

Sarjeant Quarterly



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March - May 2014



From the Senior Curator

by Greg Anderson

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be well under way with our transition from Pukemanu Queen's Park to 38 Taupo Quay. With 2 March as the date when we closed to the public at the Queens Park site, the lead up to that point was filled with final exhibition openings, public programmes and refining of our exit plans.

With our Quay Gallery located upstairs at the Wanganui iSite, perfectly situated just across the road from our new interim space at 38 Taupo Quay, you can expect that this space – in conjunction with that at no.38 will make for a vibrant art enclave in the riverfront area. Make sure to go and see our new show entitled *Degrees of Remembrance*, described later in the Quarterly News too from the Sarjeant Gallery Trust with three great new Trustees coming aboard: Hari Benevides; Keria Ponga and Nicola Williams. Each has a unique set of skills and perspectives to help steer the course towards the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment, while Nicola will be helping me to lead the charge in raising funds for the project. We're very grateful to have such a dynamic team all pulling for us.

It is fair to say now, with the transition plan in progress, that the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment is well under way. Preliminary testing on the structure of the Sarjeant building has begun and remaining offices and staff have been shifted out to areas around Queen's Park and other Council buildings, while 38 Taupo Quay is prepared for us. We are also working closely with a highly regarded team of architects and consultants on the developed design of the Sarjeant and its new wing. Progress is happening at pace and we are enormously excited about what we'll achieve at the end of the project – not only in terms of what it will mean for the Gallery but also that this undertaking will be great for Wanganui too.

We are also very pleased to announce that our new temporary premises (including exhibition, education programme and shop) at 38 Taupo Quay, will be open to the public on 24 May. There will be plenty of information about the opening in local papers and on the internet and we look forward to welcoming you and beginning our programme anew.

Cover: Dominic Burrell, *Unorthodox*, 2014

Education News

by Andrea Gardner
and Sietske Jansma

It was with a mixture of sadness and excitement that we left our cosy education room amidst the beautiful exhibition spaces of the Sarjeant Gallery. During March and early April we continued to teach, using the spacious classroom offered by Sustainable Whanganui at the new Resource Recovery Centre. There we taught a variety of classes including: portrait painting, impressionist painting and staged photography with visiting artist Leigh Mitchell-Anyon. We have also been busy with Seaweed, as well as organizing the display of Top Art Folios for secondary schools which was shown for a week at the Edith Gallery at UCOL. In April the big move begins! We are excited to fit out and decorate our new purpose built education classroom so it will be beautiful and welcoming for all the classes who come to see us in May. The classroom has two new things that we have never had before - a sink and a window! We look forward to an energetic and creative time with all of our school groups.

Members' News

A warm welcome to new Gallery Members Peter Richardson, Lorraine Halliwell, Dave & Lynn Whiteside, Jill Maas, Mike Beveridge, Jill Hobbs, Martin Visser, Bebb Mooij.

The Gallery is pleased to acknowledge the following as Corporate Members:
ASB Bank, Bryce Smith & Associates Ltd., Central City Pharmacy, Doyle + Associates – Chartered Accountants, Kensington Swan, Meteor Design & Print and OPD, Richard Millward & Associates, Nicola Williams, Pamela M J Williams, pattillo Ltd., Seresin Estate, Te Reo Irirangi O Wanganui – AWA FM, The Radio Network Wanganui, Pak'n Save, Wanganui Chronicle, Whanganui UCOL – Creative Programmes

We value the support of our Corporate Members and encourage you to utilise their services whenever possible.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A PIANO

Does anyone have a reasonably recent, preferably no more than 10 to 15 years old, good quality, tall, upright piano that would like to have a new home in the Sarjeant Gallery? It would enable our *Musicians for the Sarjeant* series of concerts to continue and all manner of other opportunities to be realised. It would reside in a temperature controlled environment, bring joy to our audiences and be very much appreciated by all.

Stars at Collegiate

A group of year 9 Wanganui Collegiate students recently held a photographic exhibition at Jolt Coffee House, Victoria Avenue. The images were taken around Wanganui during an end of year programme last November.



Our very special Stars were out on Friday 21st February enjoying an evening of thanks and celebration generously sponsored by Anne Pattillo.

Proceeds are going towards the Art Department's continued support of the Sarjeant's *Thousand Stars* initiative. Thank you Wanganui Collegiate!

Thousand Stars

We would love you to join the Gallery's *Thousand Stars* fundraising campaign.

Until 21 May every new Member signed up goes into a draw to receive two nights' accommodation at the InterContinental Wellington.

Existing Stars are encouraged to sign up new Stars. You will go into the draw as many times as the number of new members signed up; just put your name onto the form before handing it out.

Sign up on line www.sarjeant.org.nz phone 349 3274 or email info@sarjeant.org.nz for forms

We will announce the winner at the opening of our interim location at 38 Taupo Quay in May.

