



Power to Define
Robyn Kahukiwa
This three metre wide painting is featured in the exhibition *In With The New*.

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS : March 2013 - May 2013

In With The New Recent Acquisitions

25 January 2013 – 7 April 2013

In With The New is an appropriate title for the museum's first exhibition for the year 2013.

This selection of artworks featuring ceramics, paintings, prints and weaving from the museum's most recent acquisitions were gifted to or purchased by the museum. This exhibition hallmarks the levels and layers which typify what could comprise a collection of art.

Works find their way into the fine arts collection through numerous avenues. For example the coloured etching illustrated below by Penny Ormerod was uncovered in a second hand store. It is a flower and plant study entitled *Chiang Mai* which may be in reference to the plant life in northern Thailand, the home of the Chiang Mai Province.

Penny Ormerod lived in Gisborne from the mid 1970s to the late 1980s.



Chiang Mai
- Penny Ormerod

Thirty-Three Matt Couper

1 February 2013 – 17 March 2013

Thirty-Three presents a series of paintings by Matthew Couper executed in 2009 at the age of 33, as a 'rite of passage'. Each painting documents a year of the artist's life, so the exhibition takes the viewer on Couper's journey, from growing up in Hawkes Bay, to attending art school, travelling overseas, teaching and painting, learning lessons, encountering misfortune and luck and exploring ideas of mortality, sex and religion.

Painted in a chronological narrative, the style of the work references the Spanish Colonial painting genre of the retablo. It also alludes to ex-votos—nineteenth century devotional paintings executed by village artisans. These were commissioned by a client in gratitude to a specific patron saint to acknowledge an incident or personal experience. The focal point of the exhibition is the eponymous installation resembling a makeshift altar for rebirth rituals. The number 33 is often related to Christ's death and resurrection in Christian religion, but is also a prominent number associated with rebirth rituals throughout different cultures.

Matthew Couper is represented by PAULNACHE, Gisborne.



2006_RETABLO_2009
- Matthew Couper

Unseen Peter Ireland

23 February 2013 – 21 April 2013

Twelve previously unexhibited paintings by Peter Ireland held in Gisborne private collections.

This small group of works dating from 1984 collectively illustrate a web of social connection and the ties that bind in the Gisborne community. Some of the paintings commemorate the lives of several of the artist's friends and associates, local people who in their individual ways added to the diversity and richness of Tairāwhiti, illustrating the human capital that gives this area such a unique flavour.

Other works connect with the living, often being gifts or tokens of exchange in appreciation for support and encouragement over a long period. There are some intersections of these two strands as well, giving reality to the notion of a web of connection celebrating community support and friendship.

Most of the paintings involve depictions of the landscapes of Poverty Bay and the East Coast, anchoring this web visually in the local, the familiar and the cherished.



Natural History: Gisborne Beach Shells
- Peter Ireland

Matrix Norman Maclean

12 April 2013 – 9 June 2013

This exhibition of prints, drawings and mixed media works incorporating etching collage, represents a period of 36 years involvement in the print-making process. The techniques were first learned when a group formed in 1976 under the tutelage of noted print-maker, Penny Ormerod.

A matrix may be defined as any place in which things are developed, from the womb to an artist's notebook where ideas appear - or a zinc plate first made ready for the acid bath to begin the etching process. A matrix is the substance between cells. It is a mould in which an image is cast or shaped.

Much of my work springs from the imagination. I impulsively draw letting line take me where it will but also enjoying and greatly appreciating the value of observational drawing. Landscape, architecture and the human form have provided inspiration here.

But my personal satisfaction discovered in symbols, archetypes, the timelessness of words and the fabric of the collective unconscious, motivates much that is shown here.

Norman Maclean



The Heart It Is That Sings
- Norman Maclean

The Colour Of The Collection - Blue

From 22 March 2013

This is the first in a series of exhibitions based on a single colour.

Each colour theme offers diversification in artistic discipline and explores the differing applications of its usage.

In this exhibition, each artwork was selected purely on the basis of its variance of the colour blue.

Originally blue was a pigment made from minerals such as lapis lazuli, cobalt and azurite which were ground into powder then mixed with a quick-drying binding agent. Today most blue pigments and dyes are made by a chemical process.

The invention of new synthetic pigments in the 18th and 19th centuries considerably brightened and expanded the palette of painters.

The artists in this exhibition weld the colour blue with the passion of centuries and the contemporary panache of their individual style



Ra Paringa Tai. Time and tide 2008
- Steve Gibbs

Coming Up

2013

When the new museum extensions open to the public, an eye fest awaits the visitors.

One of the new galleries first exhibitions will be a cross section of the renowned collection of Jack C Richards; Patron of the Tairāwhiti Museum, avid collector and owner of a significant collection of Lalique vases.

