



# **ART GALLERY SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

## **2012 ANNUAL REVIEW**

For the year ended 31 December 2012

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## Art Gallery Society of New South Wales Annual Review 2012

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## 2012 – The year in review

Beginning on a high with the extraordinary exhibition *Picasso: masterpieces from the Musée Picasso Paris*, 2012 was a difficult year to predict how popular the Gallery's exhibitions program would be.

Following *Picasso* came the perennial *Archibald, Wynne* and *Sulman Prizes*, which are always guaranteed to pull in the crowds. But, the exhibitions following these were unknown quantities – *Kamisaka Sekka: dawn of modern Japanese design*, *Eugene Atget: old Paris* and *Francis Bacon: five decades*. While extraordinary exhibits and extraordinary artworks in their own right, the artists were relatively unknown in this country – certainly not household names – and Gallery staff were unsure whether the public would take to them. As it turned out, the public did take to them and all three became surprise successes. Word of mouth played a big part in the success of these exhibitions, and as members are usually the first to see the exhibitions through their previews and free viewings, this communication of the Gallery's wonderful displays is often through them.

Following on as the summer exhibition from *Picasso* in November 2012, was *Francis Bacon: five decades*. Little-known outside of committed art aficionados in Australia, unlike *Picasso*, whose name is known in every corner of the globe, *Bacon* is either confused with the 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher or not known at all. That he was arguably the greatest figurative painter after *Picasso*, yet still largely unknown in Australia is fascinating, but here again the Society's members came to the fore. At the preview and free viewing 1400 members attended the exhibition, an impressive number for this "difficult" artist. The Society's lecture course *Study for Self Portrait: Francis Bacon's Britain*, was instrumental in bringing *Bacon's* art to member's attention, interpreting *Bacon's* art and times for a more informed viewing of the exhibition.

Major exhibitions are a magnet for new members, and while the exhibitions were successful, the number of people joining the Society was slightly down on expectations. Still, the Society attracted 3153 new members, a healthy figure weighed in the balance.

2012 was a year of important anniversaries. In one year we saw the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Volunteer Guides, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Volunteer Task Force, and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Contempo, the Society's program for younger members.

Celebration parties were held for all anniversaries, with all three attended by our new director, Dr Michael Brand and his wife Tina. Society Patron, the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir found time in her busy schedule to attend the Volunteer Guides party which was appreciated by all.

Towards the end of 2012, the public sector across NSW including the Gallery, was affected by budget cuts by the State government. An unfortunate welcome back to Australia for the new director, Michael Brand, who was forced to make some tough decisions the minute he walked in the door.

With the outsourcing of the Gallery Services Officers imminent other redundancies amongst the Gallery staff already enacted, a successful year for the Gallery had its poignant moments.

The Society would like to extend its gratitude to the Gallery Services Officers for their help, support and practical assistance over many, many years. Most members wouldn't know that the Gallery Services Officers help the Society in so many ways, including putting up stages, moving trestles, tables and chairs all over the Gallery, coming in early and staying back late welcoming and helping members in many different ways and providing first aid when required.

The success of the Society's events program has always relied on the generosity of support and goodwill of these important Gallery employees. We wish all of you well in what comes next.

And of course, we wish all the other Gallery staff members who have been made redundant well. All the very best, to you and your families.

## ACQUISITIONS

In 2012, the Society's tradition of acquiring works of art for the Gallery's collections had an interesting year. In 1979, the Society acquired an artwork in honour of Edmund Capon's appointment as director. The purchase was a Tang Dynasty horse, entitled *Horse and Rider* or *Equestrian figure*. This year, the Society put aside another sum of money to acquire a work to appropriately celebrate the appointment of Dr Michael Brand. This work was to be the focus of the Society's Collection Circle acquisition – however, due to circumstances beyond our control, this acquisition had to wait until the next year – by which time there will be more funds to allow Michael to choose something of value for the Gallery.

In spite of this, the Society has acquired two important works for the collections:

### *Hanahiru (sneeze) 2012*

The Society has not acquired a work for the Japanese department for some time, so it was pleased to be able to fund a work from this year's *Kamisaka Sekka: dawn of modern Japanese design* exhibition by contemporary Japanese artist Ai Yamaguchi.

### *The Memory of Nature*

The Society's younger member group Contempo combined with the Contemporary Collection Benefactors to purchase Janet Laurence's installation *The Memory of Nature*. This is Contempo's 2012 purchase for the Gallery's contemporary collection, and the centrepiece of their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary held at the Gallery on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

The Society still holds \$370,000 in funds from the Dagmar Halas Bequest. Dagmar, who was a wonderful volunteer for the Society, and who terrified us all, made specific conditions in her will about what paintings should be bought – and it was paintings, not sculpture, not prints – and NOT abstract! So, with all these conditions we are still seeking something that Dagmar would be happy with – if we don't, she will haunt us!

