



Teapot - Mirek Smisek

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

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 Waipapu 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.

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."



"Oh my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!" - 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.



Spiritus Surgens - Stella Goodall

Prior Collection Paintings

3 February – 1 April 2012

Ian and Elespie Prior spent 56 years assembling a collection of paintings by New Zealand artists. They developed personal relationships with many of the artists whose work they collected. 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.

The exhibition includes paintings from the 1960s and 1970s, painted in a range of styles, including major works by Evelyn Page, Toss Woollaston, John Drawbridge and Jeffery Harris. Other artists represented in the exhibition are Doris Lusk, Olivia Spencer Bower, Colin McCahon, Anna Caselberg, Gordon Crook, Ralph Hotere, Pat Hanly, Eric Lee Johnson, Douglas McDiarmid and Stanley Palmer.

The Prior Collection paintings are on loan from Aratoi, the Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, in Masterton.



Girl With a Cat - Toss Woollaston

60 YEARS 60 POTS - Mirek Smisek

5 April – 20 May 2012

Born in Bohemia in 1925, Mirek Smisek left Czechoslovakia in 1948 in search of freedom, and determined to live a creative life. He had spent much of World War Two in Nazi prisons and labour camps. He became New Zealand's first independent studio potter in 1954, establishing a studio in Nelson, where he continued to work for 16 years. During this time he travelled to Japan where he worked with pottery masters Shoji Hamada and Kenjiro Kawai. He also worked with Bernard Leach, the famous English potter, at his pottery in St Ives in Cornwall. In 1968 he moved to the Kapiti Coast and has built three studios there over the last 40 years. He was awarded an OBE for services to New Zealand pottery in 1990.

This exhibition was developed by Mahara Gallery in Waikanae and includes bowls, yunomi (tea bowls), vases, jugs, crocks and plates. Smisek made the earliest work in the exhibition in Sydney in 1949. Other works trace the history of his development as a studio potter in New Zealand. Mirek Smisek is widely recognised as one of New Zealand's most important ceramicists.



Salt Glaze Bowl - Mirek Smisek

The Mahaki and Waioeka Brown Collection

14 May – 10 June 2012

The Mahaki and Waioeka Brown Collection was placed in the museum on loan by Mrs Waioeka Brown of Puha, on behalf of her whānau, in 1959. This collection will be exhibited in the Collections Gallery to mark the addition to the collection of a feather cloak, recently completed by local weaver Fiona Collis. The new cloak, commissioned by Waioeka Brown's descendants, has taken three years to create.

The Mahaki and Waioeka Brown Collection includes a number of very significant taonga tuku iho (treasures handed down from earlier generations) including a mere pounamu (nephrite cleaver), a toki pounamu (nephrite adze), toki (greywacke adzes), kākahu (cloak), whāriki (mats), and kete. The kete are made of kiekie which was gathered in the bush in the Waioeka George by Waioeka Brown. The two large whāriki, which were made by Waioeka Brown, won the Ngata Cup and the Hine Sherratt Cup at the Māori Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Whakarewarewa in 1945.



Kete Pattern - Mahaki and Waioeka Brown collection

Gisborne Artists' Society and Pottery Group Annual Exhibition

13 April – 3 June 2012

The annual exhibition of art works by members of the Gisborne Artists' Society and the Pottery Group is eagerly anticipated by members of the community who await the opportunity to acquire art works by well established local artists. Opening night is always well attended and museum staff members are kept busy placing red stickers by the works that have sold. Another feature of opening night is the animated groups of people clustered around the new art works, engaged in intense conversation.

In recent years there have been more works by younger artists who have submitted their work for the first time and this trend is likely to continue. This is testimony to the societies' committee members who actively encourage new members and ensure that an active workshop programme is maintained.

The societies' redevelopment plans for Lysnar House will ensure that the facilities continue to meet the needs of their increasing memberships. The societies are to be acknowledged for having introduced a selection process. Dick Calcott will again carry out his excellent work as selector this year.



