

# ARTEL

QUARTERLY ■ NEWSLETTER

FREE



# Seraphine<sup>®</sup>

Art Gallery / Café<sup>\*</sup>



OPEN 7 DAYS  
7.00AM - 4.30PM



<sup>\*</sup> 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

**mrag**  
MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY

## - In Good Taste -



Tony Ameneiro, *Location XIV*, (detail) 2005, Etching and linocut on paper  
Edition A/P, 38 x 50cm, © the artist

**ART • MUSIC • FOOD • WINE**

Prints for sale.

Hand picked by the Director.

Director available for purchase advice.

Add art to your collection

or add art to your walls.

Prices for everybody.

**SPECIAL OPENING CELEBRATION:**

**Thursday 7 June, 6.00 - 8.30pm**

*A fundraising exhibition and art sale  
coordinated by MRAGM*

**Exhibition Dates: 7 - 24 June 2012**



## A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

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Well here we are, the Winter edition of Artel. As some of you may have realised, your Autumn edition arrived somewhat late, owing to factors beyond our control. However, hopefully it will be smooth sailing this time and we'll be back on track. In a similar vein, in the Autumn edition, I mentioned a poetry reading and workshop, unfortunately, this had to be postponed and will now be happening in August. Information will be posted out in due course but here's a tip – if you wish to take part in the workshop, you will need to submit a recent poem that you have written, so you may want to start looking for inspiration!

By the time you read this, we will have had our bus trip to the Archibald , Wynne and Sulman exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW. As usual there was some controversy over the winning portrait – what's new? This time a portrait without a face! But it is an amazing work and, I suppose, all the other details do define who the subject is.

Talking of amazing work, I do hope you came in to see the James Gleeson exhibition. His work may not be to everyone's taste, but the impact and colours of those paintings were extraordinary. I cannot see why he would not be talked about in the same conversation as Salvador Dali. I hope some of his work might travel to Europe as a great example of Australian art.

Hopefully this Artel should reach you in early June, so, if you haven't seen it, hurry into the Gallery to see the "Electric Series" by Bev Cozad-Bush (in the upstairs corridor until 24th June). These lovely paintings are quite unusual in that watercolour, with it's soft, ethereal quality is not normally used for "technical" subject matter. These are so successful, I have to congratulate the artist for depicting these workday items so well and to PowerServe Australia, the company who commissioned the paintings.

That's enough from me now, so I wish you all well and hope you can visit the Gallery, the Shop and Seraphine Café soon, and don't forget the free activities for children between 11.00 and 1.00 on Sundays, no bookings required.

*Jeff Sinclair*  
*Chairperson, MRAGM*



I write in this issue about something which, as some of you know, is very dear to my heart. It is what after only one year has and will become an annual event. An exhibition of works on paper primarily prints which The Members or MRAG – your organization is making it possible for you to purchase art.

In Good Taste is an enjoyable opportunity for you to view and purchase and start or continue to add to your collection. MRAG collects works on paper and in July there will only be paper on exhibition throughout the entire art gallery, and first because of In Good Taste you get an opportunity to delve into this aspect of the world of art by acquiring art for yourself.

The date of In Good Taste is 7 June – 24 June and this includes 3 weekends. I will be on call, and happy to assist with all purchases. I am always happy to make myself available as this is a part of my role which I really enjoy. DO NOT miss the opening on the evening of Thursday 7 June, because this gives you the chance to buy what you have always wanted. Trust me, my mother wanted me to become a doctor, but instead I became an art gallery director.

The prints available in the sale have been made available from a number of Sydney Galleries and Print Studios which have each generously engaged in the support of MRAG and MRAGM for this very special exhibition. In Good Taste presents unique and wondrous prints from well-known artists such as Charles Blackman, Arthur Boyd, Peter Kingston, Margaret Woodward, Christina Cordero and many others, including a new wave of not so well known artists. This year

I have also included prints which are already framed as I have bought them at auction and am passing the savings on to you – our supporters.