## **LOOK MAGAZINE**

*Look* continues to be the most important benefit of membership and the chief means of communicating Society events, Gallery exhibitions and news and information on what's happening in the wider art scene.

Frequently, the editor, Jill Sykes, Society staff and Councillors receive written and verbal forms of praise for the quality and content of the magazine which is gratifying to us all.

New developments in the production of *Look* will occur in 2013, our anniversary year, and will be announced in the near future, something we are very excited about.

## **EVENTS**

Again, in 2012, the Society presented members with a diverse array of events that explored the visual arts, practical workshops for adults and children, music, as well as lecture programs that spanned the humanities.

In all, the Society presented 484 events with a total of 43,551 tickets sold. This level of engagement by Society members with the AGNSW is unique in this country.

## **ART APPRECIATION DIPLOMA COURSE**

In 2012 the art appreciation course *Absolutism to Enlightenment: European art and culture 1665 - 1765*, proved to be a big success, this annual course being the most important of all our educational events, and unique to the Society.

The 33 lecture course – delivered twice, on Wednesday evening and Thursday lunchtimes, attracted 10,493 ticket sales in total.

## **LEARNING CURVE LECTURE SERIES**

The Society's Learning Curve lecture series broaden the range of subject matter that we deliver to members, lectures on subjects that have many different synergies with the visual arts.

In 2012, the Society presented three series: *For God's Sake*, *Sydney: Tales of Sunlight and Shadow* and *Study for Self Portrait: Francis Bacon's Britain*.

Feedback from members tells us that the courses are extremely valued and they are an important part in raising funds for acquiring artworks for the Gallery.

There were many other events throughout the year, from low-cost coffee morning tours of exhibitions, to practical workshops for old and young alike, lectures on photographs, American Art, Gallery Express tours of commercial galleries, *Resonate* concerts and the second *Inge Grant*

*Memorial Lecture* delivered by Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, one of the highlights of the year.

## **CONTEMPO**

*Contempo* is our vital group of younger members whose specifically tailored events engage them with the Gallery, contemporary art and contemporary culture and its trends.

*Contempo* has a vibrant and passionate committee and group of volunteers who give their time and energy to creating these events and nurturing the Society members and Gallery audiences of the future.

In 2012 *Contempo* celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From its earlier incarnation as the *Young Friends* it has revitalised and developed while continuing to attract young people to the personal enrichment and mind-opening possibilities that art, the Gallery and the Society has to offer.

All of *Contempo's* committee, volunteers and members' contributions go to raising funds to acquire works for the Gallery's contemporary collections, and in 2012 *Contempo* jointly purchased, with the Gallery's Contemporary Collection Benefactors, Janet Lawrence's installation *Memory of Nature* (2010).

## **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP**

In an increasingly competitive world for the corporate dollar, the Society's Corporate Membership Program fared well after the downturn of the global financial crisis, achieving membership of 153 companies by the end of 2012.

A new marketing initiative was introduced around the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes in 2012, and this lateral thinking by the corporate program was awarded one Gold, two Silver and one Bronze award in the ADMA Awards (Direct Marketing awards), a wonderful achievement.

## **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP**

Corporate responsibility – giving back to the community – is demonstrated by some wonderful organisations with their sponsorship of the Society and its events. The Society is extremely grateful to the following Principal Sponsors for their generous support and commitment to the arts:

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## **VOLUNTEER GUIDES, VOLUNTEER TASK FORCE, CONTEMPO VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS**

Volunteering in Australia has almost become a national sport. The number of volunteers across all walks of life and across so many aspects of our lives from the arts to sport to hospitals, to name but three, is a tribute to the value we all place on these facets of our communities.

And so it is with the Art Gallery Society and the Art Gallery of NSW.

2012 was a watershed year for volunteering in our institution. The year saw the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Volunteer Guides, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Volunteer Task Force, and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Contempo* and its volunteers.

The Community Ambassadors are a dedicated group of volunteers from Korea, China, Vietnam and Japan who guide members and visitors through exhibitions in their language. They also promote the Gallery and its treasures throughout the local communities. 2013 will see the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Community Ambassadors, another achievement to celebrate.

The contribution – in terms of cost savings, and the enhancement of the quantity and quality of the members and public's experiences, that these thousands of volunteers have provided for the Gallery and the Society over decades is not only essential and substantial, but extraordinary.

