



Sarjeant Quarterly

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Newsletter of the Sarjeant Gallery
Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui
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From the Senior Curator

by Greg Anderson

It's hard to believe that the year is already a quarter of the way through, and we are thrilled that our Summer season of exhibitions was extremely well received with great visitor numbers to the Gallery. It was particularly heartening to see the great response to our collection based exhibitions which were curated by Collection Transition Assistants, Kimberley Stephenson and Jessica Kidd. Along with Ben Davis and Te Maari Barham, these four dedicated, enthusiastic and hard-working professionals, under the guidance of Jennifer Taylor Moore, our Curator of Collections have masterminded and completed the herculean task of moving our entire collection over a period of twenty one months. The Collection Transition Assistants time with us came to an end in December and we'd like to thank them for their hard work and diligence and wish them all the best as they move forward with their respective careers.

On Friday 19 February we held our annual celebration of our Thousand Stars initiative, this event is generously sponsored by Anne Pattillo and her company *pattillo*. We are hugely grateful to Anne for her support of this wonderful fundraiser; in essence it is an opportunity for 1000 people to donate \$1000 over the space of four years (as little as \$5 per week), which will culminate in a grand total of \$1 million that will be used for the Sarjeant Gallery

A Night of a Thousand Stars

by Vivien Lindsay

We are still buzzing from February's Thousand Stars event; an evening of joyful colour, music and celebration. For the fourth year in a row, Anne Pattillo, a leading supporter and benefactor of the Thousand Stars funding drive, sponsored the function expressly to acknowledge the generosity of hundreds of individuals, businesses and other organisations who are making regular payments to the redevelopment fund.

It was the glorious array of Gretchen Albrecht works on the gallery walls at the time that inspired the theme for the evening and accordingly, invited guests needed no encouragement to don the most colourful outfits their wardrobes allowed.

The spectacular Whanganui Ukulele Orchestra provided background entertainment and had people on their feet dancing to their energetic rhythms before the night was out, and from the Flamin' Pizza Dragon parked up in the loading bay Kirk Nicholls rolled out the best wood fire pizzas ever!

The message reiterated throughout the evening in speeches by Mayor Annette Main, Anne Pattillo and Greg Anderson, Senior

Redevelopment Project. The event is a fantastic opportunity to thank these people for their support.

On 5 March we opened the 2016 Belton, Smith & Associates Ltd Whanganui Arts Review and as always this event continues to be a highlight on the local arts community calendar. This year's offering includes a broad spectrum of participants and be sure to visit before the show ends on 5 June to see who scooped this year's awards.

Emma Camden's exhibition NOW featuring cast glass work has seen large numbers of people visiting our object-based Gallery upstairs in the i-Site building and we have decided to extend the season of the exhibition to 1 May, so if you haven't had a chance to visit be sure to come and see these impressive works.

Fundraising for the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment project continues apace and in the last fortnight alone we have received very generous donations from private individuals and we are enormously grateful to all those who continue to support the project.



Image credit: Jo Giddens photography

Curator, was the call to action for all those present to go away and get their friends, relatives, work colleagues and associates to sign up as fellow Stars.

"The Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Project will be a great investment in the future of the district and the more the local community gets behind it, the more motivated outside funders, including philanthropists and government, will be. Treasures like the Sarjeant Gallery certainly need the investment of government and local government, but the future of an institution like the Gallery is really nourished by the support and actions of people in the community." Anne Patillo.

If you would like to become a Star, find out more about the Redevelopment Project or learn about other ways you can offer support, please visit www.sarjeant.org.nz or contact Vivien Lindsay, Redevelopment Officer on (06) 349 3138 or by email vivien.lindsay@sarjeant.org.nz

Members' News

by Raewyne Johnson
& Ian Glenny

A warm welcome to new Gallery Members Valerie Cranfield, Antonia Sims, Judy & Scott Flatt, Heina Petzold & Eva Busch, Kathryn Wightman, Jennie Collie, Jessie-Rose Leigh, Winona Folau, Georgie Ormond, Lyndsay Patterson, Lynn Waters, Ewen Alder Stratford, Chris Cantillon, Amy Roberts, Doreen Barnes, Amy Blackburn, Mia Edwards, Glen Hayward, Shane Holly, Paul Nicolai & Yvonne Westra, Maureen Hutchings, Bobbie Bryce, Ivan Vostinar, Diane Hood, Iain Fergusson.

