

## Laurie Collins 2008 year in Art

It's been a really busy year for Laurie as he is coming up to retirement from teaching and this year he has been exploring how to get his art works out into the wider world.

The first exhibition for the year was "GIPPSLAND" at Sale Regional Gallery. This was the final showing of the original Wild Dogs group exhibition that had been taken to China, minus the painting and sculpture that were donated to Jui Jiang Council in China by Kerrie Warren and Leonie Ryan.



"UNLEASHED" at the Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, was an exhibition of new works created by the Wild Dogs group on the theme that they were let loose from the confines of showcasing Gippsland. This was a wonderful challenge that led to an exploration with a mix of China and Australian themes.



The next Wild Dogs Exhibition was its' final one and was called "GUMBAY" which means cheers in Chinese and was a reflection on the Chinese trip. This was held at West Gippsland Arts Centre Warragul. At this exhibition Laurie presented the Baw Baw Council his sculpture of the Wild Dog.



ART FAIR Melbourne was a chance to show one of Laurie's large pieces, a circle with a triangle cut out of it called Female Form and some of his whimsical sculptures to the art lovers of Melbourne under the auspices of the *Serigraph Gallery* from Neerim South and *Gippslandartists.com*. The atmosphere was exciting at the Royal Exhibition building in Melbourne as we watched people explore the art and buy a number of pieces, including Female Form.

Laurie entered another piece called ECONOMY 2 in the exhibition "ART RECYCLE" in a wonderful art space that used to be an old incinerator designed by Walter Burnley Griffin in Moonee Ponds. The piece looked fabulous against the fence outside and enjoyed a 2 week exposure amongst other recycled material installations.



Laurie joined a group of 10 art teachers from the local secondary colleges (both state and private) in a group exhibition called ART TEACHER'S ART. The group joined together to display their art to the community, to show that teachers also work at their art. This exhibition challenged all as they worked together in a group, with some teachers finding exhibiting an exciting new experience.



Laurie exhibited 3 pieces in a group exhibition of 300 artists in an Exhibition called "SMALL WORKS", presented at the *Brunswick St Gallery*. The pieces all had to be less than 30 cm. The opening night was amazing with hundreds of people squashed in the small upstairs' viewing spaces. Although he did not win any prizes he was later asked to exhibit at BSG.





"INSPIRED "was another small show at *Walker St Dandenong* where the topic "Greetings" was given on Friday and pieces had to be submitted on Sunday. Laurie did two pieces for this show.

Toyota have an active exhibition program to encourage creativity and Laurie was selected for a sculpture exhibition called "CRYPTOZOOLOGY in search of the missing link". The piece "IDENTITY" spent 3 months in the yard at *Toyota Community Spirit Gallery* in Port Melbourne.



Another highlight was having a large piece "GRANT'S CHAIR" in the *Fringe Furniture Festival* at the Melbourne Museum. Laurie had attended this show for many years but this was his first entry.

The Contemporary Sculptors Association had a show called "METAL "for sculptors exhibiting in metal in *Yarra Sculpture Gallery* in Abbotsford in which Laurie exhibited pieces, 'THE BIG C" and "ARCH"



YERING STATION, Yarra Junction is another important sculpture show and Laurie was invited to exhibit a piece called "Eccentric" in this. His piece was photographed by a local suburban Melbourne newspaper.

Laurie's solo exhibition at the Brunswick St Gallery was the exhibition called "UP", which was a series of whimsical



small sculptures such as THE FLYING BICYCLE and some large ones, that all had to be carried up a flight of stairs to the exhibition space.



The Baw Baw Shire had a sculpture competition at this year's GARDEN EXPO called RECYCLED BEAUTY in which Laurie entered a wonderful sculpture "Flower".

SERIGRAPH GALLERY in Neerim South, TOWN & COUNTRY GALLERY in Yarragon, and MYSTIQUES in Berwick are shops that have all been outlets for Laurie's work .

Laurie also did works for Korumburra Rotary Art Show and Alexandra Rotary Art Show.. Strathcoma girls' school and Caulfield Grammar school both held art shows that Laurie entered pieces for sale.

DROUIN OPEN STUDIOS replaced the Ficifolia Art Show and was a fine day for Laurie to meet locals.

The restaurant JACKS at Jindivick, JINKS Winery at Tominbuk and GARY MILES ART STUDIO have all taken and are now exhibiting some of Laurie's larger pieces in their yards.

ROKEBY MARKET, GEMBROOK MARKET and now FOSTER MARKET have been good selling points for small sculptures ,furniture and the ubiquitous dogs and birds. Many people have also organized special consignments of their own designs.

The local newspaper The Warragul Gazette and Baw Baw Country Living have printed articles about Laurie's work throughout the year. Thank you to all the friends and companions who have accompanied Laurie on his art journey during the year 2008!

To see more, type "Laurie Collins Sculpture" into Google. To talk to Laurie, phone 56285224.