 May 2017

David Capra, *Teena's Bathtime*, 2015, MCA Jackson Bella Room Commission. Organised and toured by the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

SUSAN AND PETER O'DOHERTY MOVING HOUSE

4 February - 2 April 2017

WELCOME TO WOOF WOOF VANESSA TURTON

4 February - 28 May 2017

THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER: CHINESE SCROLLS

FROM THE MRAG COLLECTION

11 February - 26 March 2017

WENDY STOKES WALKING THROUGH THE SPACE

OF LANDSCAPE 11 February - 30 April 2017

CATHERINE ROGERS PICTURES FOR WAITING ROOMS

11 February - 30 April 2017

MAITLAND INTERNATIONAL SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY

25 February - 2 April 2017

MAITLAND EMBROIDERS GROUP INC

8 April - 14 May 2017

LOCUST JONES BACK TO THE DARK AGES

8 April - 18 June 2017

JIM ANDERSON LAMPOON

8 April - 18 June 2017

FRANK MURRI

THE PRIME INGREDIENT IN A BIG PIECE OF PI 8 April - 23 July 2017

LIONEL'S PLACE: LIONEL LINDSAY

FROM THE MRAG COLLECTION

8 April 2017 - 8 April 2018

WHO WAS LES DARCY?

FROM THE MRAG COLLECTION

20 May - 18 June 2017

COLONIAL AFTERLIVES

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS EXAMINE OUR BRITISH LEGACY

6 May - 23 July 2017

A Salamanca Arts Centre exhibition toured by Contemporary Art Tasmania





















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MEET OUR MEMBER ARTISTS BY CATHERINE KINGSMILL Juno and Manus O'Reilly



Manus & Juno at home carving lino plates

Junior Members, twins Juno and Manus O'Reilly have been visiting MRAG since they were 4 years old after their family moved to East Maitland from Bowral . The arts play a large part in the busy life of these twins who are now 12 years old. Their primary schooling at Linuwel, the local Rudolf Steiner school, was very focused on the visual and performing arts and 2017 sees a new chapter in their education at Broadmeadow School of Performing Arts. Juno and Manus love going to MRAG exhibitions and have attended a number of holiday workshops over the years. Juno is a keen drawer, painter and designer with a preference for portraiture and still life. Her portrait of her father Cathal won her a prize in MRAG's Young Archibald competition in 2015. Apart from painting, Juno loves drama classes, gymnastics and surfing with the Bar Reef Boardriders.

Manus' preferred field of art is sculpture, a talent he uses for props and sets in his filmmaking, puppet shows and theatrical performances. Ever interested in the process of creating artworks, he has enjoyed a number of artist talks at MRAG. Manus also loves printmaking using the lino-cut technique.

Leading such creative lives, it's only natural that MRAG should play such a vital role in the artistic inspiration of Juno and Manus. Some of their favourite exhibitions in 2016 included works by Peter Speight and Stephen Bird. Their most inspiring time was spent travelling through the *FRUGAL FOREST*. This year, Juno is very keen to travel on the MRAG Members trip to the Archibald Prize again while Manus is looking forward to more exhibition openings.

KIDS CLASSES

BOOK NOW FOR TERM 2!MEMBER DISCOUNT



Juno at home with some of her paintings







offee pot lino print by Manus



Juno with her father Cathal and her winning portrait at MRAG.

CREATIVE LEARNING IN THE ART FACTORY BY MICHELLE MAARTEI

BY MICHELLE MAARTENSZ AND ANNE MCLAUGHLIN



Vannessa Turton, Welcome to Woof Woof, 2017

Summer at MRAG, although hot, was intensely and enthusiastically creative with a wonderful *Free Art January* program taking place inside (when it was too hot!!) and outside in the gallery garden throughout the month.

