

ARTEL

QUARTERLY ■ NEWSLETTER

FREE



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mragm
MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY MEMBERS

SUMMER 2012



Séraphine
Art Gallery > Café*



is open for dinner from 5.30pm following
each exhibition opening celebration at
Maitland Regional Art Gallery

TO BOOK CALL > 4934 7264
CAFÉ HOURS > TUE - SUN, 8am - 4.30pm

***Located at Maitland Regional Art Gallery**
Art Gallery hours Tue - Sun 10am - 5pm, Gallery Shop hours
Tue - Sun 10am - 4:45pm, 230 High St Maitland NSW 2320



THE GALLERY SHOP

*Looking for the
"unique"*



*Christmas
gift?*



The Gallery Shop hours : Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 4:45pm
230 High St Maitland NSW 2320 | 02 4934 9859
artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au www.mrag.org.au



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the Summer edition of Artel – I can't believe this year is nearly over! Christmas is almost upon us, so it's a great time to take a break from the frantic hubbub of the shopping mall and have a look around the Gallery shop, where I am sure you will find a gift for the person who appreciates something a little different. Of course there are also some interesting and varied exhibitions to take your mind off the frenzy of the outside world and Seraphine, the café, can revive you with coffee and cake or a tasty lunch.

The Members group Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 26th October and before the meeting we had a pleasant social gathering. We had some great Spanish guitar playing by Pedro, while we all tucked into delicious Paella from Seraphine and drank Sangria, made by our committee member Jean-Paul. The Members Patron, Maitland MP Robyn Parker kindly attended and hosted the election of the new committee. I think those Members who joined us had an enjoyable evening and I remind you that Members are always welcome to attend the committee meetings as observers. With advance notice, matters can be raised – but please don't expect Sangria and music every time!

I would like to thank the previous committee for their efforts over the past year, several (including myself) have continued in their positions, so I welcome the three new members and trust we can all work together with the Director and staff for another successful year.

Finally I send my very best wishes to all MRAG Members and staff over the Festive Season and look forward to what 2012 will bring.

Jeff Sinclair
Chairperson, MRAGM

[left] Our dancing Chair, Jeff Sinclair.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Museums and Galleries NSW held a one day forum in Sydney on Friday 25 November to discuss issues of access for the disabled into public institutions. I gave a paper along with six other speakers and I spoke about how a Technical College built in 1911 had been transformed into MRAG, opened officially one hundred years later. Most importantly I told the story of how all those involved with the new building and the makeover of the old, including the architects Paul Berkemeier and Barry McGregor were very aware, not just because of legislation, of the many special needs required by visitors and staff with disabilities. It was also an opportunity to discuss the dreams that the original government architect, Walter Liberty Vernon, had for his incomplete building and to explain how in his original ideas he made access throughout the new MRAG that much easier to achieve for people with disabilities.

My talk, which lasted for half an hour, and accompanied by images (taken by Michelle Maartinez our in house photographer) became a power point presentation (with the expert assistance of Janis Wilton). With more than two dozen images I was able to not only address the issues of access and disability, but I was also able to give a P.R. talk about MRAG and what we all, including staff, volunteers and members, were able to offer day in and day out.

The images allowed me to show MRAG at different times over the past two years while displaying a variety of exhibitions which served as a backdrop to my talk. With more than 80 people in the audience and with some large institutions' staff present I was very proud at not only what we have achieved, but also how friendly the art gallery is to all visitors and to show that it is more than adequate as a destination for visitors with disabilities.

MRAG has of course all the basics necessary which are legislated for those who possess a

disability. We have disabled parking places and ramps, entries wide enough for wheelchairs, a lift to the second floor, brail on the toilets, including the one especially fitted out for people with disabilities and other requirements which make for a friendly and interesting visit to the art gallery.

Most importantly being in regional Australia there are attendants and volunteers at the two entry points into MRAG and not only do they make visitors welcome, they also have the opportunity to explain to each (almost) new visitor the layout of the spaces and how to move around the building at ease while enjoying the exhibitions on view at any given time. Thus, unlike major cultural institutions in capital cities, there is an opportunity to make everyone, not only those with disabilities, comfortable. It is also an opportunity to advertise the café *Seraphine* and the three roomed shop without making anyone feel uncomfortable.