Jack C Richards has more than 130 Lalique vases catalogued in the publication *Lalique Vases - The New Zealand Collection of Dr Jack C Richards* by Damien Skinner. Lalique glassware was created by the celebrated French glass designer René Jules Lalique 1860 - 1945. Noted for his work in the Art Deco style, he gained prominence for his creations of perfume bottles, vases, jewellery, chandeliers, clocks and automobile hood ornaments.

The new Jack C Richards gallery will offer opportunities to exhibit a selection of these vessels. They will share centre stage with other noteworthy items from his collection including an array of sumptuous textiles from China and Korea and exotic Japanese based woodblock prints by French artist Paul Jacoulet -1902-60.



Danaïdes
- R Lalique



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Many of you will have noticed our building project is now underway. Bothwell Construction have been selected to build our extensions and the Museum will work closely with Scott Bothwell and his team over the coming months.

Once completed, the extension will provide the museum with three new galleries. One will focus on photography exhibitions, one on decorative art exhibitions (including a selection of Jack Richard's lalique vase collection), and one mainly focused on art (with occasional social history based) exhibitions. This will enable the museum to deliver a wider range of exhibitions and ensure there is always something new and exciting for our visitors to see.

Underneath the galleries will be a newly built collection store which will enable us to provide international standards of care for the collections. Collections in storage are never static and staff are continually providing access to researchers, completing inventory checks, upgrading the packing, cleaning objects, photographing, etc. Our current storage is full beyond capacity and it is very difficult for staff to access and care for the collections appropriately. We are very pleased that this project will enable staff to provide better care and ensure the long-term preservation of the treasures we hold on behalf of the community.

We are working on finalising detailed timelines so that we can ascertain when any impacts will affect the gallery offering available to our visitors. Currently it is anticipated that the roof will come off the Chrisp Gallery around April/May this year. This means that visitors will be unable to access the Chrisp Gallery, Te Moana Gallery and the Star of Canada during this period. While these galleries are closed the Museum will not be charging an admission fee. The Exhibit Café, Artbeat Gallery Shop, Watersheds Gallery, and main art gallery (including the C Company display) will remain open.

From 14 April 2013 the Concourse Gallery will need to close for the duration of the building works.

We are very excited about what this extension will provide and are looking forward to being able to open the extension for the public to enjoy during the summer of 2013/14.



Museum extension commences

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM (FoM)

The FoM supports the Museum through funding art acquisitions, workshops and lectures. This year the FoM hope to further support the Museum by helping to keep the gardens and grounds pristine – this is weeding/maintenance only. Once the extension is completed this will include the garden outside the building on the Kelvin Park side. We are seeking volunteers to put together a gardening group (who could work on a roster) to assist the Museum in maintaining the gardens. If anyone is interested or willing to help please contact Irene on 867 6500.

This is my last update as Chair of the FoM as I have stepped down from the role to take up the exciting opportunity to live and work in Russia for a year. We are seeking someone to take over the role of Chair and work closely with the Museum, particularly the Director.

The next FoM meeting will be Tuesday 9th April 2013, starting at 5:00pm, at the Museum. We would welcome FoM members or anyone interested in becoming a FoM member joining us at the meeting.

- Clare Robinson

FAREWELL

Tairāwhiti Museum is sad to farewell Sheila Robinson, who will join family in Auckland soon.

When Sheila, Robbie and their sons first came to Gisborne she taught at Gisborne Boys' High School. In 1980 Sheila joined the museum as Historian, a position she held until retirement in 1992, after which she promptly joined the ranks of museum volunteers. With her intense interest in local history she became extremely involved with the NZ Historic Places Trust, the Dictionary of NZ Biography, and with the Eastland Heritage Trails Committee, among other groups. Her passion for the WF Crawford photographic collection at the museum saw her book *Gisborne Exposed* become a best-seller. Over the years she wrote numerous articles and several other books on Gisborne's history.

Thank you Sheila, for your enormous contribution to the development of historical records in the museum, also your tireless enthusiasm for this region's fascinating history.



Sheila Robinson

Song of Release - Peter Ireland
from the exhibition 'Unseen'



Exhibitions, News & Events

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery
Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti
March 2013 ISSN 117-4975



EXHIBIT CAFE

ARTBEAT GALLERY SHOP

H B WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

H B WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Exhibit Café is open for lunches, brunches, morning and afternoon teas. Select from the delicious range of pasta, frittata, soup, panini, bagels, salads, sandwiches, muffins and cakes. There are quiet spots for you and a friend to meet or larger tables for families or groups to celebrate a special occasion.

Moy Chan and her staff do all the baking on the premises, use predominantly local ingredients and cater to a variety of dietary needs including gluten free options. Exhibit Café offers catering services for meetings, courses and exhibition openings.