This is an exclusive opportunity for experienced art collectors and newcomers to purchase well-priced and remarkable works of art. All proceeds raised will support MRAGM in their support of MRAG programs.

Prints will be sold mostly unframed; MRAGM can coordinate discounts at local framers. Full payment must be received to secure a sale. Layby is not available. Purchased works of art will be available for pick up at the end of the exhibition. As this is a fundraising exhibition, Members' discounts will not apply.

Discounts, however, are not necessary because with the Members' support the art gallery is presenting a unique opportunity to allow you to purchase prints at your price, one that you can afford. All money raised by the members through In Good Taste will go to benefit MRAG and what we present to and for you.

It is your art gallery so please support this event. You will enjoy the fun of spending money and taking a treasure home which can only accrue in value. All artwork sold will remain on the walls during the exhibition and can be collected from Tuesday 26 June. I look forward to seeing you there/here during In Good Taste.

*Joe Eisenberg OAM*  
*Cultural Director, MRAG*



## ARCHIBALD EXHIBITION, AGNSW / Saturday, 5th May 2012



The MRAG bus trip to the annual Archibald Exhibition departed Maitland at 6.30am on Saturday 5th May with a group of 30 early-risen art lovers.

After a morning-tea stop at Ourimbah, with biscuits and beverages provided by Northern Highland Travel, we arrived at the AGNSW soon after 9am. It was a wonderful bonus to have our own guide Marie, showing us most of the 41 prize finalists' prior to the general admission crowds.

Many of the 2012 works are by well-known artists; Adam Chang, Adam Cullen, David Fairbairn, Ben Quilty, Martin Sharp, Jenny Sages and Wendy Sharpe. Marie informed us that this year also has a selection of new artists who have made the final forty-one. The Packing Room Prize was awarded to one of these new finalists, Raelene Sharp, for her painting of actor, John Wood, entitled "A Strength of Character".

The Archibald portrait exhibition has often provoked debate and argument. Changing attitudes in society and evolving artistic styles have resulted in opinions as diverse as the artworks themselves. This year's winner "The Histrionic Wayfarer (after Bosch)" by Tim Storrier is again provocative with its

explorer figure having no face. The painting tells a story, so maybe, the face is superfluous. Go and see for yourselves! The exhibition is open till June, 3rd.

After our guided tour we had time to see the Wynne and Sulman displays and the newly-expanded exhibition spaces in the gallery. In the afternoon, we had a privileged visit to the Chatswood office of Loris. H. Hassall, a leather supply company, owned by Geoffrey Hassall. Geoffrey is a noted art collector and committed supporter to our own MRAG. The office situated high above Chatswood, affords dramatic views over Sydney's suburbs and out to Botany Bay. This backdrop is almost secondary to the vivid, colourful collection of indigenous and modern art. Geoffrey and his wife, Virginia, know all their artworks intimately and provided a detailed background to each piece. On display were works by Ken Whisson, Richard Larter and Alan Jones with indigenous art by Rover Thomas to name a few.

The Hassall's have several paintings by a group of elderly, indigenous, South Australian women, living in the remote desert. Their paintings throb with traditional messages in red, blue and purple designs. Our visit was a marvellous opportunity to see a small part of this wonderful art collection. Many thanks to Geoffrey Hassell and Virginia Milson.

Thanks also to Ray, our driver from Northern Highland Travel, for his transportation and catering skills. We had a wonderful response to our 2 raffles during the day and raised over \$300.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to the 30 Members who shared the day.

Please note our next excursion will be to the Biennale (Sydney) on August, 18th 2012.

*Megan Dewsnap*

[left] Sculpture in the Vines, Wollombi - 2012 MRAGM coach trip.



## MRAG TOURING EXHIBITIONS

In[Two]Art at MRAG from 20th August to 7th October 2010



In September 2011 MRAG submitted an application to the Australian Government, Office for the Arts, Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet, Visions of Australia Program for funding to assist with costs to tour the MRAG exhibition In[Two]Art.

