

1979

TWENTIETH CENTURY AUSTRALIAN PAINTING

AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY

This exhibition comprises works borrowed from public collections in New Zealand. The selection represents many important Australian artists, together with lesser contemporaries.

Mainly paintings of a representational nature, ranging from the more academic draughtsmanship of George Lambert and William Dobell, through the development of 'plain-art' painting, to abstract compositions of the 30s and 40s in a variety of approaches. The artists represented worked mainly in the two leading art centres - Sydney and Melbourne.

Public collections with the strongest holdings of Australian painting in New Zealand are to be seen in Auckland, Dunedin and Wellington. TWENTIETH CENTURY AUSTRALIAN PAINTING

The main thrust of collecting Australian paintings at the Auckland City Art Gallery was during Sir Douglas's term as Director in the 1950s. - During his tenure some notable works were purchased for the permanent collection - Blue Point, Blue Point by Lawrence Dowd (both purchased in 1951), Blue Point by Arthur Boyd, (both purchased in 1951).

8 June - 22 July 1979

The most prominent public collection of Australian painting in New Zealand is in the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. The following are some notes of interest on this collection.

The striking oil sketch, Blue Point by Arthur Boyton was one of the first Australian paintings in the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. It was given to the gallery by the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition, held in Dunedin 1925-6, resulted in the purchase of the large Australian Summer by William Nicholson (purchased at 100 gns. - the lister-listed, Blue Point, Blue Point, and Blue Point had been in the art show at 75 gns. The Blue Point was subsequently given to the gallery by Mr F.L. McIndoe in 1927. The Blue Point, Blue Point by McIndoe was purchased for 100 gns. - a sum of 1000 in thousands of dollars.

Exhibition prepared by Ernest W. Smith

Approx a third of the works lent by Dunedin Public Art Gallery to this exhibition were bought in the late 1940s when the late Douglas Charlton Edgar, then Director, made an Australian tour, visiting Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne. His energy and persuasion, supported by an enthusiastic Gallery Council, led to the acquisition at an opportune time. Important works by Boyd, Blue Point, and Blue Point were acquired at this period, works now regarded as the backbone of the Gallery. Charlton Edgar also purchased some several Australian works such as The Personalist's Studio by Lawrence Dowd, which he had bought for 1000.

The 1970s have brought higher prices and stronger competition, but efforts have been made to support the collection with purchases of paintings by Frederick Mac, Michael Hill, Peter Scott and Neil Whitely.

## TWENTIETH CENTURY AUSTRALIAN PAINTING

This exhibition of Twentieth Century Australian Painting comprises works borrowed from public collections in New Zealand. The selection represents many important Australian artists, together with lesser contemporaries.

Mainly paintings of a representational nature, ranging from the more academic draughtsmanship of George Lambert and William Dobell, through the development of 'plein-air' painting, to studio compositions of the 50s and 60s in a variety of approaches. The artists represented worked mainly in the two leading art centres - Sydney and Melbourne.

Public collections with the strongest holdings of Australian painting in New Zealand are to be seen in Auckland, Dunedin and Wellington Public Art Galleries.

The main thrust of collecting Australian paintings at the Auckland City Art Gallery was during Gil Docking's term as Director in the sixties. During his tenure some notable works were purchased for the permanent collection - Blue's Point, Sydney Harbour by Roland Wakelin, The Explorer by Lawrence Daws (both purchased in 1967), Western by Elwyn Lynn and Narcissus by Arthur Boyd, (both purchased in 1968).

The most prominent public collection of Australian painting in New Zealand is in the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. The following are some notes of interest on this collection.

The striking oil sketch, Sirius Cove by Arthur Streeton was one of the first Australian paintings to enter the Gallery. It was given by Sir Lindo Ferguson in 1924. Soon afterwards the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition, held in Dunedin 1925-6, resulted in the purchase of the large Australian Summer by William Nicholls Anderson at 150 gns. The Lister-Lister, Nellie's Glen, Blue Mountains, New South Wales had been in the same show at 75 gns. and this was subsequently given to the gallery by Mr P.L. Halsted in 1939. In 1949 the Heidelberg, Australia by McInnes was purchased for 275 gns. - a work now valued in thousands of dollars.

About a third of the works lent by Dunedin Public Art Gallery to this exhibition were bought in the late 1960s when the late Douglas Charlton Edgar, then Director, made an Australian tour, visiting Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne. His energy and perception, supported by an enthusiastic Gallery Council, built up the collection at an opportune time. Important works by Boyd, Dobell, and Nolan were acquired at this period, works now beyond the purchasing power of the Gallery. Charlton Edgar also generously gave several Australian works such as The Bassonist's Burial by Lawrence Daws, which he had bought for \$350.

The 1970s have brought higher prices and stringent economies, but efforts have been made to augment the collection with purchases of paintings by Jacqueline Hick, Michael Kmit, Lloyd Rees and Brett Whiteley.

