

Sarjeant Quarterly 69

Spring 2018

Newsletter of the
Sarjeant Gallery
Te Whare o Rehua
Whanganui
ISSN 1171-3275

Nolan Smith

Contents

From the Director **3** / Centenary Update
& Redevelopment Project **4** / Friends &
Tylee News **5** / 2019 Whanganui Arts
Review Callout **6** / Sarjeant House &
Friends & Stars Event **7** / 125: Celebrating
Women from the Collection **8**
Edith Collier: Ahead of her Time **10**
In the Hand **11** / Glen Hayward:
Dendrochronology **12** / Exhibitions **14**
Talks & Events **14**

FRONT COVER: **Vivian Smith** *Portrait of the Artist's Daughter* c. 1936–1946, oil on canvas, 1988/27/6.
Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui.



From the Director

The Sarjeant Gallery is one of New Zealand's great collection institutions. Numbering among our collection are works that are hundreds of years old, through to the most contemporary. Many of these items have entered the collection by means of substantial giving and one particularly significant gift has come to us recently. Renowned painter Mervyn Williams was our Tylee Cottage artist in residence in 1988 and for him the opportunity proved to be a turning point in his career. From that day to this the Sarjeant has remained in the artist's affections and this has culminated in an extraordinarily generous gift of nine artworks, given by Mervyn and his family. Staff have been awed by this wonderful gesture and are extremely grateful to be in possession of such a major body of work from a skilled New Zealand Abstractionist, beautifully complementing our existing holdings.

2019 is the centennial year of Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. Staff and supporters are working on a series of events and surprises which will be unveiled in due course so stay tuned as we release further information. There will be opportunities for the public and Friends of the Sarjeant to become involved in many ways, as we celebrate 100 years of Henry Sarjeant's great legacy.

Supporters of the Gallery will also be happy to know that considerable behind the scenes work is continuing in relation to the Redevelopment Project. Staff continue to work closely with our consultants to ensure that the fine detail of the building supports our operational use and in due course we will be calling for expressions of interest for a main contractor. Once the contractor is in place solid timeframes will be established in preparation for commencement of the build in 2019.

Meanwhile, we look forward to inviting you through the doors to the opening of our spring exhibitions on 14 September. —**GREG ANDERSON**

OPPOSITE: **Mervyn Williams** *Cutting Edge* 1982, acrylic on canvas, 2018/4/1. Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. Gift of the Williams family, 2018.

Sarjeant Gallery Centenary

On September 6, 2019 we will mark 100 years since the Sarjeant Gallery first opened its doors. The Sarjeant still overlooks Whanganui from Pukenui Queens Park but our world has changed so much in 100 years that Henry Sarjeant would barely recognise it. The role of the Sarjeant has changed too. Originally a gallery showcasing art and ideas almost exclusively generated in and imported from the UK and Europe, it is now something akin to a 'cultural town hall', hosting exhibitions by exciting new, emerging and established artists from our own community, New Zealand and abroad as well as musical events, readings, talks, discussions and noisy classrooms full of eager kids. The Sarjeant is a true 'whare o rehua' (house of inspiration) for everyone, just as Henry Sarjeant intended. Our centenary year will be marked by a series of special events, exhibitions and announcements to celebrate.

Redevelopment Project

Our centenary year will see the first sod turned at Queens Park and the Redevelopment construction work begin. The 'pre-construction' phase is now drawing to a close as the detailed design for the redevelopment is about to be finalised. It is in this design work where numbers are crunched and financial outcomes predicted and tailored to meet the budget. Decisions will be made that affect the detail and cost of the building. Following on from this will come the call for expressions of interest for the main contractor and tenders occurring thereafter. Once the main contractor has been appointed in 2019, construction can be scheduled to begin leading to the expected two year build period.



ABOVE: An artist's impression of the redeveloped Sarjeant Gallery, courtesy of the project architects Warren & Mahoney.