The Gallery is pleased to acknowledge the following as Corporate Members and Corporate Sponsors:
ASB Bank, Belton, Smith & Associates Ltd., Central City Pharmacy, ComputerCare NZ Ltd, Forbo Flooring Systems, Kensington Swan, Mars Pet Care, Meteor Office Products Depot, NZME, Richard Millward & Associates, Nicola Williams, Pamela M J Williams, pattillo Ltd., PR & AB Warnock, Te Reo Irirangi O Whanganui – AWA FM, Wanganui Chronicle, Whanganui UCOL – Creative Programmes

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

We are delighted to welcome new Volunteer Co-ordinator, Diana Doyle who will assume her duties in June. Thank you very much Diana, we greatly appreciate your willingness to be involved with our wonderful group of volunteers. Our thanks to the several new people who have recently indicated their ability to assist us. Having held three large Gallery events within three consecutive weeks recently (Thousand Stars, PechaKucha Vol 4 and the Arts Review opening), we were most grateful to have the assistance of a large and cheerful group of willing helpers.

As Chair of the Member's Executive, Ian Glenny says *"I want to thank the Trust Board, Staff and Management of the Gallery for their positivity and ability to do a great job as a team. Including our volunteers we are all working towards the ultimate goal of achieving our wonderful redeveloped Sarjeant Gallery in Queen's Park. This Gallery will be a local and national treasure to all.*

We have been busy working on a system where we have put signage at the Queen's Park Gallery and painted stars on the foot path leading patrons to the current Gallery in Taupo Quay. I welcome you all to follow the path of stars to share with friends and family and enjoy the experience of the Gallery".



Volunteers at February's Thousand Stars event

EMAIL

Are you currently on our email database? We are increasingly using this as a means to inform you about talks and events coming up. Occasionally an opportunity presents itself to hold an event at very short notice and email is our only means of disseminating the information. Please contact raewyne.johnson@sarjeant.org.nz or call 06 349 3274 if we don't have your email address and please remember to update us when you change it.

We do have a Gallery E-Membership, this is free and gives you digital information (without all the other benefits of membership). We only require your name, address, phone number and of course email address.

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Shop info

At the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui we are immensely proud of our shop and Front of

House staff. We stock some of the best creative products that are made locally and nationally to a high standard. All our products are hand picked to showcase the artists work and what is on offer from the best craftspeople from around the country. We love that all our items are New Zealand made. Our Front of House staff are knowledgeable regarding what is happening in our Gallery and around our beautiful city. If you need advice on what to buy, where to visit next, or where to find the best cup of coffee in town, they are always willing and eager to help.



Collection store safe-guarded with earthquake protection

by Jennifer Taylor Moore

Standard museum and gallery storage systems, established for decades throughout New Zealand, shocked museum and gallery professionals when the systems failed as a result of the unprecedented force of the 2011 Canterbury earthquake. Since that time NZ museums and galleries have been evaluating their existing systems and experimenting with new methods to keep their collections safe, should such an event occur again.

Implementing new systems into collection stores is very difficult due to the high cost involved, the logistics of handling multiple stored items, and the limited space available in what are usually cramped storage areas. Most sites have resorted to 'band-aid' solutions in the interim while they weigh up potential solutions, costs, and plan for implementation over a period of time.

The Sarjeant Gallery's redevelopment project and earthquake strengthening of the heritage building means that the Gallery was uniquely placed to be able to implement new storage systems as part of the collection move of over 8,200 items from the earthquake prone heritage building at Queen's Park to the Gallery's temporary site at Sarjeant on the Quay. Now that the collection move is complete and seismic restraints have been implemented, the Gallery is at the forefront of this work in NZ. Staff from other museums and galleries have already begun making enquiries and visits to view and evaluate the new seismic restraint systems we have in place.