The late 50s and early 60s saw the National Gallery of New Zealand developing its collection under the directorship of Stewart MacLennan. During his term of office, important Australian works were purchased for the National Collection, Nude and Moon by Godfrey Miller, purchased in 1965, Girl in Black by George Lambert, purchased 1960, and The Old White Gum by Sir Hans Heyson, purchased 1936.

It is interesting to know that three New Zealand expatriate artists are included in this exhibition, namely, Roland Wakelin, Godfrey Miller and Robert Johnson - all worked in Sydney.

We are indebted for loans to the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the National Gallery of New Zealand and to Mr. Roy Delgarno, the Australian painter now residing in Auckland.

TWENTIETH CENTURY AUSTRALIAN PAINTING

Works from the Auckland City Art Gallery:

1. ARTHUR BOYD, (b1920)  
Narcissus, oil on canvas, 51 x 61 cm  
Purchased Auckland City Council, 1968
2. LAWRENCE DAWS, (b1927)  
The Explorer, oil on canvas, 200 x 175 cm  
Purchased Auckland City Council, 1967
3. SHAY DOCKING, (b1929)  
Landscape with Nikau Palms, oil, tempera and  
P.V.A. on board, 165 x 137 cm  
Purchased Auckland City Council, 1967
4. LOUIS JAMES, (b1920)  
Mardi Gras, 1964, oil on canvas, 152 x 127 cm  
Purchased Auckland City Council, 1967
5. ELWYN LYNN, (b1917)  
Western, 1965, mixed media on canvas  
127 x 127 cm  
Purchased Auckland City Council, 1968
6. GODFREY MILLER, (1893-1964)  
Trees and Mountain Series (JH 70)  
oil on canvas, 51 x 59 cm  
Purchased Auckland City Council, 1965
7. LLOYD REES, (b1895)  
Incoming Tide - South Coast, oil on canvas  
on board, 35 x 40 cm  
Presented by the Gallery Associates, 1961
8. DOROTHY THORNHILL, (b1910)  
Manly Ferry, Sunday Night, oil on canvas,  
35 x 46 cm  
Purchased Auckland City Council, 1948
9. ROLAND SHAKESPEARE WAKELIN, (1887-1971)  
Blue's Point, Sydney Harbour, 1933  
oil on board, 60 x 89 cm  
Presented by Air New Zealand, 1967

Works from the National Gallery of New Zealand

10. JEAN APPLETON,  
Almond Tree, 1958, oil on board, 117 x 86 cm  
Purchased Wellington City Council
11. RAY CROOKE, (b1922)  
The Harbour, oil on hardboard, 76 x 102 cm  
Purchased Wellington City Council

12. CAVALIERE ANTONIO DATTILO-RUBBO, (1871-1955)  
Head of a Monk, oil, 1904, 33 x 51 cm  
Presented by the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts.
13. DONALD STUART LESLIE FRIEND, (b1915)  
Surfies, Lemon Juice Ritual, watercolour, 79 x 56 cm  
Purchased Wellington City Council
14. HARLEY CAMERON GRIFFITHS, (b1908)  
Bread and Wine, 1964, oil on hardboard, 44 x 50 cm  
Purchased in 1965
15. ELIOTH GRUNER, (1882-1939)  
River Scene, oil, 22 x 28 cm  
Bequest from estate of Mr & Mrs G.G. Gibbes-Watson.
16. SIR HANS HEYSEN, OBE, (1877-1968)  
The Old White Gum, 1936, watercolour, 48 x 64 cm  
Presented by Mrssrs. J.R. McKenzie Ltd. 1936.
17. LOUIS JAMES, (b1920)  
Clearing in the Forest, oil on canvas, 76 x 64 cm  
Purchased Wellington City Council, 1963.
18. ROBERT JOHNSON, (1880-1964),  
Parramatta River from Ryde, oil, 46 x 56 cm  
Bequest from estate of Mr & Mrs G.G. Gibbes-Watson,  
1974.
19. GEORGE WASHINGTON LAMBERT, ARA,  
Girl in Black, oil, 51 x 41 CM  
Purchased 1960
20. SIR DARYL LINDSAY,  
Saturday Morning, Mulberry Hill,  
oil on canvas on board, 38 x 69 cm  
Purchased 1964.
21. GODFREY MILLER, (1893-1964)  
Nude and Moon, oil on canvas, 64 x 100 cm  
Purchased 1965
22. SIDNEY NOLAN, (b1917)  
Greek Coast, latex on hardboard, 122 x 91 cm  
Purchased with Buick Bequest, 1961.