Friends News

A warm welcome goes out to new Sarjeant Gallery Friends: Te Ringa Te Awhe, Barbara McGrail, Wayne & Alycia Brown, Annie Hunt & Rob Mills, Jillian Evers & Michael Organ, David Kirby, Jan-Louise Hamblyn, Lynley Joyce, Sue Dryden, Joan Kerridge, and Peter Shelton and Bronwyn Zimmerman. The Friends Executive has several projects on the go at the moment and particular thanks goes to Wendy Bullock who is sewing up bespoke dust covers for some of the very beautiful and rare furniture items in the collection including the Medici era Italian walnut and ivory pieces.

Tylee News

We are delighted to announce the recipients of residencies at Tylee Cottage for the period September 2018 – January 2020. There were three separate and distinct residencies on offer, the first was for a female painter aged 35+ years. This was awarded to Christchurch-based painter Julia Holden. She arrives in Whanganui in early September and will be working on two painting projects while in residence. The selection panel were impressed with Holden's innovative approach to painting that cross pollinates painting with performance, photography and audio elements. In addition to the residency Holden is also the recipient of the Lilian Ida Smith Award valued at \$5000. Look out for an interview with Julia that will feature in our next Quarterly.

Wellington-based artist Annie Mackenzie was awarded the second residency for a craft/object-based practitioner. Mackenzie is the first weaver to reside at Tylee, she will be exploring the history of textiles produced in Whanganui and also textiles that are featured in works from the Gallery's collection.

The standard of applicants for the third residency for a photographic/new media artist was extremely high so a decision was made to split this residency between two respected and innovative artists, Marie Shannon and Jae Hoon Lee who will each spend three months in Whanganui.

We are looking forward to having each of the artists in Whanganui and would like to acknowledge the support of Creative New Zealand who generously support the programme.

2019 Whanganui Arts Review call out

We are already starting to think about the 2019 Whanganui Arts Review. This exhibition is New Zealand's longest running annual community art event and is a high point in Whanganui's autumn arts calendar. The exhibition draws large visitor numbers including many from out of town. We've found that collectors and dealers consider it a great opportunity to check out what's new in the buzzing Whanganui arts scene. We are currently seeking expressions of interest for sponsors and partners to work with us for the next Arts Review so if you have something to suggest or offer this great event, please let it be known by emailing jaki.arthur@sarjeant.org.nz. Start thinking about your Arts Review entry now! Submissions day will be Tuesday 26 February, 2019.



ABOVE: Whanganui Arts Review 2018 at Sarjeant on the Quay

LEFT: John Maihi and Nicola Williams at the 2018 Arts Review opening

Sarjeant House

We can now watch the Sarjeant House at 47 Bell Street come to life under the care of Villa Services, the renovation experts from Wellington who have purchased the property and are working hard to bring it back to its former glory. Designed by Ellen Sarjeant the house is built in the style of the Italian loggia that she observed in Lake Como in Italy. It will be wonderful to see it in its original condition such as it was when Ellen and Henry Sarjeant occupied it 100 years ago.

LEFT: Original stairway in the Sarjeant House



Friends & Stars event

November 20 will be the 189th anniversary of our benefactor Henry Sarjeant's birth. Born in Gloucestershire, England, Henry immigrated to join his brother Isaac in the late 1850s/early 1860s, and he bought several farming properties in this region. This year we have chosen to honour his birthday with a special event for Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery, Business Partners and Thousand Stars—called Friends and Stars Night. It will be held on Thursday 22 November and invitations will go out in early November. We very much look forward to welcoming our Friends and Stars to Sarjeant on the Quay and to raising a glass to Henry Sarjeant and his bequest for Whanganui to have a gallery 'as a means of inspiration for ourselves and those who come after us' which has enriched this community so much.

125: Celebrating Women from the Collection

15 SEPTEMBER 2018 – 17 FEBRUARY 2019

In recognition of the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand we have brought together an exhibition from our permanent collection that focuses on images of women from a broad spectrum of artists—both women and men. Featuring works across a range of media: painting, photography, sculpture, print and ephemera the exhibition explores the complexity of this subject matter. The Sarjeant is of course not alone in its gender imbalance for what it has collected over the last hundred years, by the numbers, male artists far out-weight female. For this exhibition we have endeavoured to balance things up and featured are a number of notable works by women including Robyn Kahukiwa's powerful two metre high painting from 1985—*He Toa Takitahi* (*He Whakatauaki: E hara toa i te toa takitahi engari takimano no aku tipuna—My strength is not individual it is collective*).