In my talk I took the audience through a tour of MRAG, showing the initial aspirations that Vernon had in leaving (bricked up) apertures which Berkemeier was able to employ as entrance points, windows, a 'Juliet' balcony and passage ways which only required a ramp at one point as the two original buildings were joined by a third to make the one structure which is now MRAG.

It was almost exhilarating for me to be able to discuss and show how well the building functions. From east to west, north and south and on two floors reached by three staircases and an elevator MRAG can be traversed by people with disabilities. If anyone cares to wander through my talk and wonder what I said I will get our designer (Clare Hodgins) to put the images in sequence on our website (www.mrag.org.au). Let me know what you think.

Joe Eisenberg OAM
Cultural Director, MRAG



SCULPTURE BY THE SEA 2011 > REPORT



[left] Sculpture by the Sea 2011 MRAG coach trip.

“Sculpture by the Sea” trip is organised every year by MRAGM committee for MRAG members and their guests. Hosting the trip this year were Jean-Paul Ruellé and Judy Henry .

This year is the 15th anniversary of Sculpture by the Sea; over 100 artists from Australia and around the world were chosen to exhibit their work on the two kilometre coastal walk from Bondi to Tamarama.

Our coach, with driver David at the helm, left for Sydney via Cameron Park at 0704hrs, thank you to all passengers for boarding well in time. Fifty three participants, (ten more than last year thanks to a bigger bus), fourteen of them guests, were ready for that annual art pilgrimage longed for by everyone.

After departing Cameron Park, where fourteen Novocastrians were picked up, the raffle timeline was announced, and I am pleased to say that over \$700 was raised, a big thank you to all, the money goes to MRAGM as additional funds. The main prize of the day, “Pink Possum” framed linocut limited edition by Ray Wood donated by MRAG Director Joe Eisenberg, was won by Thalia Gutman who was delighted as she’d already won the lucky seat draw earlier. Raffle prizes were courtesy of MRAG Management, MRAG Gallery Shop, Billabong Family Restaurant, Helen Tolhurst, Tyrrell’s Wines and MRAG Member Gillian James- thank you to all.

On the way to Sydney the group stopped for morning tea that included homemade cookies

prepared and organized by Northern Highland Travel; talking to some of the participants I gather these cookies were “miam +”. Participants took the opportunity to socialize over a cup of tea.

We then visited Danks Galleries in Waterloo where we had a private talk at Wilson St Gallery by Michelle Perry, Gallery Manager about exhibiting artist Wendy Stavrianos, thank you Michelle, also thank you for the Champagne. Participants were free to wander the Danks Galleries hub until the departure to Bondi.

Bondi our destination!!! From then on everyone was free to admire at leisure for three hours the sculptures scattered along the two kilometre coastal walk. It was the first weekend of “Sculpture by the Sea” 2011, the weather was beautiful, and we all crossed paths with other viewers who turned up on the same day, just to say that the crowd was big!!!!

Wollombi artist and MRAG exhibitor Paul Selwood won this year’s Sculpture by the Sea.

MRAGM Committee hopes to see its members for next year’s trip and possibly before for other “art trips”.

Thank you to all participants for their good humor and feedback, and thank you to Judy Henry for her support and insight.

Jean-Paul Ruellé



FROM THE COLLECTION > KAORI KATO

[right] Kaori Kato, *Object G*, 2010, paper, dimensions variable.



Here at MRAG we love to see visitors wander around the building and the gallery grounds and discover artworks from our collection. Often these works are installed in the oddest places – all part of the fun and intrigue and inspiration that a visit to MRAG imparts.

Have you noticed the electric blue, steel rod sculpture on the white wall as you go up the new staircase, and the piano pushing tightrope walkers on the high brick wall near the Juliet balcony? Or been surprised by the bronze woman standing in the original gallery foyer? (I am constantly startled by her!). These works - *Blue Sculpture*, by Robert Owen, *Piano A* and *Piano B* by John Turier and *Get Lost* by Gunther Kopietz - are just a few of the works from the collection on semi-permanent display throughout MRAG.