With the support of local businesses and a local grant the Gallery has employed a variety of methods to keep the artworks safe, should such an event occur in or near Whanganui. Webbing ties with Velcro (manufactured by local firm Shaun Terrey Upholstery) secure plastic tubs and framed works on paper on the HydeStor mobile shelves; mesh doors protect the unframed works on paper stored in solander boxes on the longspan shelves; and mesh aluminium screens (designed and manufactured by local firm Ali Arc Industries) secure the small 3D object shelves. Local firm Tate Engineering attached bolts to secure metal poles on the rolled storage units. Also employed are locked hooks (from Takiya in Japan) to secure paintings to the HydeStor mobile mesh racks; and cable ties through aluminium brackets (manufactured by Ali Arc) attached to the backs of the frames which prevent them from swinging outwards in an earthquake.

Top: Mesh doors secure solander boxes on HydeStor longspan shelving

Bottom left: Hooks with clips secure paintings to the mesh storage racks

Bottom middle: Aluminium mesh screens secure small 3D works

Bottom right: Webbing ties secure plastic tubs containing ceramics and glass works



In October 2015 we were delighted to learn that our application to the Ministry of Education, a key funder in partnership with the Whanganui District Council for our education service - LEOTC (Learning Experiences outside the Classroom), had been successful. We have been fortunate to have secured funding for this service for over twenty years and are very pleased that we are able to continue to provide education programmes. Being able to visit the Gallery and participate in a hands on and interactive art programme provides school students with a unique opportunity not available in the classroom environment. For many children a visit to the Gallery is a new and stimulating experience and is a great way to encourage them to see the Sarjeant as part of their community that they and their whanau can visit time and time again.

So far Term One has been very busy with many teachers taking advantage of what is on offer, of particular interest are a Tote Bag project and the annual Sea Week event. The Tote Bag project encourages students to think about the environmental effects of plastic bags and what they do with them. These classes have allowed children to design and decorate their own reusable Tote Bag that they can take away with them. We have been using a screen printing technique where the children create cut outs from their own drawings and the results of these workshops have been fantastic.

Classes for Sea Week were held at Castlecliff Beach in conjunction with the Whanganui Regional Museum, Department of Conservation, Castlecliff Coastcare and Horizons Regional Council. Our activities with students included making masks, beach sculptures and treasure boxes. It was a great week and it's always good to see students gaining new experiences, engaging with the environment and with their community.



Waitotara Principal Jane Corcoran with pupils Bruce Butters-Fitton and Cooper Mackintosh displaying their completed tote bags while Sarjeant educator Sietske Jansma assists Kimberley Frewin with the screen printing process.

COMING UP AT SARJEANT ON THE QUAY, 31 & 38 TAUPO QUAY

Exhibitions

Still Water Goes Stagnant

7 May – 31 July 2016

Examining the duality of landscape, documentation, connectivity, and simulacra *Still Water Goes Stagnant* includes new video work by artists Kate Woods and Brydee Rood alongside the New Zealand debut of the Indonesian collective Tromarama.

Glen Hayward: Super ordinary

14 May – 4 September 2016

New and selected wood carvings by Glen Hayward who was artist-in-residence at Tylee Cottage in late 2014. Hayward's meticulous works are surreal, humorous and intriguing, encouraging the viewer to reassess everyday objects that are often overlooked.

On view at 31 Taupo Quay.

Events

Art Fix

ART FIX is a friendly chat about Art held on the second Thursday of each month at 2pm and held in the Gallery upstairs at the i-Site at 31 Taupo Quay. On May 12 Sarah McClintock will make sense of new media art in the new exhibition *Still Water Goes Stagnant*. These sessions are followed by a cup of tea at Mud Ducks.

Wendy Fairclough – new artist-in-residence at Tylee Cottage

Thursday 21 April at 7.30pm

Australian-based artist Wendy Fairclough makes installation based work from blown & cast glass and found materials and will discuss past and present work.