Whanganui painter Edith Collier was an art student in London at the outbreak of the first World War. Her circa 1917–1918 painting *Ministry of Labour—The Recruiting Office for Women*, as art historian Joanne Drayton noted in 1999, “depicts a group of women waiting to offer their labour for tasks and employment associated with the war effort. This subject matter is unique, not only in Edith's oeuvre, but also in the work of contemporary painters of this period.” During her time in Britain, Collier spent time under the mentorship of the Australian artist Margaret Macpherson and one of New Zealand's most famous expatriate artists, Frances Hodgkins whose lyrical *Belgian Mother and Child* is included in the exhibition. Both Collier and Hodgkins were working at a time when modernism was blooming and the art scene they were immersed in was radically different to the conservative outlook of the scene they had left behind in New Zealand.

One of the strengths of the Gallery's collection has been its focus on collecting photography. Contemporary photographic practice by women is well represented in this exhibition with works by Anne Noble, Megan Jenkinson and Ans Westra on view, alongside more recent examples by the

new generation of photographers, such as Yvonne Todd and Roberta Thornley.

Items in this exhibition range from intimate portraits, to large scale works, and illustrations that explore traditional roles of women through to challenging and bold statements of identity, providing another glimpse of the breadth of the Sarjeant Gallery's nationally significant collection.

A selection of portraits by Whanganui painter Edith Collier can be seen in the companion exhibition *Edith Collier: Ahead of her Time* on view until 4 November.

—GREG DONSON & JENNIFER TAYLOR MOORE



ABOVE:
Roberta Thornley
A Serious Girl, 2017, inkjet photograph on Hahnemuhle photorag paper, 2017/9/1. Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. Tylee Residency exchange, 2017.



LEFT:
Edith Collier
Ministry of Labour - Recruiting Office for Women 1917-1918, oil on canvas, 1/4. Collection of the Edith Collier Trust, in the permanent care of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui.

Edith Collier: Ahead of her Time

30 JUNE – 4 NOVEMBER 2018



In conjunction with the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand, we have brought together a selection of portraits of women by Whanganui's Edith Marion Collier (b.1885–d.1964) from the Edith Collier Trust and Sarjeant Gallery collections. The works demonstrate her awareness of early 20th century European art and her own unique Modernist aesthetic.

Whanganui born Collier was supported by her parents to study art in London and Europe for eight years. Upon her return to New Zealand in 1921 Collier was

producing work with Modernist and Post-Impressionist features, however her exhibited works were not well received in a conservative New Zealand. As an unmarried woman with a large extended family certain expectations were placed upon where her responsibilities should lie and as a result her efforts were increasingly directed away from pursuing art.

Collier's story is one of perseverance and determination to pursue her artistic dream without sacrificing her care for others. She deserves to be celebrated for the achievements that few other women of her time achieved. Since her death she is still fondly remembered by those who knew her, both her family in New Zealand, and the communities she lived among overseas.

The exhibition will be extended with additional works from 15 September – 4 November, 2018. —**JENNIFER TAYLOR MOORE**, *Curator of Collections*

ABOVE: **Edith Collier** *A Cornish Woman of Spanish Descent*, circa 1916, oil on canvas, 1956/5/1. Collection of the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui. Gift of the artist, 1956. This work was conserved with the generous support of Hugh Rennie in 2004.

In the Hand

18 AUGUST 2018 – 20 JANUARY 2019

This exhibition in our object-based gallery above the i-SITE includes a diverse range of works by artists who have not only made their objects by hand but have made things that could literally fit 'in the hand'. As well as a celebration of the hand-made, many of the works investigate the small objects we encounter in everyday life.

Artists Madeleine Child, Tessa Laird and Joe Sheehan create objects that invoke actions of the hand-held; to eat by hand, to read a book, to squeeze a paint tube or push the buttons of a remote. The objects alone, removed from their function still carry the connotation of 'usefulness'.