On 20th January 2012, The Hon Simon Crean MP, Federal Minister for the Arts, formally announced that he had approved a grant of \$100,000 to MRAG towards the costs of touring the exhibition In[Two]Art. We were over the moon at the announcement – \$100,000 is such a lot of money! – we felt so proud that the department recognised our professionalism and entrusted us to do well with the funds.

It takes a lot of work to put together a grant application, and that work has paid off, – but now that we have been successful with that application – we know that we have a lot of work ahead of us to complete the task of coordinating a successful tour and acquitting the grant.

MRAG is not new to coordinating our own touring exhibitions, and I am sure that our past and current experience in this area was one of the factors that helped us in being awarded the grant funds. MRAG is one of the few regional galleries in NSW to regularly travel its own exhibitions, with three exhibitions currently on tour: Salvatore Zofrea – Days of Summer, Hanna Kay-Undertow and Paul Selwood-Perspective cut-outs. You may have seen these exhibitions at MRAG or perhaps at one of the host venues across Australia's east coast.

In[Two]Art was curated by Joe Eisenberg and Kim Blunt and was exhibited at MRAG from 20th August to 7th October 2010. To accompany the exhibition

MRAG published an eighty page, full colour catalogue and also produced a comprehensive education kit catering for children from K – 12.

If you didn't happen to see it, the exhibition is all about artist couples, who are recognised as practicing artists and create work as individuals. There are sixty highly regarded Australian artists (thirty couples) and fifty eight separate artworks in the exhibition. The artworks display a wide range of mediums and artistic concerns and concepts, and the exhibition was researched and presented in a unique fashion. It addresses current issues dealing with the modern, the conceptual and the entertaining, which will provide an understanding and awareness for regional audiences of different ages. It also meets the Visions Australia Program requirements that the exhibition will appeal to and attract audiences to access Australian Cultural Material.

The exhibition will be on tour from July 2012 to August 2014. Confirmed host venues include: S.H. Ervin Gallery Sydney, Orange Regional Art Gallery NSW, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery NSW, Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery VIC, Wollongong City Gallery NSW, Grafton Regional Art Gallery NSW, and Dalby Regional Art Gallery QLD and we hope to add a few more.

The grant funds will cover all costs associated with the tour including transport, crating, storage, education and public programs, publicity, and some administration costs.

The work has begun.....

*Cheryl Farrell*  
Collection Curator, MRAG

# POETRY LAND READING AT MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY

## DAY ONE

Maitland Regional Art Gallery members presents **POETRY LAND** an exciting day of Poetry Reading with Robert Adamson, Kate Middleton, Fiona Wright and Martin Harrison at the art gallery.

The first reading is on Saturday 26th August 2pm - 4pm.

Book your tickets early for this event.

**MRAG Members \$10 / Non-members \$15.**

**POETRY LAND** promises to become one of the most exciting literary events to come to Maitland in years. The first reading will bring some of this country's most exciting poets together to perform and read from their prize winning books.

**ROBERT ADAMSON** is an internationally recognised, award-winning major writer who is also known as the poet of the Hawkesbury River.

**KATE MIDDLETON** writes intelligently of twisted fairy-tales and myth, history and cowboys.

**MARTIN HARRISON** is a poet of meditation of ideas. He writes of landscapes and trees, bats and kangaroos, along with wonderful love poems and odes.

**FIONA WRIGHT'S** work has been published in journals and anthologies in Australia, Asia and the USA.

## DAY TWO

**MRAGM presents Poetry Land – Poetry Workshop with Poets Kate Middleton & Fiona Wright: Sunday 27th August workshop 11am - 12.30 am (lunch from 1.30pm to 3.30pm).**