Quay Gallery News

Katie Breckon installation



Degrees of Remembrance

Katie Breckon
Dominic Burrell
Ben Pearce
Martin Poppelwell
Joseph Salmon
Karin Strachan

1 February – 8 June, 2014
At the Quay Gallery, 38 Taupo Quay
Greg Donson
Curator & Public Programmes Manager

For a city of its size, Whanganui is fortunate to be home to a large number of practising artists. In part this is due to the town being home to a tertiary education provider since the establishment of the Wanganui Regional Community Polytechnic in 1984. Since that time and, as with many tertiary providers, the polytechnic has evolved organically with partnerships being formed, as was the case with the Wanganui School of Design and the University of Waikato. With the passage of time some courses such as ceramics have disappeared, while the Wanganui Glass School, established twenty years ago is the only one of its kind in the country. Programmes offered by the Quay School of Arts administered by UCOL (Universal College of Learning) are currently under review and the next few years will be a period of change and adaptation in a very competitive climate for Art Schools in New Zealand.

This exhibition brings together six graduates who work across a number of disciplines and for whom their time spent studying in Whanganui provided a pivotal springboard to the subsequent careers of: Katie Breckon, Dominic Burrell, Ben Pearce, Martin Poppelwell, Joseph Salmon and Karin Strachan. Time spent studying in Whanganui is the common denominator for these six artists, however what also collectively links them in this exhibition is a reference in their practice to memory and memories.

Each of the artists selected for this exhibition are adept archivists, conversing with memories, both individual and collective. Each creates works that encourage us to stop and contemplate objects and their place in the spaces that surround us, both real and remembered.

(TRANSITION PROJECT)

We are poised on the brink of big changes ahead and taking a deep breath before the big plunge into Transition Project mode with much excitement (and a measure of healthy trepidation). Planning is well underway to move the entire collection to Taupo Quay to make it possible to redevelop and strengthen the existing building.

We have recruited four Collection Transition Assistants to work with us for the transition period to assist us with the move and completion of collection documentation onto Vernon CMS, our computerised collection management system. We were overwhelmed by the huge response of applicants and very impressed by the high calibre of those who applied. This made our decision a very tough one but we believe we have selected a highly effective, qualified and experienced team. They began work in early April.

Once the collection is rehoused at Taupo Quay and the details are fully entered onto Vernon CMS we will have greater access to the collection and its associated documentation than ever before. This will make the collection more available for future research and exhibition projects, and better equip us to respond to public requests

for information. Also we will have the benefit of knowing that the collection will be housed in appropriate climate conditions with full documentation. What more could a Curator of Collections ask for?

The new racking system for the Taupo Quay collection store is now fully installed and looks incredible, we can't wait to start rehousing the collection onto it.

We recently held a volunteer sewing bee to assist us with sewing and filling archival cushions and pillows to support fragile collection objects during the move. The sewing bee was very successful with an excellent turnout of keen sewers. On day one the volunteers were so efficient and hard working that we did not have enough materials left to go ahead with the second planned day of the sewing bee. A huge thanks goes out to those who contributed, you'll be pleased to know that we started using the cushions the very next day and they are proving very effective. We may hold another working bee in the near future as it was so successful.

I look forward to updating you further as the Transition Project progresses.

Jennifer Taylor Moore
Curator of Collections

Opening 24 May at **Sarjeant on the Quay**

CORRUGATIONS

THE ART OF JEFF THOMSON



Kete, 2013. Collection of Jeff Thomson and Shona Cameron.
Image: Rory Thomson

Corrugations is a significant exhibition hailing three decades of work by Kiwi sculptor Jeff Thomson.

Known as 'the iron man of Australasia', the artist's trademark style came to the fore in the early '80s when he crafted a series of mailboxes from roadside materials accumulated during walks near his home base at Portobello, south of Dunedin.

Corrugations is curated around the processes Thomson uses to make his sculptures, e.g. moulding, shaping, cutting and printing.

He has both a national and international standing as a sculptor, completing works including a giant gumboot, iron curtains, and an iconic HQ Holden station wagon, as well as working overseas including a substantial project in the South of France in 2008.

Corrugated 'chooks', French knitting, and bouquets of flowers are all part of this new exhibition. These are drawn from the artist's own collection at his Helensville studio, and from private and institutional collections.

Accompanying the exhibition is the publication of the same name, by Tauranga Art Gallery Director Penelope Jackson and University of Auckland senior lecturer Dr Robin Woodward - which examines the fundamentals of Thomson's artistic practice.

Exhibition curated by Penelope Jackson and toured by Tauranga Art Gallery. *Corrugations* was the 2014 winner of the Museums Aotearoa Best Exhibition under \$20,000.

ANS WESTRA

Whanganui - Our People 1960-2014

Photographs from the region

Ans Westra is one of New Zealand's most respected and accomplished documentary photographers. After arriving in the country from her native Holland in 1957, Westra made her first trip up the Whanganui River in 1960 and began an engagement with the people of the region that continues to this day. In December 2013 Westra spent a month in Whanganui revisiting and re-photographing these places. This was part of a wider project which saw the artist returning to other rural Maori communities that she first visited in the 1960s. She says of the project and her work: "I knew I was lucky at the time to capture what I did, but I didn't fully appreciate the insights I documented with my camera and what that was preserving from Maori culture until recently when you see what's been lost and what has endured." Alongside these new works are examples of Westra's photographs of Whanganui from the early 1960s and the 1990s drawn for the Sarjeant Gallery Collection.