We just love to show off our wonderful collection, especially if it's a work on paper which happens to be MRAG's collection focus. Just recently we installed a new work on paper in the gallery (have you seen it yet?)– Kaori Kato's red, folded, paper sculpture, *Object G*.

Kaori Kato was born in Japan but came to live in Australia when she was 17. This work, *Object G*, is representative of her body of work and of course we can see that she has been inspired by her Japanese culture and upbringing, and was originally taught the art of origami by her mother. But her art making is more than just paper folding. Kaori has recently completed her Master of Visual Art at the University of Melbourne and her research has led to a fully formed creative and conceptual aesthetic, and she is now sought after by galleries for exhibitions and been commissioned for large public art installations in Brisbane and Melbourne.

Object G is one of Kaori's sculptures that reflect her interest in natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions and when we actually stretch and move the work we can see how the geometric design created by folding paper can take on a flexible organic form. A major component of Kaori's work involves her interaction with the large folded paper sculptures – and she encourages people to not be scared of the seemingly fragile paper form. While installing the work we moved and squeezed and stretched the piece into all sorts of shapes just like Kaori would like – but unfortunately for our visitors we were not keen to let everyone to do this and decided to place it just out of reach in a more static display.

When we think of a 'work on paper' we tend to think of drawings or prints, not many of us think of a 3D work or sculpture such as this work by Kaori Kato. By acquiring works such as this we enhance our already diverse collection of works on paper and inform our audience about the many mediums and techniques used by artists, that can all come under the banner of a 'work on paper'. *Object G* is an ephemeral piece and will not last forever – but we wanted to show it off while we could, so please enjoy it while it is on display.

Cheryl Farrell
Collection Curator, MRAG



SCULPTURE IN THE VINES AT WOLLOMBI > COACH TRIP

A GREAT
CHRISTMAS
GIFT!



[left] JaM, untitled, wood, wire, 200 x 150 x 600 cm

MRAG MEMBERS are organising a coach trip to Wollombi's Sculpture in the Vines. Sculptures are scattered among the vines with the beautiful backdrop of the Hunter region country side, and walks are easy, effortless and short.

DATE: Saturday 14th January 2012

RSVP: Monday 9th January 2012

COST: \$70.00 members // \$80.00 non members/guests

Seats are limited to 35, mark the day in your diary and remember to book soon!

INCLUSIONS:

- > De Luxe Coach
- > Morning tea and coffee
- > Artist talk at the Gate Gallery
- > Professional talks about the sculptures at the visited vineyards
- > Lunch including choice of main course, desert and sparkling wine at Shea's at Wollombi
- > Air conditioned dining room
- > Wine tasting on request
- > Water available on coach
- > Valuable lucky draw prize

YOUR DAY:

- > Departure from Maitland Regional Art Gallery at 9.00am sharp; please be at the gallery at 8.45am
- > In the morning visits and talks at Stonehurst Cedar Creek Vines and The Gate Gallery
- > Lunch at around 12.30 pm
- > Stroll Wollombi village at your pace
- > From 2.00 pm visits and talks at Wollombi Wines and Undercliff Winery
- > Return to Maitland is scheduled at 4.00pm for arrival at 5.00pm



SHOP > BE AN OUTSTANDING SANTA THIS CHRISTMAS!

[left] Zanna Oates, resin beaded necklace [right] Kayo Yokoyama, Handmade Glass paperweight.



If you are looking for a gift that is unique that won't break the bank – then it is time to visit the Gallery Shop.

Jewellery designer, Zanna Oates, uses mostly resin beads in her pieces, whether it's the lolly-like translucent beads or the glossy opaque variety, each necklace is a mini mardi gras.

Zanna lives in the picturesque central west city of Orange, surrounded by orchards and vineyards. Orange is called the 'colour city' due to the four distinct seasons, white winter, blossom filled spring, rolling green hills in summer and spectacular autumn foliage. Vibrant colour is certainly an integral part of Zanna's jewellery.