**Poetry Land workshop can accommodate no more 12 participants.**

**MRAG Members \$50 / Non-members \$60**

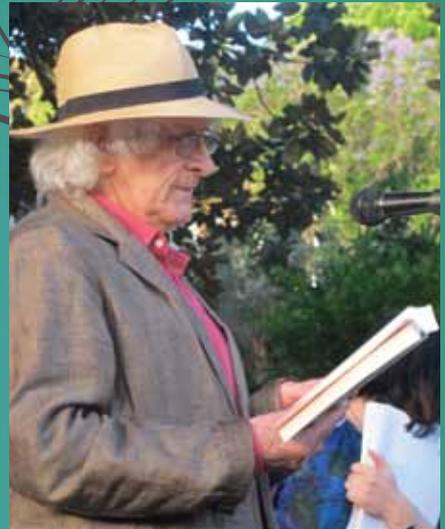
In a workshop all participants contribute a poem for discussion, and all poets receive feedback both from workshop leaders and from their peers.

In this workshop, as a group we will engage in analysing a few published poems as well as discuss the work of the poets participating in the workshop.

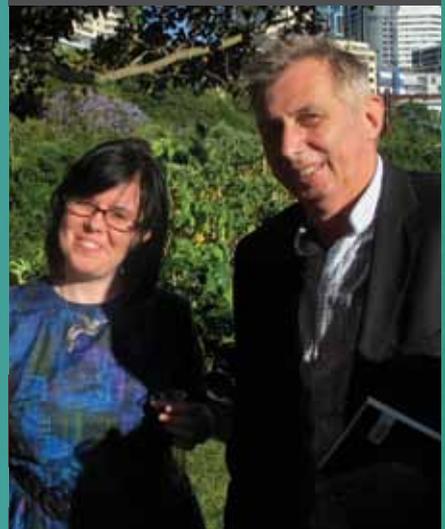
In order for everyone to get as much as possible out of the workshop, we ask that poets submit their poem one week in advance in an electronic copy so that all poems may be circulated to the workshop group in advance. We also ask poets to read the work of their peers ahead of the workshop, and, if possible, to make a couple of notes.

Just as reading the work of many poets can help you improve your writing, so to can hearing the responses of many readers help you to see where your poems succeed, and where they need more work.

**Bookings at the gallery or by phone 4934 9859. RSVP: 11th August 2012**  
**Two students places sponsored by MRAGM in Poetry Land Works shops.**  
**Available on application.**



**ROBERT ADAMSON**



**KATE MIDDLETON & MARTIN HARRISON**



**FIONA WRIGHT**



[left] Giselle Penn, Handcrafted Glass and Felt necklace. [right] Chris Ball, Gumleaf Design Bottle.



Since your last visit to the Maitland Regional Art Gallery Shop we now have on display many wonderful pieces from exciting new artists plus the beautiful work from our popular established artists such as Giselle Penn and Chris Ball.

Artist Giselle Penn has been producing beaded jewellery for over 10 years. Each of the works on display is totally unique. The earrings are all made of sterling silver, as are many of the necklaces and bracelets.

The handmade beads in Giselle’s jewellery range are known as ‘lamp worked’ beads; the lamp being an oxygen/LPG gas torch that can be used to melt glass rods in a variety of colours. The molten glass is then wrapped around metal rods, called mandrels, and the patterning is created through layering with different colours.

Around 2002 Giselle began to ‘felt’ with the wonderful Australian Merino wools that are available and began to produce her range of wearables such as rings, cuffs, bangles, scarves and wraps. Other items include handbags and evening purses. Each piece is hand formed from loose wool fibres into the finished felted pieces that you see in our shop. It is through the addition of water, soap, heat and friction that the wool fibres are slowly rubbed into the finished form that we call felt. On the large scale of things Giselle has felted full size animal hides in merino wool which are patterned with retro fabric prints re-created in felt. She has been a practicing Fibre Artist since the early 1990s

Chris Ball is a ceramic artist living and working in Uralla. She has an exquisite range of wheel thrown vases, bowls and jars.

Her work combines Japanese influenced forms and glazes, with traditional European elements, such as marine theme stamps. All works are reduction fired stoneware of the highest quality.

Her passion for working with clay began in 1969 when she made her first pots at high school and it has continued unabated since then. After finishing school in 1970 she enrolled in art school in 1971 and studied pottery at night at Narrabeen. She went on to study ceramics at the National Art School (East Sydney Technical College) in 1972 and 1973.

