



Helen Jones Moss Vale

In the run up to Christmas, the galleries of the Highlands are once again treating locals and visitors alike to a range of creative and complementary exhibitions.

HotArts Diary



Alex McDowell and his chair



Still Life by Peter Hickey



Collecting Lotus Seeds and Joyful Song of the Orchard by Fengtao Liu

Fine Wood and Fun at Sturt

Renowned as a centre of excellence and for attracting aesthetes, artists and specialty craftspersons, the Sturt Craft Centre has succeeded in fostering a new generation of craftspeople and designers across a range of medium for over sixty years. In keeping with tradition, the current exhibition at Sturt Gallery features the finely crafted major works of the eleven students who have recently graduated from Sturt's School for Wood. Family and friends

'Essence - Graduating Students Exhibition' at Sturt Gallery, Range Road Mittagong from 25th November-10th December 2006. The exhibition will be opened at 2pm on Saturday 25th November 2006 by Tony Jones (presenter of ABC's Lateline).

Sturt Summer School from Tuesday 2nd to Sunday 8th of January 2007

as well as lovers of pure woodwork should enjoy this exhibition!

Another cherished summer retreat for those wishing to enhance their creativity or simply take some time out is the Sturt Summer School which offers a range of specialised craft, design and art courses tutored by practising professionals in the beautiful garden environment of Sturt Craft Centre and Frensham School.

Christmas Cheer at The Bell Gallery

A popular event with artists and gallery regulars is the annual the Bell Gallery's Christmas Exhibition; showcasing stunning works by the gallery's stable of artists, with many a treasure to be found! Exhibits include the work of internationally acclaimed artist and local resident Richard Allen as well as John Olsen, Margaret Woodward, Joanna Logue and many more. Local and burgeoning sculptor Bronwyn Berman will be showing her wonderful sculptures alongside other well known sculptors Annie Herron and Stephen Glassborow, while mine host Peter Hickey (with partner Lesley) will unveil his refined still life paintings

'The Christmas Exhibition' starts on 26th November 2006 at **The Bell Gallery**, Jellore Street

of silverware – a departure from his usual imagery of landscape and animals. I know what I'm asking Santa for!

Bright, Contemporary Chinese Art

After successfully exhibiting here last year, Fengtao Liu is back once again at the Milk Factory Gallery with his colourful contemporary and

traditional paintings of scenes from everyday life in rural China. Revered as a master and teacher of the world-renowned Huxian Farmers' painting style, Fengtao's graphic scenes portray mainstream culture and the life of the majority of Chinese people at work and play. Upbeat scenes – from wedding day, fairs and fireworks to market day, from hanging noodles, harvesting soybeans and cotton to collecting lotus seeds and chillies to tending sheep, rearing ducks and rabbits – sit beside a poignant painting depicting the Cultural Revolution.

Despite the fact that Huxian farmer-painters have been painting such scenes for almost half a century (they were permitted to continue to do so throughout the Cultural Revolution provided their paintings were joyous and positive) it has been only in the past thirteen or so years that such paintings of country life have become available in the west.

Four Legged Benefit for the local Dog Shelter

A novel fundraiser supporting the Friends of the Shelter is planned for next month at the Milk Factory Gallery. According to organisers, the exhibition, art sale and auction will feature works by some of the most exciting and emerging artists in Australia today, with an auction of selected works at 2pm on the 17th of December. A must for art and dog lovers alike!

'Surplus Grain: A collection of contemporary Chinese paintings' from 11th-30th November
'The Four Legged Benefit for the local Dog Shelter' from the 9th-20th December at **The Milk Factory Gallery**, Exhibition Space & Cafe, 31 Station St Bowral.

For further details on the exhibition, the artists & their work you can go to www.bruyeresgray.com/fourleggedbenefit.html

While there, drop in for a latte or lunch at the fabulous new Milk Factory Gallery Café!

Showcasing Australian Art

Opened in June and named for the conical shaped basket which, according to legend, was used by the Djankawu sisters to carry the laws of Arnhem land, Mindirr Gallery 11 in Mittagong is fast breaking new ground within the local arts scene. Capitalising on her background encompassing visual arts, textiles, fashion and media to create her own niche, Gallery Director Edwina Fleur-Shannon brings diversity to further enrich the Highlands art movement. Her passion is obvious, her curatorial choice eclectic.

So far, we have seen 'On and On', Top End Indigenous art of East and West Arnhem Land, an 'Oceania' exhibition with a theme of the Supernatural from New Guinea, Timor and Arnhem Land, then 'Myths and Legends', which featured contemporary and tribal art and 3D works of local and interstate indigenous and non-indigenous artists. Then followed 'Out of Africa' with sculptures, photographs and paintings and

textiles from West Africa and the current '20th Century Australian Paintings' Exhibition. In the pipeline are 'Aboriginal Art by Appointment' featuring valuable works on canvas, a 'Sale' of tribal artworks (20 – 40% off!) in December, and an inaugural Equine Art exhibition is planned for February 2007 to co-incide with the Show season of the Moss Vale, Kangaroo Valley, Robertson and Royal Easter Shows. Future landscape and nature scene exhibitions are also planned to highlight the local area, with works from established and emerging painters and black and white photographers of the district. Edwina is a busy lady!

As well as the ever-changing exhibitions, Mindirr Gallery 11 is devoted to Australian Art and photography while encouraging the discovery of Aboriginal and Oceanic Art. Edwina appreciates classic works and hopes to engage with people of the Highlands to source out and where appropriate, offer a link to the city by providing a service to buy and sell fine, classic art. With specialist contacts, the gallery also offers a restorative framing and restoration service. The gallery also has a permanent installation of the Arnhem Land Canoe and the Mangroves 'Nursery of the Sea' which depict the water forests of Arnhem Land, further fostering education by providing ongoing informative documentaries which can be viewed at leisure.



The current '20th Century Australian Paintings' Exhibition contains rare original paintings and limited edition prints which take us back to an earlier era, focusing primarily on quintessential Australian scenes of rural life and landscapes; of children playing cricket on dusty streets in small country towns, misty local scenes and a range of classic paintings including D'arcy Doyle's draught horses resting, with signature blue haze in 'Taking a Spell',

'20th Century Australian Paintings' from 9th November to 6th December 2006
Mindirr Gallery II
Fine Arts, 2/2 Queen St Mittagong NSW.

picnicing in 'Summer Picnic' by Max Mannix, Hugh Sawry's 'Pink Pigs', Colin Parker's 'Miners Hut, Lightning Ridge' and several Pro Harts to name a few.