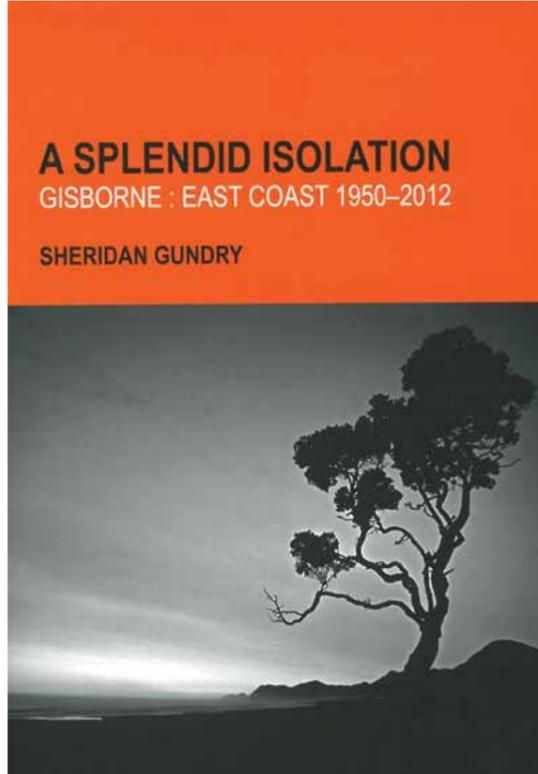
Opening hours: 10.00am to 3.00pm. Monday to Friday and 10.00am to 2.00pm Saturday. Closed Sundays.

Enquiries contact: Moy Chan at the Tairāwhiti Museum on (06) 867 3832. Mob: 027 415 701. Email: moyzie_exhibit@yahoo.co.nz



Artbeat Gallery Shop, the museum shop, sells a wide range of art and craft items including prints, paintings, pottery, inlaid wooden bowls and boxes, jewellery, bone carvings, kete, and weavings. Books about the history of Gisborne and the wider region, particularly on historic places, and on New Zealand art are also available.

The shop sells pottery created by local potters Seymour May and Hew Lloyd, jewellery by Michael Stammers and original prints by Norman Maclean and Hannah King. You will find a unique birthday gift at Artbeat for a very reasonable price. Our staff are very helpful and gift wrapping is part of the service.



Our Splendid Stories

Semiquincentennial, bicenquingenary, quarter-millennial or Sestercentennial. Let's go with Sestercentennial. Start practicing this word for it is only a few years until the nation and Gisborne especially will be commemorating 250 years since Nicholas Young cried 'Land Ahoy' from Captain James Cook's HMS Bark Endeavour. Thus began the creation of a nation formed between Maori and Pakeha. Like all nations ours is a work in progress and our histories will continue to be written, rewritten, challenged, disputed and rewritten again – hopefully with a greater depth of understanding, empathy and truths in each telling.

One such localised telling is that by Joseph Angus Mackay published in 1949. *Historic Poverty Bay and the East Coast, N.I., N.Z.* is a 'survey of historical highlights' that cover the centennial period 'celebrating' British sovereignty in New Zealand from 1840 to 1940. The October 1940 publication deadline was missed as the Second World War put the kibosh on that and other planned activities. Work on the survey continued after 1946 with a grant of 400 pounds from The Poverty Bay-East Coast Centennial Council. Mackay died within three years of the book's release and so was not able to enjoy its on-going success. A second impression was published in 1966 followed by two more print runs.

Mackay's approach to history was relatively modern as he made no attempt to substantially cover Maori history saying 'the task could be undertaken satisfactorily only by a Maori research scholar possessed of a wealth of information and gifted with the ability to sift only what is worthy of credence' which leaves the door open for numerous other layers of our stories. Mackay did continue to correct and add information which was eventually deposited at the Turnbull Library. This raw data can be viewed on microfilm at the library or one can read the digitised version of the book online. Tairāwhiti Museum honorary archivist R. de Z. Hall tirelessly added to the index which was copied and later glued into the book.

Most copies are well thumbed and are the starting point for anyone wanting to read about the district. Since 1949 there has been no single publication that pulls local information together. The library and museum both have kept files of local interest which have been bursting out of filing cabinets. Researchers have been obliged to sift through these with the hope of striking the gem they are after. Sheridan Gundry is one such researcher. A regular trawl through piles of clippings and ephemera at the library allowed that light bulb moment when librarian Coralie Campbell Whitehead made the comment, 'Why don't you write the book to cover 1950 onwards?' Why indeed? Six years later we have *A Splendid Isolation: Gisborne: East Coast 1950-2012* which will grace the shelves of libraries and anyone with a lively connection to the area. Weighing in at 2kgs this is no lightweight book, though the content is comfortably easy to read. Twice the size of Mackay's tome, the key difference is that this book is lavishly illustrated. Indeed the author's main struggle was what to leave out, everything seemed so important. She hopes other writers will pick up these threads. The book is arranged under several headings that in themselves sum up the district; rugged, isolated, fertile, connected and spirited representing land and people – our lives. In a word, splendid.

- Pene Walsh

A Splendid Isolation may be purchased at H B Williams Memorial Library or Tairāwhiti Museum. Proceeds to H B Williams Memorial Library Book Trust. Enquires to info@gpl.govt.nz or info@tairawhitimuseum.org.nz