Chris’s earliest memory of pottery comes from an intense interest, as quite a young person, in Greek and Roman myths and associated artworks with a special love for Attic red and black figure pottery. She has derived a great deal of inspiration from that period along with inspiration from Native American, Pre Colombian, Asian and modern ceramics. The environment is also a rich source of inspiration: fish, shells, fossils, leaves, dogs, shadows, to name a few.

Chris also said “she is always experimenting with different clays, glazes and techniques. It is a very exciting time for me, even with the many failures and mediocre results. There’s always that one special pot that drives me on to make another special pot and so on. I hope to wood fire and salt glaze in the future and look forward to that time with excitement and trepidation; for me, nothing beats the texture and colour of a pot licked by flame, wood ash and salt. I cannot foresee a time of not wanting to work with clay, glaze and fire”.

Judy Henry  
Merchandise Coordinator



## WHAT IS PUBLIC ART?

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***Did you know that Maitland City Council (MCC) now has a public art policy; but what is public art?***

Quite simply, public art can be defined as art that is located within the public realm. It responds to the physical, cultural and social context of the location and community and helps to animate public spaces for the enjoyment of all.

Public art is represented by a variety of art forms, shapes, sizes and textures. Artworks can be sculpture, paintings, mosaics, or utilise more contemporary multi-media tools to produce soundscapes, lighting installations and projections. Earthworks and landscaping provide an alternative range of materials and textures for the creation of public artworks.

The 'everyday' elements of the urban landscape can also provide a canvas to facilitate public art. Opportunities are provided with pavement and wall treatments, banners, plaques, water features, signage and functional elements such as lighting, street furniture, chairs, tables, rubbish bins, bollards, gates and fencing, bike racks and notice boards.

Public art installations can be permanent but also can be temporary or ephemeral works. Permanent artworks are generally considered to be made from materials and construction method that have a lifespan of at least 10 years in external conditions.

Temporary artworks are pieces that have a defined lifespan of no more than five years and often much less. Ephemeral artworks are works with a very short lifespan, such as chalk artworks, street art, performances and projection images

The contribution of public art to Maitland and its community will provide:

- ▶ An urban landscape that is interesting and surprising to create vibrant places and enhance the experiences of residents, workers and visitors;
- ▶ The creation of contemporary public artworks which represent the local identity of Maitland to create a sense of place and belonging and reveal the ideas and aspirations of the community;
- ▶ A greater cultural understanding, community interaction and tolerance to strengthen the networks and collaboration within the community to facilitate a shared sense of belonging;
- ▶ Opportunities to encourage partnerships between artists, local organisations, businesses, government and the community to promote greater accessibility and appreciation of the visual arts;
- ▶ A new burgeoning creative and cultural environment which adds value to the local economy; and
- ▶ A public arts program that reinforces the status of Maitland as a leading creative city.

Public Art will feature in the future planning and development of Maitland and to make that happen there will be a Public Art Advisory Panel guiding decisions about future public art commissions and placement around the Maitland Local Government Area (LGA).

MCC is seeking nominations from local residents of the Maitland LGA or from those people who have a close connection to the Maitland Area interested in being one of three community representatives on the MCC Public Art Advisory Panel in a volunteer capacity.

Nomination forms to join the Public Art Advisory Panel can be found via the MRAG web site <http://mrag.org.au/exhibitions/public-art-in-maitland/> or alternatively call me, Kim Blunt, Public Program Coordinator on 4934 9795 (direct) or 4934 9859 (gallery).

Together lets make a creative difference in our community!