Works on loan from the Dunedin Public Art Gallery

23. SIR WILLIAM ASHTON (1881-1963)  
Dobroyd Head, Sydney Harbour, 1934, oil, 495 x 595 cm  
Purchased with funds from the Blair Trust
24. ARTHUR BOYD, (b1920)  
Nebuchadnezzar Running in the Rain  
oil on canvas, 109 x 114cm  
Gift of Mr. J.D.C. Edgar

25. LAWRENCE DAWS (b1927),  
The Bassoonist's Burial, oil on hardboard, 67 x 90cm  
Given by Mr J.D.C. Edgar
26. SIR WILLIAM DOBELL, (b1899),  
The White Lace Dress, 1946, oil on hardboard, 79 x 56cm  
Formerly in the collection of Lady Lloyd Jones
27. JAMES TIMOTHY GLEESON, (b1915)  
Metamorphosis, Triptych, 1967/8,  
p.v.a. on canvas, each panel 81 x 60.5 cm
28. ELIOTH GRUNER, (1882-1939),  
Valley of the Tweed, 1921, oil on canvas, 59.5 x 75cm  
Purchased from the funds of the Moritzson Bequest.
29. SIR HANS HEYSEN, OBE (1877-1968)  
Mount Samuel, Flinders Range, Far North, dated 1931-50  
(restored by the artist 1950), watercolour, 48 x 63cm  
Purchased from the Ernest Price Bequest Funds.
30. JACQUELINE HICK, (b1919)  
Deserted Opal Field, oil on board, 59 x 89.5cm
31. MICHAEL KMIT,  
On the Balcony, 1966, oil on board, 71.75 x 60cm
32. GEORGE FEATHER LAWRENCE, (b1901)  
Old Church, Parramatta, 1961  
oil on hardboard, 69.5 x 70cm  
A Centennial gift from W. Gregg & Co. 1861-1961
33. SIR DARYL LINDSAY (b1889)  
At the Abo Camp near the Ord River, Northern Territory,  
1967, oil on hardboard, 36 x 80cm
34. WILLIAM LISTER-LISTER, (1859-1943),  
Nellie's Glen, Blue Mountains, New South Wales.  
oil on canvas, 108 x 86cm  
Given by Mr P. L. Halsted
35. SYDNEY CECIL LONG, (1872-1955),  
Rising Moon, oil, 44.5 x 34cm  
Northcroft Bequest
36. WILLIAM BECKWITH McINNES, (1889-1939),  
Heidelberg, Australia, oil on canvas, 79 x 92 cm  
Purchased from the funds of the Peter Smeaton Bequest
37. WILLIAM NICHOLLS ANDERSON,  
Australian Summer, oil on canvas, 86.5 x 151.5cm  
Purchased with funds from the John Blair Bequest
38. SIDNEY ROBERT NOLAN (b1917)  
Riverbank, 1964, acrylic on board, 121 x 151.5cm  
Purchased with aid of a grant from Queen Elizabeth II  
Arts Council.

39. SIR ARTHUR ERNEST STREETON, (1867-1943)  
Sirius Cove (Sydney Harbour), 1921  
oil on board, 17.5 x 65cm  
Given by Sir Lindo Ferguson
40. SIR ARTHUR ERNEST STREETON, (1867-1943)  
Adelaide from Mount Lofty, oil on canvas, 50.5 x 76.5cm  
Given by A. H. Fisher
41. ALBERT TUCKER (b1914),  
Parrots and Bush, 1966  
oil and acrylic on hardboard, 90 x 120 cm
42. SIR CHARLES WHEELER, OBE, DCM, (b1881)  
Fragoletta, oil, 63.5 x 100 cm  
Given by the artist.
43. BRETT WHITELEY, (b1939)  
Untitled abstract composition, gouache, 65.5 x 62.5 cm

On loan from the artist:

44. ROY DELGANO, (b1910)  
French Fisherman, 1952, oil on hardboard, 76 x 51 cm
45. ROY DELGANO, (b1910)  
The Peasant of Chateau Neuf, 1954, oil on canvas  
63 x 53 cm

39. SIR ARTHUR ERNEST STREETON, (1887-1943)  
Strive Cove (Sydney Harbour), 1931  
 Oil on board, 17.5 x 45cm  
 Given by Sir Linda Ferguson
40. SIR ARTHUR ERNEST STREETON, (1887-1943)  
Abelaide from Mount Holly, oil on canvas, 50.5 x 38.5cm  
 Given by A. H. Fisher
41. ALBERT TUCKER (1914)  
Parrots and Bush, 1966  
 Oil and acrylic on hardboard, 90 x 130 cm
42. SIR CHARLES WHEELER, OBE, OCM, (1881)  
Gradolista, oil, 44.5 x 100 cm  
 Given by the artist
43. BERT WHITELY, (1932)  
Included abstract composition, gouache, 42.5 x 42.5 cm  
 On loan from the artist
44. ROY DRIGANO, (1910)  
French Fisherman, 1952, oil on hardboard, 78 x 51 cm
45. ROY DRIGANO, (1910)  
The Peasant of Charred Heat, 1954, oil on canvas  
 53 x 53 cm

