

# muswellbrook regional arts centre

Newsletter Vol 4. No 2,

**1958 – 2008**

## **Celebrating Fifty Years of Great Art in Muswellbrook**

In 2008 Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre  
Celebrates 50 Years of Collecting Great Art.

## **James Clifford — A Retrospective**

28 March — 18 May



*Queen Charlotte Sound* 1980 mixed media on canvas by James Clifford

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre presents a retrospective of the well known and much loved Muswellbrook painter **James Clifford** (1937-1987). Twenty five works will span his career from the early sixties till his untimely death covering all the major periods in his oeuvre. From hard edged abstraction to kaleidoscopic effects to lyrical pictorialist landscapes seen through the eyes of an abstract mysticism, Clifford's work has long been admired by collectors around the country, including the great Australian author Patrick White and the exhibition includes three Clifford paintings from the collection of the Art Gallery of New South Wales donated by Patrick White and loaned outside the Gallery for the first time. In fact this is the first ever retrospective look at James Clifford's career and so it is appropriate that it is taking place in his former home town of Muswellbrook. The James Clifford Retrospective will be on display in the School of Arts Gallery throughout April and May and a full colour illustrated catalogue will be available for purchase.

The Wollemi Gallery will be featuring the exhibition **The Nude: Interpretations by Owen O'Meara & Roger Skinner**. These two photographers met over the internet and discovered a mutual interest in the classic subject of the nude human figure. While Roger Skinner of Muswellbrook is well known in the Hunter and beyond as a photographer, Owen O'Meara hails from Denver, Colorado in the USA. Owen has exhibited extensively in the US and has also shown previously at the Joseph Lebovic Gallery in Sydney. Their individual approaches to the subject of the nude are evident but so too is a complementary exchange of ideas and their passion for this most fundamental of images. They are also linked by their craftsmanship. The beauty of their prints will be evident as soon as you enter the Gallery.

*The Cuff* 2008 digital print by Owen O'Meara  
Courtesy of the artist

The Max Watters Gallery presents a diverse group of complimentary images entitled **Figuratively Speaking – selected nudes from the Max Watters Collection**. These works feature a variety of techniques and styles including sculpture, drawing, painting, photography, linocut, ceramics by some of Australia's leading artists; Geoff Proud, Euan Macleod, Garry Shead, Robin Wallace-Crab, Cathie Brooker, Betty Gleeson, Richard Larter, Matthew Harding and Liz Parkinson.

Opening Night for all three shows is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 6.00pm and the exhibitions continue until Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

#### ART CLASSES WITH MAX WATTERS

Wybong Art Group  
Mondays 6-8pm  
Contact: Kath Bray 6547 8128

McCullys Gap Art Group  
Thursdays 2-5pm  
Contact: Narelle Murray 6543 5159

Wollombi Road Art Group  
Mondays 2.30-5pm  
Contact: Janelle 6543 3566

Aberdeen Art Group  
Tuesdays 6.45-9pm  
Contact: Lorna Driscoll 6543 7394

#### ADFAS

Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society

#### Upcoming Lectures

April 8th:

**James Tissot: Master of Fashion and Frisson**

May 13th:

**The Splendours of North Africa: Roman and Islamic Art**

6.00 for 6.30 pm Scone RSL,  
Guernsey St. Scone

Light refreshments served.

Full program of lectures for 2008 now available

Phone Gail Bragg on 6543 4620, or  
Jill Richards on 6545 1822

#### Art Classes

Now is the time to be creative and learn a hobby that you have always wanted to try. Lessons are given in any medium, such as: Folk-art; watercolour; oil painting; pastels. Every Wednesday in the Sowerby St School (the Old St James School Building) 10.00 am—12.30 pm and Every Friday at the Denman RSL Club 10.00 am—12.30 pm \$100 per ten week term. Pensioners half price  
Phone: Eve Kennedy  
0428 972 605

## Recent Events at the Arts Centre

### Gilbert Hermon — the journey so far



At the opening of exhibition are Geoffrey Hermon, Janelle Passfield, the artist and Wayne Hermon

### *Hold* Artists Talk



Bridget Nicholson presenting her Artists Talk for her installation, *Hold* in February. Over 30 people attended a most informative and entertaining lecture.

### Hunter Park Family Centre *Mosaics* on display in the Community Room



Janelle Risby, coordinator of Hunter Park Family Centre, with Richard Bailey of Coal & Allied and the participants of Hunter Park Family Centre's Mosaics holiday workshops.

## CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

**The Arts Centre is a vibrant, busy place and could not offer such a range of services to the community without the valuable contributions made by its VOLUNTEERS**

If you would like to become a volunteer or know of someone who would, please contact Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre phone

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## Exhibition Program 2008

29 March – 18 May

- \* **James Clifford - A Retrospective**
- \* **The Nude: Interpretations**  
by Owen O'Meara & Roger Skinner
- \* **Figuratively Speaking –**  
selected nudes from The Max Watters Collection

Opening 6.00pm Friday 28 March 2008

24 May – 29 June

- \* **Bloodlines – Art & the Horse**  
A traveling exhibition from Hawkesbury Regional Gallery
- \* **Teresa Byrne – A Survey**
- \* **Miniatures XII**
- \* **50yrs of The Muswellbrook Local & Family History Society**

Opening 6.00pm Friday 23 May 2008

6 July – 17 August

- \* **Max Watters' Art Groups Show**
- \* **NAIDOC Week Local Aboriginal Group**

Opening 6.00pm Saturday 5 July 2008

23 August – 5 October

- \* **50 Years of the Muswellbrook Art Collection 1958 - 2008**  
curated by Katrina Rumley

Opening 6.00pm Friday 22 August 2008

12 October – 23 November

- \* **2008 Muswellbrook Photographic Award**
- \* **2008 Muswellbrook Local Art & Ceramic Award**

Opening 6.00pm Saturday 11 October 2008

29 November – 24 December

- \* **Susana Enriquez**
- \* **Christmas 2008 Local Artists Selling Show**

Opening 6.00pm Friday 28 November 2008