*Kim Blunt*  
*Public Program Coordinator*

# PAPER WORKS

Maitland Regional Art Gallery takes advantage of its 10 exhibition spaces to present individual exhibitions by:

JEAN BAPTISTE APUATIMI

ELISABETTA GUT

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

LISA KIRKPATRICK

GAO PING

MICHAEL B PLATT

GARRY SHEAD

BEN SOEDRADJIT

*Flat and folded, watercolours and ink, drawing and photographs. Exhibitions exploring the inspiring and diverse ways artists work with paper.*



30 JUNE - 19 AUGUST 2012

(top) Michael B. Platt, *Hoop Jumper #2*, 2008, pigment print on Hahnemühle Bamboo paper, 89.5 x 61 cm

(bottom left) Gao Ping, *Girl*, 2011, ink on paper, 36 x 45 cm

(bottom right) Elisabetta Gut,

*Poem-object, poesia d'amore giapponese (Libro oggetto),*

*Poem - Object (Japanese love poem) 2008, assemblage: Japanese book of poetry, branch, plant matter, 32 x 32 x 25 cm*





## EDUCATION



The Art Factory has been a hive of activity. Judith White's fabulous Riverstories exhibition, and the accompanying giant wall mural, has come down and in its place is a bright and sassy exhibition; 'Versus - Red v Blue, Battle of the pigments'.

Upstairs is an amazing red v's blue wall mural depicting a fierce battle between red and blue.

Our judge's decision was made on Saturday evening at the opening celebration. What a celebration it was. The art gallery was filled with young, creative, clever types who partook in Wacom drawing competitions. Wacom, for the uninitiated, is a drawing tablet. The tablet drawn images were projected onto The Art factory walls and guests of the evening had the opportunity to vote for their favourite image. In true competitive style, there were elimination rounds and lots of interjection and opinion from the audience. All lots of fun and such an energetic and happy buzz radiated through the art gallery from these amazing young people. I really feel we achieved our lofty aim of engaging with a young audience. One of the many happy comments I overheard was 'this is the most amazing place I've ever been to'. Yes! that's what we like to hear.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition young visitors to the art gallery will be able to draw their own red or blue monster downstairs in The Art Factory and, back by popular demand will be our giant timber pinwall which will reappear to add to the fun.

Meanwhile in the education wing of the Art Factory, after a hectic program of holiday workshops, we have resumed 'in term' classes for students from 2 years old right through until 102 (well almost).



Our regular classes have returned along with a few new classes to add some diversity to an already jam packed program. So take a look at our website under 'what's on' if you would like to partake in some painting, drawing, life drawing or metal craft - there is always something happening. We also have some great weekend workshops planned - again, full details including dates and fees are on our website.

That's all from Education, but please drop in and see for yourself how great The Art Factory is looking.

*Linda Greedy*  
*Education Curator, MRAG*



## EVENTS AT MRAG / Mark the dates in your calendar

THURSDAY 7 JUNE - SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2012

### IN GOOD TASTE

*Prints for sale • Hand picked by the Director • Director available for purchase advice  
• Add art to your collection or add art to your walls • Prices for everybody.*

SUNDAY 10 JUNE 2012

### ART BAZAAR WINTER 2012

*The famous Art Bazaar is now in Maitland! Original gifts and handcrafted goods for sale from over 70 local Hunter Arts Network artists.*

SATURDAY 16 JUNE 2012

### HOMETOWN GIRL HAS WET DREAM

*Maitland born artist Nell will be 'home' 16 June and we are inviting you to join her for a chat about her art at Maitland Regional Art Gallery from 2 - 4pm.*

SATURDAY 18 AUGUST 2012

### THE BIENNALE OF SYDNEY ON COCKATOO ISLAND

*Coach trip organised by MRAG Members.*

SATURDAY 26 AUGUST - SUNDAY 27 AUGUST 2012

### POETRY LAND READING AT MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY

*Poetry Reading with Robert Adamson, Kate Middleton, Fiona Wright and Martin Harrison at the Art Gallery and Poetry Workshop with Poets Kate Middleton & Fiona Wright.*

*Details for all events will be mailed to members and will also be available on MRAG website*



## 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

*Dates for future meetings are:*

*Thursday 12 April, Thursday 14 June, Thursday 9 August at MRAG at 5:00pm.*

*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 - 5pm  
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