Octavia Cook's intricately fashioned *Eyes* series of brooches and earrings could be considered large in scale in terms of jewellery, yet their palm-size weightiness lends her pieces a delightful tactile element which might be lacking on a smaller scale.

Lauren Lysaght, Robert McLeod, Richard Parker and Martin Poppelwell are makers who have worked in both large and small formats throughout their careers. Included are a selection of works that display echoes of their large-scale output, while remaining distinct and intriguing bodies of work in their own right.

Also featured are a selection of the smallest works from the Rick Rudd Box Collection, a rich collection of ceramics by a myriad of makers around the country, acquired by the Sarjeant in 1999. —**JESSICA KIDD**, *Assistant Curator*



LEFT: **Tessa Laird**, selection of ceramic books, 2014. Courtesy of the artist and Melanie Roger Gallery.

Glen Hayward: Dendrochronology

1 SEPTEMBER – 2 DECEMBER, 2018

In 2016 Toyota reached the milestone of having produced its 'Corolla' model for fifty years. At that time a staggering 44.1 million vehicles had been sold in over 150 countries and regions around the world. It has consistently been New Zealand's top-selling vehicle, so it's no wonder that many of us have encountered this vehicle in some guise over the course of our lives. For Glen Hayward, his first Corolla memory was an abandoned model in a paddock that he used to play in as a child growing up in Whanganui.

When he returned to the city in 2014 to be artist-in-residence at Tylee Cottage there were a lot of memories that surfaced as he reacquainted himself with his childhood home. Some of these manifested themselves in the small scale works that made up his 'River Glean' project—found wooden objects from local second-hand shops that he added and subtracted elements to and from. These works became a visual diary of his time at Tylee Cottage and he also began planning for how he might recreate a full-scale Corolla from wood. By late August 2017 this work became a reality and after being shown at Sydney Contemporary, the Dunedin Public Art Gallery and Objectspace in Auckland, it has come full circle to be shown at the Sarjeant, which seems fitting given that Whanganui provided the memory bank from which it came.

Unlike Hayward's other works that have been faithful replicas, *Dendrochronology* represents a shift in his approach. Although the car features elements that might appeal to a childhood sensibility; levers to pull, a steering wheel to turn, the exterior of the car is more adhoc, like a kids drawing or a taped together model. Lucinda Bennett writes "Dendrochronology doesn't try to be an exact replica of the thing. It's rougher and hazier, the idea of a car, the fleeting memory of a car. This is perhaps why some details are sharp and precise while others are lumpen or scrappy—memory is broadly sensuous, only fragments of feelings, rarely panoramic." The title of the work is the word used to describe the practice of dating a piece of wood by comparing its growth rings to another piece of wood.

On viewing the car in his studio, a former lawnmower repair shop that Hayward moved into in early 2017, it's clear that settling into this new space and renovating it also played a part in this sculpture's evolution, as the exterior

of the car is clad in panels removed from the building. The work encourages us to traverse the terrain of childhood and adulthood, fact and fiction, Hayward wants us to bend down and look in, to experience it much like the artist as a boy and as a grown man.—**GREG DONSON**, *Curator & Public Programmes Manager*



ABOVE: **Glen Hayward** *Dendrochronology* at Objectspace, 2018. Image by Sam Hartnett.

LEFT: Toyota Corolla 1979 model.

EXHIBITIONS

Spring season

AT 38 TAUPŌ QUAY

Edith Collier: Ahead of her time

30 JUNE–4 NOVEMBER, 2018
Portraits of women by Whanganui artist Edith Collier (1885–1964) selected from the Sarjeant Gallery and Edith Collier Trust collections. Included are examples of work from her most prolific artistic periods: her time spent in London, Ireland and Cornwall, as well as Kawhia in New Zealand.

Glen Hayward: Dendrochronology

1 SEPTEMBER–2 DECEMBER, 2018
A full-scale wooden replica of a Toyota Corolla by artist Glen Hayward, whose first Corolla memory was an abandoned model in a paddock that he used to play in as a child growing up in Whanganui.