Children of all ages, teens, mums, dads, older brothers and sisters, grandmas and grandpas, friends and family – everyone who came to the gallery - were warmly invited by our MRAG Art Tutors led by Michelle Maartensz, Learning and Audience Development Curator, to get involved with Fun Park, Drop in and Draw, the Community Sculpture Project, Code Breaker and much more. Included also was the first of one of our new programs for the year: Story Time. Seeing all ages engaging with play, art and fun as they get to explore MRAG is what Free Art January is about and we thank MRAG Members as the major sponsor and CleverPatch for their ongoing support of Art and Craft Supplies.

Story Time will now be on throughout 2017 on the last Tuesday of the month at 10.30am and will be led by Alice, one of our dynamic MRAG Art Tutors. Alice will share new and exciting ways for children of all ages and their parents and carers to create a story inspired by artworks in the gallery; this fun and free session will give everyone new ideas for looking at and thinking about artworks! Mark it in your diaries for 28 February, 28 March, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 29 August, 26 September, 24 October, 28 November.

Just as the gallery can be full of hubbub and busy activity enjoyed by many, for some, creativity and calm to engage is best nurtured in a quiet space. Respecting this has led MRAG to develop facilities to be able to create a special quiet space for openings and especially busy days at the gallery. The space is made just that, calm and creative, with soft surfaces, a soothing ambience, and places to sit and create, read and play. So if you or someone with you, especially children and young people, needs that time for quiet during our next opening on Saturday 25 February please come and ask at the Front Desk about our Quiet Space.

Another exciting collaboration in full fruition right now at MRAG is that between the gallery and Museum of Contemporary Art. One part of the collaboration is on exhibition right now upstairs in the

Art Factory: David Capra *Teena's Bathtime* 2015 MCA Bella Room Commission and up until the end of May the two accompanying free Bella programs, the second part of the collaboration, are available to our audiences: *Bella Plus Connect* and *Bella Groups*. The MCA Bella Program was established in 1993 through the generosity of MCA patrons, Dr Edward Jackson AM and Mrs Cynthia Jackson AM, and the Jackson family, in memory of their late daughter and sister Belinda. Bella Programs including Bella Room commissions such as *Teena's Bathtime* aim to provide opportunities for interactive and multi-sensory exploration of contemporary art for members of gallery audiences who have accessibility challenges. For all details on the Bella Program at MRAG go to our website at *mrag.org.au/whats-on/events*

We are very thrilled to present the second Flipside Dance Project at MRAG very shortly on 7 & 8 April. This follows the brilliant and acclaimed 2016 dance performance 'In search of the Lost Thing' inspired by Shaun Tan's exhibition The Lost Thing: from book to film performed in April 2016 in the gallery. 'The Edge' is the title of the 2017 Flipside Project at MRAG and is inspired by David Capra Teena's Bathtime 2015 MCA Bella Room Commission. The Flipside Project dancers, from 10 -18 years, are drawn from local Hunter schools to work on a site - specific project led by Cadi McCarthy and, as last year, the entire gallery space is a canvas for their creative interpretation. The audience needs to move from space to space as each dance segment unfolds across the gallery site and is limited to 50 for each of the four performances. So claim the date and book your tickets to avoid disappointment at the gallery! There will be 2 performances on each day, Friday 7 and Saturday 8 April, at 6pm and 7.30pm

On Sunday 30 April to celebrate our dogginess in the gallery – you can't miss Vanessa Turton's engaging and playful Welcome to Woof Woof downstairs in the Art Factory –we are having a special Art Sunday from 11am – 2pm Doggies' Day Out. Come and join in the fun with your dog! (leashes please!).

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and family at the gallery.

MEET THE MAKER



Meet the Maker: Vanessa Lewis

'In a world saturated with the digital image, there is something very visceral about taking a closer look at a real artwork. Not only can you see the work up close, the marks, the nuances of the medium but it is quite a connoisseur's thrill to know you are witnessing a living, breathing one of a kind piece of art.'

- Vanessa Lewis

With the welcome addition of many wonderful Lindsay artworks to the MRAG collection it is time to marvel and celebrate the medium of paper; those who work magic with it and on it.