### **A REASON TO CELEBRATE**

There are many reasons to celebrate the year ahead. The Gallery has a new Director, Dr Michael Brand, whom the Society welcomes and we look forward to the exciting new directions that he will take the Gallery in.

For us the biggest and most important celebration is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Art Gallery Society of NSW in 2013.

From a vision in 1947 by Director, Hal Missingam, to the first tentative steps in 1953, the incorporation as a company in 1958, to the important cultural support group it has become in 2013 with the more than 430 acquisitions to its credit, the Art Gallery Society and its members have a lot to be proud of.

There will be a year-long series of celebratory events, focused on the sponsorship of the Gallery's major exhibition *Sydney Moderns: art for a new world*; a select hang of Society acquisitions in the members lounge; a book detailing the history of the Society's 60 years from previous Executive Director Judith White; a gala fundraising dinner; new enhancements to *Look* magazine; along with a host of other events, big and small.

2013 is a year to remember past achievements, past members, past volunteers, staff and Councils – a cultural milestone in this city. And a catalyst for us – now – to continue this great tradition of support and love for the Art Gallery of New south Wales.



Craig Brush  
Executive Director



John Masters  
President

Dated this day of 30 March 2013



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 QBE Insurance Group Ltd  
 QBE Lenders' Mortgage Insurance  
 Ranier Design Group  
 Renaissance Tours  
 ResMed Ltd  
 RightNow Technologies Pty Ltd  
 Rodgers Reidy  
 RSM Bird Cameron  
 Rubik Financial  
 Russell Investments  
 Savills Project Management  
 Scan Pacific International Pty Ltd  
 Sentia Media  
 Shapiro Auctioneers  
 Sherborne Consulting  
 SHIFT Communications Pty Ltd  
 Sinclair Knight Merz  
 Sky News Business Channel  
 SMS Management & Technology  
 Snap Printing North Sydney  
 Sparke Helmore Lawyers  
 Star Scientific Limited  
 Steelcase Australia  
 Steensen Varming  
 Stephenson Mansell Group  
 Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces  
 Taylor Thomson Whitting  
 Taylors Wines Family  
 The Scarlet Design Group  
 Theme & Variations Piano Services  
 Thomsons Lawyers  
 Toomey Pegg Lawyers  
 Toshiba (Australia) Pty Ltd  
 Travelscene American Express  
 Trippas White Group  
 Tynan Mackenzie  
 Tyndall AM  
 University of Sydney - Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning  
 URSA Clemenger  
 Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd  
 Viral Diagnostic & Referral Laboratory  
 Vodafone Australia  
 Walker Wayland NSW  
 Warren Smith & Partners Pty Ltd  
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 Wehbys  
 Wesfarmers Industrial & Safety  
 Westpac Banking Corporation  
 WilliamsonLegal  
 Wood & Grieve Engineers  
 Wotton + Kearney  
 Woven Image  
 Wunderman

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Bronwyn Dowling

Bronwyn Kaspura

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Candice Miles

Catalina Santa

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Shannon Maguire

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Bella Church

### **LECTURE COORDINATOR**

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### **ASSISTANT LECTURE COORDINATOR**

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### **FUNCTIONS ROSTER OFFICER**

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Archbold Greta  
Ashmore Mara  
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Aveling Meredith  
Bain Margot  
Baines Chris  
Baldo Julia  
Ball Victoria  
Barnes Jennifer  
Barnes Linda  
Barrett Kaye  
Beesley Sandra  
Berlyn Diana  
Blomfield Anne  
Blythe Georgina  
Botta Joyce  
Bough Spencer  
Bowen Penny  
Boyd Susan  
Brook Valda  
Buchanan John  
Buchanan Sue  
Bull Geraldine  
Bye Susan  
Canning Wendy  
Carey Jennifer  
Carlisle Annette

Casey Mary  
Charity Faith  
Charlton Susan  
Chatfield June  
Cheam Joyce  
Chinnock Stephanie  
Christensen Birgit  
Clapin Jill  
Clarke Annie  
Clarke Lea  
Clasper Rhonda  
Cook Hill  
Coolican Jenny  
Cousins Gabrielle  
Craswell Peter  
Cummings Elizabeth  
Curtis Patricia  
Dadswell Susan  
Darby Beverley  
Dawson Ann  
de Valence Francine  
Dendle Gail  
Dening-Franklin Lyn  
Denison Charlotte  
Devine Diane  
Dodd Ann  
Doherty John  
Donnan Lindsay  
Donsworth June  
Dornan Ruth  
Dubiel Jutta