125: Celebrating women from the collection

15 SEPTEMBER, 2018–17 FEBRUARY, 2019
Works from our permanent collection, in celebration of the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand.

BELOW: Octavia Cook 'Mosapien' 2017. Photo Sam Hartnett, courtesy of the artist and Anna Miles Gallery



UPSTAIRS AT THE i-SITE, 31 TAUPŌ QUAY

In the Hand

18 AUGUST, 2018–20 JANUARY, 2019
A group exhibition in our object-based gallery above the i-SITE featuring small ceramic, jewellery and mixed media works linked by their intimate scale. Featuring works by Madeleine Child, Octavia Cook, Tessa Laird, Lauren Lysaght, Robert McLeod, Richard Parker, Martin Poppelwell and Joe Sheehan.

TALKS & EVENTS

All events are free and are at 38 Taupō Quay unless otherwise stated.

Spring season exhibition opening

FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 5.30–7PM
Join us to celebrate our spring season and the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand, surrounded by two important collection exhibitions honouring the stories of women.
Please RSVP to raewyne.johnson@sarjeant.org.nz by Monday 10 September

Artist talk: Glen Hayward

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 11AM
Artist Glen Hayward will discuss his exhibition *Dendrochronology* in conversation with Greg Donson, Curator and Public Programmes Manager.

Artist Talk: Julia Holden

TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM
Current Tylee Cottage artist-in-residence will give an illustrated talk about her practice and upcoming residency projects.

Art Fix: In the Hand

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER, 2PM AT 31 TAUPŌ QUAY ABOVE THE I-SITE
Assistant Curator Jessica Kidd will walk through the exhibition *In the Hand*—a group exhibition featuring works linked by their intimate scale. Participants are encouraged to investigate and discuss, all welcome.

Curator's Talk

Edith Collier: Ahead of her Time

THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM
Join Curator of Collections Jennifer Taylor Moore for an illustrated talk about Edith Collier, discussing her life and significance as an early New Zealand Modernist painter and a woman artist ahead of her time.

Art Fix

125: Celebrating Women from the Collection

THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER, 2PM
Curators Greg Donson and Jennifer Taylor Moore will lead an investigative chat about the collection exhibition *125: Celebrating Women from the Collection*. Participants are encouraged to contribute and discuss, all welcome.

FLOW: Airini Beutrais

SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER, 4.30PM
Poet Airini Beutrais will journey through Whanganui's history as detailed in her critically acclaimed poetry collection *Flow*, accompanied by historical images from the Sarjeant's unique photographic collection.

Latin American & Spanish Film Festival Celebration

SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER, 7PM
Join us for this popular annual evening of music and dance, with Latin themed refreshments.

Art Fix

Glen Hayward: Dendrochronology

THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER, 2PM
Tom Turner will lead a friendly chat about Glen Hayward's *Dendrochronology*. You are encouraged to bring a pen and pad. This will be followed by a cup of tea at Mud Ducks.

MUKA Youth Prints

SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 10.30AM–4.30PM
For over 30 years Muka Youth Prints have produced affordable artworks for children. For one day only, visitors under 19 years old can purchase their own works for \$70. No adults allowed, eftspos available and works must be paid for on the day, to be collected from the Gallery at a later date.

Friends & Stars Night

THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER, 5.30–7PM
In celebration of our benefactor Henry Sarjeant's birthday, the Gallery is delighted to host a gathering for our Friends and Thousand Star supporters.

CONOR CLARKE

New works from her time as Tylee Cottage artist-in-residence

8 DECEMBER 2018–17 MARCH 2019



Sarjeant Gallery
Te Whare o Rehua
Whanganui

38 Taupō Quay
Whanganui 4500
New Zealand

Phone 06 349 0506
www.sarjeant.org.nz

Sarjeant Gallery is a cultural facility of the Whanganui District Council

Conor Clarke *Hatrick's window on Tenganro* 2018, pigment ink on hahemihie baryta paper. Courtesy of the artist and Two Rooms Gallery.