Incredible and incredibly humble, Hunter Valley artist Vanessa Lewis is both scientist and artist with her practice drawing upon many 'old school ways' of making and illustrating. It is fitting then, that all she creates is branded under her studio name 'Apothecary Artist'. Like many artists of Lindsay's era and beyond, Vanessa's current body of work and PhD research embodies the application, limits and limitlessness of tempera as a medium. We're talking tempera as in an egg mixture. Vanessa was intrigued following her first introduction to it, with the instruction being to 'mix one egg yolk with water, add pigment, make small brushstrokes and don't expect too much of it.'

When speaking with Vanessa, her voice conveys an overwhelming sense of contemplation and calm. This of course conjures images of her drawing with a steady hand and a busy mind. It is quite clear that she is forever curious and a perfectionist, but also someone who expects the unexpected.

Her original works explore a range of techniques from sweeping brush strokes, blurred lines and watercolour finishes to fine line drawings perfect for print. No matter what the outcome there appears to be a quiet consideration in all that she does.

In the Gallery Shop we stock a unique collection of Vanessa's work. This range is symbolic on many levels with her postcard-sized prints representing a gift card in the truest sense. Each work is a limited-edition signed and sometimes hand gilded artwork, a gift in its own right. Intended to be kept and treasured, these small works in their own way buck the trend of a throwaway society and reflect the complexity and beauty of a bygone era.

'As an artist I am compelled to make art, and yet I must acknowledge that I live in a world that is getting warmer, more populated and where every action will have an impact on future generations. I am now on a quest to be more accountable, with paintbrush in pocket, and a newfound respect for the materials and history books as guide.'

- Vanessa Lewis

Meet the Maker!

Vanessa, along with a treasure trove of her inks, papers and potions will be in store to chat all things Apothecary Artist on Saturday 6 May 11.00am – 3.00pm. (TBC) Enjoy a diverse selection of her work which will be available to purchase throughout April and May in the Gallery Shop.

SOCIAL GALLERY



Brett Lewis, Brigette Uren and Linda Greedy, Summer Art Party, 26 November 2016



2016 Brenda Clouten Memorial Travelling Scholarship for Young Achievers in Visual Arts winner, Dale Collier, 26 November 2016



MRAGM Annual General Meeting, Thursday 20 October 2016



Free Art January, 2017



Shhhh, Nathan Keogh and Giselle Penn, 26 November 2016



Inside Bloomfield, Linda Greedy



Dr Anne Sanders and MRAGM Committee Council Member Loretta Baker, Awesome Achievers: Stories from Australians of the Year, 26 November 2016



Free Art January, 2017



Animation Spectacular workshop, Saturday 21 January

Maitland Regional Art Gallery is proudly supported by:















 $\label{thm:main_main_support} \mbox{Maitland Regional Art Gallery is supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.}$

THE

A site specific contemporary dance work inspired by David Capra, Teena's Bathtime, 2015 MCA Jackson Bella Room Commission Currently on exhibition at Maitland Regional Art Gallery until 28 May 2017

4 performances + 2 workshops at MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY 230 High St Maitland

PERFORMANCES

Friday 7 April 6.00pm + 7.30pm

Saturday 8 April 6.00pm + 7.30pm

\$15 per person \$50 group of five

CHILDREN'S DANCE WORKSHOPS

with Flipside Project Director, Cadi McCarthy

Saturday 8 April

1.00pm 5-8 years Creative movement

2.00pm 9-12 years Contemporary dance + choreographic work

Workshops \$10 per child (approx. 50 mins)

Bookings essential for performances and workshops

All tickets available from maitlandticketing.com.au or contact the gallery on 4934 9859 Performance audiences limited to 50 attendees each session. Audience moves around with dancers in gallery for approx. 40 mins. Minimal seating. Workshops limited to 20 each session.













David Capra, Teena's Bathtime, 2015, MCA Jackson Bella Room Commission. Organised and toured by the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia Photograph: Jessica Coughlan

catapultdance.com.au