



Luncheon Under The Ash Tree - Evelyn Page
The Ian & Elespie Prior Collection, Wairarapa Museum and Art Gallery Aratoi

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Snapshot: 1970s New Zealand Painting

2 December – 29 January 2012

For those of us who are old enough, when we think of the 1970s we remember people such as Robert Muldoon, Norman Kirk, Whina Cooper, Matiu Rata, Bryan Williams, Craig Scott and the Hogsnot Rupert band. We also remember the Erebus plane crash, Bastion Point, the beginning of National Superannuation, the introduction of colour television and the naval frigate being dispatched to the Pacific to protest against French nuclear testing. The 1970s was a period of intense political debate, social and technological change and experiment in the arts.

Snapshot, a selection of paintings from Te Manawa, explores some of the concerns and practices of artists painting in New Zealand in the 1970s. The exhibition features art works organised into four themed sections: Landscape (Robert Ellis, Michael Smither, Robin White, Bill Sutton, Buck Nin); Abstraction (Don Driver, Ralph Hotere, Ian Scott, Don Peebles); Neo-Expressionism (Phillip Clairmont, Allen Maddox, Pat Hanly); and The Human Figure (Trevor Moffitt, Jan Nigro, Michael Illingworth, Tony Fomison).

A Seventies Selection

16 December – 5 February 2012

With *Snapshot: 1970s Paintings* being exhibited in the main gallery it seemed like an appropriate time to exhibit a selection of 1970s artworks from the museum's fine arts collection. When Jolene Douglas, Exhibition Curator, began searching through the collection it soon became apparent that there are a number of very fine works in the collection dating to this period. These works demonstrate the importance of the fine arts collection as an educational resource for local high schools and the wider community.

During the 1970s there was an active community of artists in Gisborne and a number of them are represented in Jolene's selection, including Sandy Adsett, Jean Johnston, Norman Maclean, Alison Pickmere and Penny Ormerod.

While the museum's art acquisition programme has always focused primarily on acquiring works by local artists, a small number of works by nationally renowned artists from other regions have been gifted or purchased. Included in this exhibition are works by Phillip Clairmont, John Drawbridge, Stanley Palmer, William Sutton, Kate Coolahan and Robin White.

Ehutai - Toihoukura

9 December – 12 February 2012

Toihoukura, the School of Māori Arts at the Eastern Institute of Technology, formerly Tairāwhiti Polytechnic, has an annual exhibition at the museum and art gallery to showcase the work of senior students. This year the students' work explores their responses to the many environmental issues that have challenged New Zealanders in recent times, ranging from the Christchurch earthquakes to the prospect of oil drilling in the Raukumara Basin off the East Coast.

Each year at the opening of the exhibition a Toihoukura student is awarded the Ruanuku Award, sponsored by local art patron Professor Jack Richards. The student submits a body of work from which one work is selected to become part of the Tairāwhiti Museum fine arts collection. The first Ruanuku Award was made to Randel Leach in 1995. The Ruanuku Award Collection now includes paintings, mixed media, ceramics and weavings. Two of these works are currently on display in *Watersheds: Ngā Waipupū*.



Nga Manu o Tane Mahuta - Huia Edmonds

Prior Collection Paintings

3 February – 1 April 2012

Ian and Elespie Prior spent 56 years assembling a collection of paintings by New Zealand artists with whom they maintained personal associations over many years. Dr Ian Prior is remembered for his pioneering epidemiological studies, as a founding member of the New Zealand branch of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and for his involvement in environmental and cultural issues.

Jolene Douglas, our Exhibitions Curator, has selected 27 works from the Prior Collection. The Priors demonstrated a preference for figurative and landscape works over abstract painting and Jolene has respected this in her selection of works for this exhibition.