Kayo Yokoyama is a glass artist born in Japan and currently enrolled in Master of Fine Arts at Sydney University. Kayo has been engraving since 1998. "Engraving is a great encounter for a new way to deal with glass." She blows her own blank glass then works on the surfaces, using diamond tools to carve in and out. Most of Kayo's work is about identity and she has created 'Homeland' with her two homelands, Japan and Australia, in mind. Brilliant Silk is a unique textile design studio

specialising in exclusive silks. The workshop combines a fully operational screen printing facility to produce hand printed and hand painted silk fabrics.

Brilliant silk scarves, shawls and ties are individual and the Brilliant dyes create a kaleidoscope of colour. Our range of pure silk scarf designs are in Australian Opals, Gum Leaf, Flowering Gum, Dolphins, Harps, Celtic and Aboriginal designs.

The Aboriginal Art designed silk scarves are created by Australian Aboriginal Artist, Tom 'Bagaay' Avery. His "Inland Australian" designs feature the Kangaroo, Wallaby, Echidna, Emu, Jabiru, Platypus, Gecko and Goanna. Tom's designs are hand printed onto lengths of pure white silk. The silk is then painted in the earthy colours of Central Australia and then hand printed.

Silk Ties are 'Wearable Art' for men. Each tie is individually hand cut and tailored from lengths of hand painted heavy Silk Twill by Jack Brilliant, who was born and educated in Goulburn NSW. Jack's keen eye for colour has enabled him to experiment with techniques of hand painting, dyeing, and hand printing over the last 30 years.

Judy Henry
Merchandise Coordinator



TYPES OF ART GALLERY – PUBLIC ART GALLERIES



HOW DO YOU GET TO EXHIBIT YOUR ART IN A PUBLIC GALLERY?

Public galleries are galleries that are funded by the government either locally, state or federally and are usually 'not for profit'. All state and national art galleries are 'not for profit' organisations and MRAG is of course one such example regionally; as are most regional art galleries (although not all). Usually most of the considerable exhibition costs associated by each exhibition are met by the public gallery. An artist would usually have an extensive CV demonstrating a solid artistic practice to be invited to exhibit in the art gallery by the curator or Director.

I am often asked the question of how does someone get their artwork shown in a public art gallery. There are many ways this can happen; a curator may be working on an exhibition with a particular concept in mind and will happen across an artist whose art practice fits into the curator's idea. The curator may then invite the artist to be a part of that exhibition; or an exhibition may be designed by a gallery elsewhere and proposed to be shown in other galleries (touring exhibition such as the Archibald) or an external proposal is sent to the regional art gallery by an independent curator or artist proposing a particular exhibition they have created or plan to create.

Some regional and most state galleries are unlikely to consider 'external' exhibition proposals but if an art gallery is willing to consider them, such as MRAG is, there is often an exhibition committee

established within the art gallery that is used to inform the direction of the annual artistic program. At MRAG the exhibition committee is made up of; the Gallery Director, the Public Program Coordinator (Deputy Director), the Education Curator, the Senior Collection Curator and the Merchandise Co-ordinator. As a committee they usually meet twice a year specifically to discuss exhibition proposals sent in by other art galleries (touring exhibition), artists and independent curators.

Public galleries have a matrix they will follow in terms of programming that allow for a fair and even distribution of art media and genre to be covered in any year of the artistic program. So with this in mind an exhibition proposed might well be a stunning exhibition of a particular style but if there are already a number of exhibitions with a similar style already programmed the exhibition may have to be declined.

As educational institutions, public galleries also have a responsibility to scaffold exhibitions with education and public programs where possible and how well an exhibition can be used to create additional learning opportunities will further dictate if an exhibition proposed will be supported by a public gallery.

One final point to consider when approaching public galleries is the lead time in planning. Many people are surprised to learn that public galleries like MRAG operate with a three year lead time and indeed as of today exhibitions have already been programmed up to December 2014 with individual exhibition planning for all of these exhibitions already well underway.

Whenever an artist approaches a public art gallery for an exhibition they would have to present a comprehensive artistic CV outlining all previous exhibitions and education history (as it relates to their artistic practice) along with a portfolio of work to be considered.

Kim Blunt
Public Program Coordinator

[left] Maitland Regional Art Gallery - Pat Corrigan exhibition Collector, 2011.