Sing the Seasons - David Andrew

TE ARA O KŌPŪ: TRANSIT OF VENUS

The museum and art gallery is involved in a wide range of activities, both at the museum and throughout the region, sometimes taking a lead and at other times quietly supporting the initiatives of others. Partnerships with community groups currently include the Wiwi Nati Marae Conservation Survey (Waiapu), Tairāwhiti Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project and the Positive Ageing Project. The museum is also planning a series of iwi exhibitions, the first of which is with Te Aitanga a Hauiti in June 2012. Preparations will also begin soon for a major exhibition in 2014 to commemorate 100 years since the beginning of World War One.

The museum has a substantial history of working with Te Aitanga a Hauiti of Uawa (Tolaga Bay). For many years Ann McGuire was the Te Aitanga a Hauiti representative on the museum board. With her guidance the museum made significant contributions to a number of Hauiti initiated projects, including an arts festival at Uawa in 2000, the Ruakaka exhibition at Tolaga Bay Area School and the Toi Hauiti exhibition in at Tairāwhiti Museum in Gisborne in 2002. Prior to these exhibitions, in 1999, the museum returned a patu to Te Aitanga a Hauiti that had been in the care of the museum since it was found at Karaka Bay in 1975.

Tairāwhiti Museum is once again working in partnership with Te Aitanga a Hauiti to create an exhibition to celebrate the Transit of Venus and the encounter between Te Aitanga a Hauiti and James Cook and the crew of the Endeavour at Cook's Cove in 1769. Leading the Hauiti members of the exhibition planning team is Victor Walker, the current Te Aitanga a Hauiti representative on the museum trust board. The exhibition, entitled Te Ara o Kōpū: The Transit of Venus opens on Friday 1 June and will include a number of significant taonga tuku iho (treasures handed down from past generations) from Tahiti, Aotearoa and England.



Hon. Parekura Horomia, Noel Reihania, Kate Walker and Tini Glover at the opening of the Ruakaka Exhibition at Tolaga Bay Area School in 2002.

VISITING ARTIST - CAROLE SHEPHEARD

FOM are funding a Visiting Artist this year who will tutor three two-day mixed media workshops for adults and senior secondary school students in Lysnar House (at the rear of the museum) during April. Carole Shephard, the Visiting Artist for 2012, is a highly respected multimedia artist whose work is in all the major public collections in New Zealand. She was awarded the Officer of New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to the arts in 2001.

As well as tutoring the workshops, Carole will be using the art studio in Lysnar House for her own art making. She will also be delivering a public lecture at the museum about her own work.

Each workshop will be limited to 20 people. There will be a workshop for experienced adult artists (weekend), a workshop for adult beginners (weekend) and a workshop for senior secondary school students (mid-week during school vacation). For information about the workshop dates, times and costs, please contact museum reception (ph. 867 3832).



Marion's Necklace - Carole Shephard

MARCH EXHIBITION OPENINGS

Mirek Smisek: 60 Years 60 Pots
Friday 5 April 5.30pm

Artists and Potters Annual Exhibition
Friday 13 April 5.30pm

February Openings

Members were treated to three very special exhibition openings for three very different exhibitions in February. The three adult Prior daughters, depicted as children in the wonderful Evelyn Page painting at the entrance to the gallery, were in attendance at the opening for the Prior Collection Paintings. At the second opening, for Andrew Gordon's exhibition of wood carvings, Gabriel Terekia shared the Ngati Kohuru history of Waereinga-a-Hika. The third exhibition opening was for Stella Goodall's first solo exhibition at the gallery. Stella's works are an exploration of the infinite realms of the subconscious and our essential humanity.

Exhibitions, News & Events

Quarterly newsletter of the Tairāwhiti Museum & Art Gallery
Te Whare Taonga o te Tairāwhiti
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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 Friday and 10.00am to 2.00pm 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 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.