At the heart of the exhibition are four groups of paintings by Evelyn Page (1899-1988), Toss Woollaston (1910-1998), John Drawbridge (1930-2005) and Jeffery Harris (1949-). Ranging from Page's richly coloured portraits to Woollaston's vigorous elemental landscapes and from Drawbridge's technically refined abstracted landscapes to Jeffery Harris' bold figurative works, this exhibition provides something for everyone and provides a wide sweep across New Zealand painting.

Other artists represented in the exhibition are Doris Lusk, Oliver Spencer Bower, Stanley Palmer, Colin McCahon, Anna Caselberg, Gordon Crook, Ralph Hotere, Pat Hanly, Eric Lee Johnson and Douglas McDiarmid.

These works from the Prior Collection are on loan from Aratoi (Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, Masterton). In 2009 Aratoi also loaned us a selection of paintings from the Rutherford Trust Collection. We acknowledge the support of the Director and staff of Aratoi in facilitating these loans.

Wood as Witness Andrew Gordon

10 February – 15 April 2012

Andrew Gordon completed a Fine Arts degree at Canterbury University in 1982. After teaching at Waimate High School for several years, he worked full-time in Waimate as a painter and stone carver, exhibiting his work in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Since 2003 Andrew has lived at Waerenga-a-hika where he has continued to develop his sculptural work, including working in wood. Recent commissions have included the Waerenga-a-hika Flax Cross for the Anglican Diocese of Waiapu, to mark the early mission station at Waerenga-a-hika. The four-metre high art work of laminated totara heartwood was dedicated during the 2007 Waiapu Synod by Archbishop William Brown Turei and Bishop John Bluck.

Andrew outlines the motivation for his latest series of wood carvings:

"Living close to an old pa site I have become increasingly aware of past lives lived out on the land we now inhabit. The importance of trees to those people and the continuing rich tradition of carving in this area was a catalyst for me to explore these connections from my own tradition."



Echo - Andrew Gordon

Forever - Stella Goodall

17 February – 9 April 2012

English born artist Stella Goodall lived in Paris and New York before settling in Gisborne in 2001.

A successful model who collaborated with top international photographers, Stella has been focussed on creating and telling stories through visual media since she was a child. She studied painting, drawing and photography at the New York School of Fine Art and the School of Visual Art.

Her debut exhibition, 'Joan', opened in New York's upper west side, and her work is held in private collections around the world.

Inspired by the East Coast's beauty, Stella paints in her Wainui Beach studio, a restored railway station building.

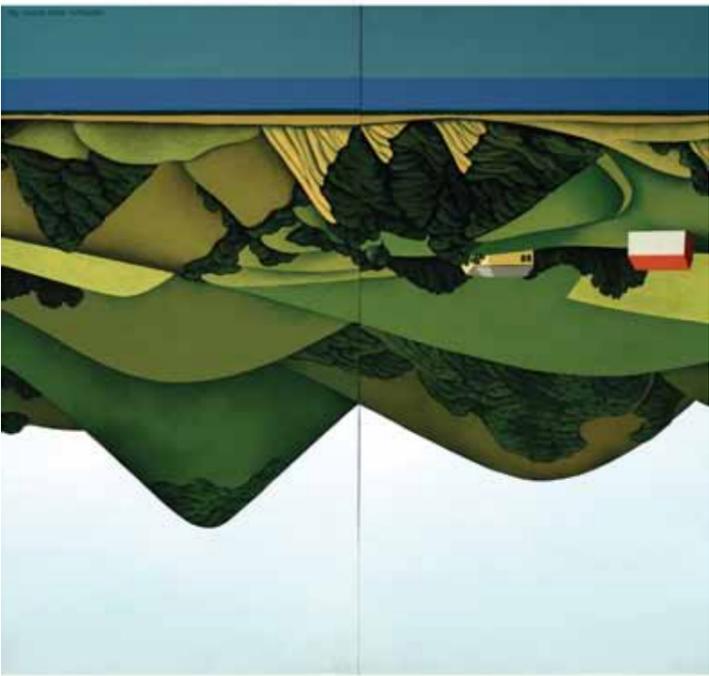
This exhibition transcends physical experiences to guide us through a dreamscape of spirituality. 'Forever' is her subconscious understanding of infinity, an irrepressible force of energy culminating in the eternity of the soul.