FILM SCREENING and TALK:

The Farmers Wife and the Farmer: A Film and a Book by John McLean

Sunday 1 May at 4.30pm

View a film tracing Taranaki artist John McLean's journey through the processes involved in painting the mythological narrative of his surreal dream world paintings.

Entry by gold coin donation.

ARTIST TALK: Glen Hayward

Sunday 15 May at 11.00am

Upstairs at the i-site, 31 Taupo Quay

In conversation with Curator and Public Programmes Manager, Greg Donson, Glen Hayward will give a talk in his newly opened exhibition on view at 31 Taupo Quay.

TALK: Christodoulos Moisa: A Personal Journey to Mount Athos

Tuesday 24 May at 7.30pm

In 2014 Christodoulos Moisa journeyed to Mount Athos, an autonomous religious state within Greece. Chris' will discuss his time spent there and give a power-point representation of a photographic essay he produced while at that extraordinary place.

2016 Belton, Smith & Associates Ltd

Whanganui ARTS Review

5 March – 5 June 2016



The Arts Review is one of the longest running exhibitions of its type and is a valued event in the Whanganui arts calendar. The Sarjeant would like to take the opportunity to thank our principal sponsor *Belton, Smith & Associates Ltd*, who have committed to supporting this year's event. This sponsorship extends to the Open Award of \$2000 and three Highly Commended Awards valued at \$500 each.

Artworks made from numerous different media comprise this year's offering and were selected by: Tylee Cottage Artist-in-Residence Erica Van Zon; Sarah Williams of SPACE Gallery and Greg Donson, Curator & Public Programmes Manager at the Sarjeant. This year's judge was the Director of the Hastings City Art Gallery, Toni Mackinnon, and the prizes were awarded to the following recipients: 2016 Belton Smith and Associates Ltd Open Award to Mark Rayner, 2016 Belton Smith and Associates Ltd Highly Commended Awards to Frances Stachl, David Murray, and Tia Ranginui.

The Gallery would also like to warmly thank our Merit Award sponsors provided this year by: Central City Pharmacy, Members of the Sarjeant Gallery, Rivercity Picture Framers Ltd., Recaffeinate, Renata's Art & Framing, Ceramic Lounge, and The Mayor's Whanganui Merit Award. These awards were received by Paul Rayner, Sophie Taylor, Kaye Coombs, Catherine Slayer, Debbie Hahn, Andrea Gardner, and Matt Dutton. We are very grateful for the continued support from these quality local businesses and associations. This year in particular we wish to express our thanks to the Whanganui District Council Youth Committee for their contribution of \$250 for the DUB.DEE.SEE. Youth Recognition Merit Award, which was presented to James Graves.

The Sarjeant staff would like to congratulate the award winning artists. We are thrilled to be able to host this event in our temporary surrounds and we wish to thank all of the artists who have taken part in this year's event. Strong proof once again that Whanganui is indeed a thriving centre of arts and culture.

Greg Anderson
Senior Curator

Tylee
Cottage
News

by Greg Donson



Erica van Zon

Wellington-based artist Erica van Zon was artist-in-residence at Tylee Cottage for three months from January – March. Greg Donson took the opportunity to interview van Zon about her time in Whanganui.

What was it that appealed about the residency programme at Tylee Cottage? What's your impression of Whanganui so far? What kind of opportunities do you think emerge from living in a smaller place?

I visited my friend Richard Orjis who was at Tylee Cottage in 2014, and I was inspired by and drawn to the city, the cottage and the good connections that he had made.

I've enjoyed the local desire to preserve old things, there is a real DIY attitude to living here with a creative and generous vibe. I love the feeling in the streets, it feels like real New Zealand, it's very relaxed and people get things done. Access to a wide variety of materials and skilled craftspeople, good studio spaces and cheap living makes this an impressive place to make art.

In 2014 you spent eight weeks as visiting artist with the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. How was that residency and how have you found that your time in Whanganui is different?