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



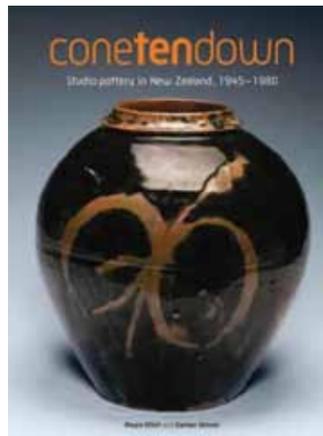
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When searching for a maker for the 'one ring to rule them all' Peter Jackson went to great lengths to ensure he found the best jeweller for the Lord of the Rings trilogy and Jens Hansen then made over 40 rings of various sizes to cover all the demands of moviemaking. A myriad of quality craftspeople contributed to the authenticity of settings in the films. Among the best was ceramicist Mirek Smisek who created 700 pots, mugs and bottles used by hobbits and wizards throughout the series. He came up with a design that set the tone for most of the pieces and spent 8 months away from his practice, entirely focussed on producing pots for those movies.

This was just one of the major projects Smisek has undertaken. Another was the building of his two huge beehive kilns at Te Horo, Levin.

Conetendown : studio pottery in New Zealand, 1945-1980
By Moyra Elliott and Damian Skinner / David Bateman

A small photograph in this book belies the sheer size and beauty of Smisek's kilns. Built from 4000 second-hand bricks, the kilns were 2 metres in diameter inside with a capacity of 150 cubic feet. One of the kilns was devoted to salt glazing, for which Smisek is nationally renowned. Moyra Elliott states in *Conetendown* that 'in the 1960s and 1970s everyone was a potter' - if someone in the family wasn't attending pottery classes at night school they were constructing kilns in the backyard and banging out thousands of pieces of domestic ware, living the tail end of the hippie dream. The extensive research, historic images and wonderful photographs by Haru Sameshima of selected pots in *Conetendown* provide a very accessible account of the influence of the Anglo-Oriental ceramic tradition on the development of ceramics in New Zealand.



Helen Mason's Scrapbook: fifty years as a backyard potter
A memoir by Helen Mason

Helen Mason, a contemporary of Smisek, published her 'scrapbook' that provides her account of the development of pottery in New Zealand. Her book focuses on some of the interesting characters who were producing pots from 1950 - 2005. Of particular local interest is the period when she lived in Tokomaru Bay. Her first exhibition there was initiated by Ngōi Pehairangi and held at Ngōi's old billiard saloon which then became Taura Craft Centre. The exhibition also included local women's weaving, spinning and knitting. Helen became an integral part of the community until she moved on in 1986.

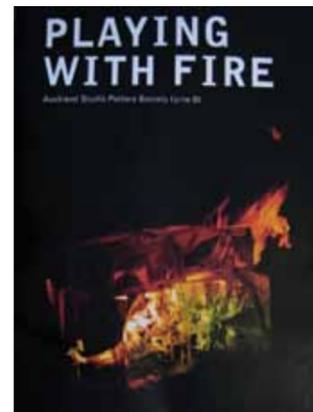


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Playing with fire: Auckland Studio Potters society turns 50
By Peter Lange and Stuart Newby

Meanwhile, up in Auckland the Auckland Studio Potters were creating both domestic works and monumental art works including pieces destined to be key markers of the story of Kiwi ceramics. Peter Lange made the national news when he created a brick boat that actually floated. Yet the work he is most proud of are his domestic wares. This is a tricky book to negotiate - there is no index, no list of members, some key figures are missing and it is not sequential, yet it is a surprisingly well-illustrated read. Interestingly there is a chapter by local potter Baye Riddell, a photograph of a beautiful salt-glazed bowl by Ian Smail and a small feature on non-other than Helen Mason.

By Pene Walsh



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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