Forever - Stella Goodall



Awhiowhio - Sandy Adsett
Tairāwhiti Museum Collection



CURATOR'S COMMENT



William F Crawford photographer 1890

More Crawford Glass Plates Emerge

A recent donation of an additional group of glass plate negatives made by prominent local photographer William Crawford has excited and intrigued museum staff. Earlier this year Crawford's descendants Emma and Phillip Benson donated these additional plates to the Crawford Collection. The plates are currently being cleaned, conserved, re-housed and catalogued. The delightful image above is one of the first to emerge from this process. The museum would appreciate any information you may have about the identity of these women who were photographed in 1890.

The new images complement the existing collection of over five thousand images donated by Crawford's descendants in the 1970s. Crawford is nationally recognised for the quality of his photographic images and the historical significance of the many people, places and events he recorded. Crawford's images offer fascinating insights into life in the district from his arrival in 1874 until his death some 40 years later. His images are often accessed by researchers and have been used extensively in New Zealand publications. The Crawford Collection is also an important resource for Tairāwhiti Museum where the images are used extensively in exhibitions. You will find a range of these images in *Watersheds: Ngā Waipupū*, the Tairāwhiti history exhibition.

Dudley L Meadows

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Exhibition Openings

Ehutai - Toihoukura

The annual exhibition of selected works by Toihoukura students opens at **5.30pm on Friday 9 December**. This year the students' works explore their responses to the many environmental issues that have challenged New Zealanders this year.

Prior Collection Paintings

The *Prior Collection* exhibition opens at **5.30pm on Friday 3 February, 2012**. This exhibition provides opportunity to see paintings and prints by Evelyn Page, Oliver Spencer Bower, Toss Woollaston, and John Drawbridge.

Wood as Witness - Andrew Gordon

Andrew Gordon's exhibition of wood carvings opens at **5.30pm on Friday 10 February, 2012**.

Forever - Stella Goodall

Forever, an exhibition of paintings by Stella Goodall, opens at **5.30pm on Friday 17 February, 2012**.

Museum Christmas Party

Friends of the Museum Society members are invited to attend the annual Museum Christmas Party at **5.30pm on Wednesday 7 December**. Please join the museum trustees and staff in acknowledging the support given to the museum by the collection volunteers and those who support the museum's programmes in other ways. This is also an opportunity to acknowledge the support of the Gisborne District Council and the generosity of local trusts that have made grants to support museum projects. The Museum Christmas Party is an informal gathering where you can share a glass of wine and a tasty morsel.

Friends Donate Lithograph

The Friends of the Museum Committee has approved the purchase of Marian Maguire's lithograph *Athena is Dismayed at the Lack of Progress Herakles has made towards Arcadia* (2007) for the museum's fine art collection. In the background of this image Maguire has included J. C. Richmond's drawing of *Ngatapa Fortress from the East*, drawn in 1869 and published in James Cowan's book *The New Zealand Wars* (1922).

Spring Lecture Series 2011

The Friends of the Museum Society sponsored four spring lectures in October and November, presented by Michael Houlihan, CEO Te Papa; Avenal McKinnon, Director, National Portrait Gallery; Arapata Hakiwai, Scholar, Te Papa; and Marion Minson, Art Curator, Alexander Turnbull Library. The lectures were very much enjoyed by the enthusiastic audiences.



Arapata Hakiwai

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Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti
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Exhibitions, News & Events



EXHIBIT CAFE



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 Saturday.

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



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.

Artbeat Gallery Shop sells pottery created by local potters David Hope, Hew Lloyd and Seymour May, woodwork by John Hall and weaving by Sarah Spence. 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.