The residency with the Dunedin Public Art Gallery was an incredible



Mark Rayner, *Self Portrait*, latch hook wool on rug canvas



David Murray, *Vessels of the New Economy*, cast glass

Edith Collier: Coastal Communities

13 February - 1 May 2016

Edith Collier was born in Whanganui in 1885 and died there in 1964. Apart from nine years in the UK from 1913 – 1921, the rest of her life was spent in her hometown. This exhibition brings together works that Collier made in response to three coastal communities: Bonmahon, Ireland; St Ives, Cornwall, England; and Kawhia, New Zealand. It was in these locations that Collier was at her most productive and these works are some of the most memorable of her oeuvre. Unusually at the time of her death there was almost no reflection of the place where she spent most of her life – Whanganui, despite it being another 'coastal community'. The small selection of works that were produced of the region featured the rural landscapes of various family farms: near Marton, up the Waitotara Valley, and the back country north of Taihape.

Collier's artistic training began while a student at the Wanganui Technical College in 1903, where she studied under Denis Seaward. Further encouragement came from Herbert Ivan Babbage, a neighbour of the Collier family, who encouraged the artist to continue her training overseas as he had for twenty years in the UK. In 1912, at the age of 27, Edith Collier joined a number of enthusiastic New Zealand artists of the time and left for England to become an expatriate.

The decision was to have a great impact on the subsequent development of her artistic career. First at St John's Wood Art School in London, then onto Bonmahon, Southern Ireland; Bibury in the Cotswolds and St Ives, Cornwall where Collier was to experience the freedom and experimentation that artist colonies in these areas provided. Influential teaching and friendship were provided through Margaret Macpherson and Frances Hodgkins. What resulted was a relatively brief period of rapid development of style, subject matter, colour and form. By viewing works produced in each of these coastal communities we can see the evolution of Collier as an artist and realise the important place she occupies in New Zealand's relatively short art history.

Bill Milbank

Guest Curator and Executive Officer of the Edith Collier Trust



Edith Collier (New Zealand, b.1885, d.1964), *Maketu Pa, Kawhia*, circa 1927, oil on canvas. Collection of The Edith Collier Trust. On long term loan to the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. 1/29.



Edith Collier (New Zealand, b.1885, d.1964), *Village by the Sea*, 1914-1915, oil on canvas. Collection of The Edith Collier Trust. On long term loan to the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. 1/44.

experience for me. I was able to realise an ambitious project but it was quite a bit of pressure to work under, focusing so intently on bringing together what was quite a big show.

I think that there has been a more natural relaxed way for the work that I have made here, I have had more research time and feel like I have really experienced Whanganui and what it has to offer. I've liked just being able to make art with the pressure of a show a while off, it's expanded my concepts and ways of working, allowed me to attack ideas from a bunch of different angles. The whole setup with Tylee and being able to revisit things time and time again has great advantages.

I've been addressing some of my obsessive hand-making and giving myself a break by finding new processes and ways to represent an idea - for example having a photograph made rather than making a tapestry, or

getting an object cast in bronze rather than making it out of clay. I've also been thinking about digital fabric printing and machine embroidery. I have realised that I don't need to hand make everything to have my signature on it.

Favourite places in Whanganui?

Tylee Cottage, I just loved it, it has such a good energy, great studio, and is probably the oldest house I have lived in. The whole Queen's Park area is just stunning, the view of Ruapehu, the Davis Library which punches well above its weight; Kowhai Park is world class and unique; Mosquito Point for swims and the op shops are incredible.

We look forward to Erica's post-residency exhibition which will feature in our Spring season of exhibitions in 2017.



Still Water Goes Stagnant

New video work by Brydee Rood, Kate Woods and Tromarama

7 May - 31 July 2016

Image credit:
Brydee Rood, *River Survival Series: Whanganui River Gold Waters*, 2016 (photo credit: Richard Wotton)

Sarjeant
On the Quay


Sarjeant Gallery
Te Whare o Rehua
Whanganui

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Sarjeant Gallery is a cultural facility of the Whanganui District Council