EXHIBITIONS



A HECTOR TJUPURU BURTON INITIATIVE

> 2011, Men's collaborative paintings
and Women's collaborative paintings

NGAYULU WITINI NGAYUKU MAMAKU
TJUKURPA. NGAYULU WITINI NGAYUKA
NGUNYTJUKU TJUKURPA.

I hold my Father's story.
I hold my Mother's story.



12 NOV 2011 > 15 JAN 2012

LUCY BARKER

> *Lifestyles of the neither rich
nor famous*

In the Art Factory exhibition and project spaces

12 NOV 2011 > 19 FEB 2012

COLOURS OF COUNTRY II

> *The Alice Springs Beanie Festival*

9 DEC 2011 > 22 JAN 2012



LEWIS MORLEY

> *A corridor of Keelers*

9 DEC 2011 - 22 JAN 2012



DREAMWEAVERS

> *Aly Aitken, Eloise Calandre (UK),
James Gleeson, Adam Laerkesen,
Sam Spenser (UK), Joel Zika*

*A Gippsland Art Gallery & NETS Victoria
touring exhibition.*

9 DEC 2011 - 5 FEB 2012



SIGNED AND FAMOUS

curated by Cheryl Farrell

27 JAN - 26 FEB 2012

PICTURE THAT : 45 YEARS OF MAITLAND; 1972

> *Photographs from the Maitland
Mercury collection*

*curated by Cath Bowen,
Picture Editor, Maitland Mercury*

27 JAN - 26 FEB 2012

MARNLING PRESS, MICHELLE PERRY AND WHALING ROAD STUDIO, DIANA DAVIDSON AND PETER STEVENS

20 JAN - 18 MAR 2012

[left] Tjungkara Ken, Sandra Ken and Yariiji Young, Three sisters paint the seven sisters, 2010, acrylic on belgian linen, 197x197cm
[right] Adam Laerkesen, They Once Cut My Heart Down The Way They Cut A Tree, 2008, Industrial chair, plaster, cast foam, 215 x 70 x 95cm, Private collection



SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Summer at mrag

FOR TODDLERS, KIDS & TEENS.

Our summer holiday program is out now and bursting with fun activities.

We have weaving, sculpture, cooking, and beanie making workshops all relating to our current Summer exhibitions along with book readings, gallery tours and our regular FREE Art Sundays.

Browse our website for what's on offer and escape the summer heat for a few hours by booking a spot in one of our fantastic hands on workshops.



**DOWNLOAD THE
SUMMER HOLIDAY
PROGRAM:**

www.mrag.org.au

**OR FOR MORE INFO
CALL: (02) 4934 9859**





SERAPHINE'S OFFICIAL OPENING CELEBRATION



Tapas from MRAG's Séraphine café and an art house movie under the stars.

Sound too good to be true? No, it's café Seraphine's official opening celebration planned for January 2012 in our beautiful gallery grounds.

Bring a picnic blanket, a picnic chair or even a bean bag and enjoy a casual summer evening taking in some fine tapas style food from Seraphine Café. Then, as dusk falls, settle in to watch the beautifully poignant movie, Seraphine, on MCC's outdoor cinema screen.

> Further details will be posted to each MRAGM member.



2011 MRAGM COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON > Jeff Sinclair **VICE CHAIRPERSON** > Reg O'Brien **SECRETARY** > Sally Halliday

TREASURER > Jean Paul Ruelle **NEWSLETTER SECRETARY** > Rosemary Keegan

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER > Vicki Woods **GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER** > Juno Gemes

PATRON > Robyn Parker MP **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE** > Loretta Baker

MRAG REPRESENTATIVE > Joe Eisenberg

MRAGM meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Wednesday of the month at the art gallery at 4.15pm.

All MRAG members are most welcome. Our meetings are brief and friendly.



REMEMBER! OUR NEWSLETTER IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT MRAG.ORG.AU

Art Gallery hours > Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 4:45pm The Gallery Shop hours > Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 4:45pm 230 High St Maitland NSW 2320 02 4934 9859 // artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au // www.mrag.org.au