Christmas Special:

All books in the museum shop are reduced 15% for Friends of the Museum and 10% for others.



H B WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

That Seventies Showing Pene Walsh

Gallery crawls were a feature of central Auckland during the 1970s when every second Monday evening saw the opening of a new exhibition in the dealer galleries located along Queen Street, her tributaries and up the hill to Parnell. Being a student fresh from the provinces with no car and no cash, the cask wine and cubes of Colby cheese at each gallery stop provided Monday night dinner and a fun night out.

The troupe of artists, students and collectors was a raucous group moving from gallery to gallery, carrying the same discussion from one place to the next, and becoming louder the more cheap plonk was consumed. Somehow along the way some good art was absorbed.

Being in Gisborne during the 1970s was no disadvantage for viewing post-movement art as one of the top painting awards originated here. The Ormond (then known as the Montana) Art Award was rigorously judged and culminated in an exhibition of some of the nation's most experimental work. Perhaps it was this annual exposure to emerging and well-established artists' paintings that led me to solo exhibitions around the traps in Auckland.

The 70s were a time when everyone was a potter, a jeweller or a painter and some populist painters enjoyed success thanks to the electric television. Although it was 30 years ago, most artists knew each other or had a strong opinion regarding each others' work.



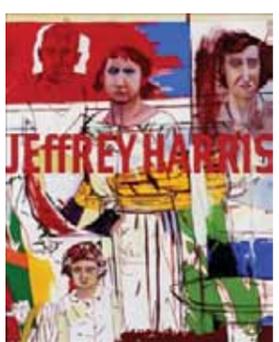
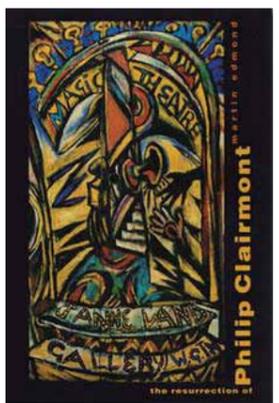
Shona McFarlane was a panellist on the chat show 'Beauty and the Beast'. She was married to a cabinet minister and could produce a painting of oranges and share a recipe for marmalade at the same time. She wrote several chatty books about her fabulous life accompanied by paintings of whatever took her fancy – even exotic vegetables that were starting to reach Kiwi kitchens, like aubergines! There are still three of her books in the library because they evoke the 'everyman' experience of the period so well.

Tony Fomison and Philip Clairmont were mates and were often classed together as fairly conservative yet bohemian blokes about town. Both were prolific painters leaving a huge visual legacy behind. Fomison assumed an 'outsider' position. His relationships with a new wave of Polynesians arriving in New Zealand had a lasting influence on his life. All his paintings – landscapes and people – are hauntingly beautiful.

H B WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Martin Edmond has not employed a traditional style of biography in portraying Clairmont. He probably couldn't – Clairmont's character was 'larger than life' and he probably believed he had to suffer for his art to be any good. Strong colours reverberate as paintings of domestic interiors seemingly come to life. The book is in the biography section of the library but it is equally a portrait of a man trying to live the dream in the context of that time.

Once again art writer Justin Paton gets it right. This is a stunning book, lavishly illustrated with Harris' key works through several distinctive phases of his work. The first painting by Harris I ever saw outside a gallery was a small work, in a small Gisborne hallway, that sent me on a journey to find more. It took until the major retrospective show in 2005, with which Paton's book is associated, but it was well worth the wait. By then wine was sponsored in bottles and cubes of cheese were considered retro.





HB Williams Memorial Library has an **extensive collection of local artworks & photographs** available to borrow.

Create inspiration to any home, office, waiting room, real estate open home or just show off to your friends!

Visit our website to view the entire artwork collection www.gpl.govt.nz or pop in and see us on Peel St, Gisborne, Aotearoa.

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