Duff Judy  
Duggan Catherine  
Duschletta Anna  
Eburn Caroline  
Elliott Gordon)  
Embrey Judy  
Falconer Daile  
Farago Ingrid  
Feher, Eva  
Fell Yvonne  
Fergus Coralie  
Forsythe Carol  
Gassner Kitty  
Geczy Yvette  
Good Phillip  
Governor Patricia  
Greenberg Sheba  
Greene Maria  
Grice Mary  
Griffiths Beverley  
Gross Kirsten  
Habel Janette  
Hagiwara Aiko  
Hall Ben  
Hancock Simone  
Hancock Sue  
Hannon Karen  
Harding Carmella  
Hargreaves Averil  
Harrison-Latour Ine  
Hartigan Susan

Haskell Cynthia  
Hellier Fran  
Henderson Ann  
Hill Susan  
Hillier Mary  
Hollis Sally  
Hough Jenny  
Hudson Diana  
Hunt Margaret  
Hunter Madeline  
Hurley Paul  
Jakubowski Teresa  
James Patricia  
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John Krystyna  
Johnson Patricia  
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Jones Nita  
Jones, Sandra  
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Karsten Craig  
Kelly Donna  
Kemp Sue  
Kenny Vere  
Kerr Sue  
Kerr Suzanne  
Khouri Juliette  
Kidman Helen  
Knight Ursula  
Kowalski Ira  
Lademann Triny  
Lee Brenda  
Lyubomirsky Laura  
MacKenzie Kristine  
Mandelberg Sue  
Marsh, Carolyn  
Marshall Margaret  
McClelland Jan  
McDonald Ray  
McLellan Glen  
McLellan Margaret

McPherson Marlene  
Mendelsohn Emma  
Menzies John  
Meppem Mary  
Miller Julie  
Miller Robin  
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Mulvey Colleen  
Murphy Gael  
Newhouse Yvonne  
Noble Kate  
Novy Helena  
Nugent Brian  
Nugent Sandy  
Osen Ruth  
Pajor Sue  
Paradine Glenda  
Parker Jenny  
Pirello Maria  
Pitson Dian  
Poole Michael  
Preshaw Judy  
Pretty Cynthia  
Pritchard Greeba  
Puntigam Marie  
Radford Margaret  
Reed Patricia  
Richardson Peter  
Richmond Kate  
Robinson Astrid  
Roth Carol  
Rushton Barry  
Sandford Kim  
Sansom Maryanne  
Scanlan Libby  
Scutts Luisa  
Searle Annette  
Sheehan Cassie  
Sherman Judy

Shillington Irene  
Skakavac Dana  
Smith Joyce  
Smyth Victoria  
Sommerville Lesley  
Sowell Marilyn  
Stefanek Judith  
Steilberg May  
Stevenson Leslie  
Strachan Jenny  
Strand Peter  
Sutherland Ann  
Swenson Marsha  
Tariel Julie  
Taylor Anne  
Thaweekulchai Adrian  
Thom Irene  
Ting Kathryn  
Tompkins Susan  
Tribe Judy  
Twist Judith  
Unwin Mary  
Ure Ursula  
Vaculik Lynda  
Vagenas Theodora  
Vogt Valerie  
von Lucken Beverley  
Wagner John  
Wai-Yee Jeffrey  
Wallace Julie  
Wangmann June  
Warman Norma  
Watt Gail  
Weberbauer Rita  
Weiley Maggie  
Weingott Paul  
Whawell Peter  
Wicks, Annie  
Wilson Beverley  
Wilson Joanne  
Wood Jenni  
Worrall Barbara  
Wunderlich Jill

## ACQUISITIONS



### JANET LAWRENCE

The memory of nature

2010

Installation

acrylic, scientific glass, dried plants, seeds, sulphur, salt, amethyst, taxidermied owls, shellac, tulle, wood, burnt bones, hand bones, hand-blown glass, oil paint, mirrors

180.5 x 300.5 x 170.3cm overall

Purchased with funds provided by the Art Gallery Society of New South Wales Contempo Group and the Contemporary Collection Benefactors with the generous assistance of Geoff Ainsworth AM, Peter Braithwaite, Sally Breen, Andrew & Cathy Cameron, Ginny & Leslie Green, Michael Hobbs, Ray

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### AI YAMAGUCHI

(Japan 1977– )

Hanahiru (Sneeze)

2012

Painting, Installation

acrylic paint, gold paint on wild cherry wood

dimensions variable:

Purchased with funds provided by the Art Gallery Society of NSW 2012



ABN 26 000 207 198

Art Gallery Road, The Domain,

Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Telephone (61 2) 9225 1878

Facsimile (61 2) 9225 1644

Email [info@artgallerysociety.org.au](mailto:info@artgallerysociety.org.au)

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