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Paul Worstead

Cooking fish and chips in paradise
1976

Screenprint and photo-screenprint on paper
92.5 x 92.3cm

Purchased 1993. Queensland Art Gallery Foundation
Collection: Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art
Photographs: Ray Fulton, QAGOMA
Copyright courtesy of the artist

INTRODUCTION

Australia in the seventies and eighties was a time characterised by social change. The profound social revolutions of the 1970s heralded significant manifestations of change in the 1980s. Luritja man, Harold Thomas (whose mother lived for a time in Mulgoa Mission) designed the Aboriginal Flag in 1971. In 1984 Australia's National Anthem was changed from God Save the Queen to Advance Australia Fair. The inspired but radical acquisition of *Blue Poles* for the National Collection was completed and toured to four states in 1974. The National Gallery of Australia was opened in 1982.

It is not possible to truly understand contemporary Australia without acknowledging how the community activism of the 1970s overturned post World War II conventions. Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest was the first public art institution in Greater Western Sydney, but it involved a struggle to establish. The offer of the gift of the Lewers bequest was originally initiated by Margo Lewers but not accepted. After Margo's death in 1978, her daughters, Darani Lewers and Tanya Crothers, generously pursued the objective to have the bequest accepted in 1979. The sisters were supported by members of the local community who formed The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Beguest. The Friends shared their vision to fight for a gallery with key figures in the art world and politics at the time.

The backdrop to the "fight" included assumptions that Western Sydney was too "blue collar" for a cultural institution: as if art was the exclusive preserve of certain sections of the citizenry. Clearly, this is now shown to be a nonsense assumption about Western Sydney and art. At this forty-year milestone of the decision to establish a regional gallery with the Lewers bequest, generations have grown up and matured engaging with their local gallery. School children

dropped into the Gallery after soccer practice or as part of a school excursion and discovered art as a career path. Visitors who have spent their formative years engaging with the Gallery, now bring their children and grandchildren back to explore and enjoy the creative offerings of the site.

Warwick Fuller, whose solo exhibition is proudly presented in our *Dream Realised* suite, was the first President of the Friends. It was around the time of his involvement with the Friends fighting for the regional gallery that he decided to become a full-time professional artist. Our public gallery at Emu Plains generates an invaluable change in people's lives.

It has been a gift and a community victory that keeps giving. Each year tens of thousands of local, intercity and interstate visitors engage with the Gallery's dynamic exhibitions, collection, events, education programs, splendid heritage gardens and café.

We now live in a rapidly-shifting world that requires us to think and behave differently. We depend on new ideas and innovation to take us forward (personally, socially, economically and environmentally). Creativity is a fundamental human capacity and need. We drastically reduce human potential and well-being if we limit the opportunity for creative expression and creative thinking. Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest situates creative opportunities in visual arts within the region and contributes to the fabric of Australian cultural life.

Sheona White Director

DREAM REALISED: OUR COMMUNITY VICTORY by Dr Roslyn Russell

A dream of a gallery

Modernist painter and multidisciplinary artist Margo Lewers had a dream for the future of the home and garden she had shared with her sculptor husband Gerald Lewers and their daughters Darani and Tanya on River Road, Emu Plains. Her vision for the property that had housed their productive artistic lives and incorporated their creations – Gerald's sculptures and Margo's paintings, garden and mosaics – was that it should become public property and accessible to all. This dream, which aimed to bring art to the people of Western Sydney, was finally realised in 1981, several years after Margo's death in 1978 – but not without a fight.

The Lewers property at 86 River Road, perched beside the Nepean River, had been a site of modernist artistic creativity since sculptor Gerald Lewers began to work there during the week from 1942. Margo Lewers and their daughters joined him there in 1950, and Margo worked in collaboration with modernist architect Sydney Ancher to augment the property in 1955 with a building to house a loungeroom and kitchen, followed in 1964 with the addition of Ancher House. The property became a focus for Sydney's artistic and literary community.

The Daily Telegraph's visual arts writer, Elizabeth Fortescue, described the ambience the couple created there in an article reporting an exhibition by the extended Lewers family in 2016. The physical elements of this ambience can still be appreciated in the Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest today:

Energetic and enterprising, the Lewers had transformed the former pig farm into a family home, a working studio and a meeting place

for Australia's leading lights of literature and the arts.

Gerald's sculptures peeped out from the beautiful gardens that the couple had designed and planted themselves. And inside the old farmhouse, Margo's avant garde paintings splashed bright colour on all the walls. Tables groaned with art books and magazines, bringing fresh ideas from Europe and the US.

Sydney's culturati regularly trooped out to Emu Plains for the stimulating conversation, the dishes for which Margo plundered her vegetable patch, and the wine that Gerald kept flowing.

Close friends included leading artists Frank and Margel Hinder, Lyndon Dadswell, Judy Cassab, Robert Klippel, Grace Crowley and Ralph Balson. Author Patrick White was also a visitor.¹

Gerald died on 9 August 1962 as a result of a fall from a horse whilst he was on holiday in Chillagoe, Queensland. A grief-stricken Margo worked to complete a commission that Gerald had begun for a copper relief sculpture for the Reserve Bank in Canberra. Afterwards she continued her artistic production, filling the property with mosaics on floors and walls, continuing to create a garden that integrated artworks with plantings, as well as painting and experimenting with Perspex.

In 1973 Margo Lewers first offered the property as a bequest to the NSW National Trust and Penrith City Council, both of whom refused the offer. She offered it again in 1976 and 1977. Peter Anderson AM – formerly Labor Member for Nepean in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1978 to 1981, Penrith

¹ Elizabeth Fortescue, 'Gerald and Margo Lewers, Sydney's artistic dynasty, continues to flourish today', *Daily Telegraph*, 9 April 2016.

between 1981 and 1988, and Liverpool between 1989 and 1995 - visited her when he was Deputy Mayor of Penrith in 1977 to discuss the beguest. Anderson later said that Council 'knocked it back - it didn't want a bar of it'.2

Margo died of cancer on 20 February 1978. Following her death, daughters Darani and Tanya again offered Council the property on River Road, the collection of sculptures and paintings, and other artworks. Again, it was rejected. This rejection prompted an outpouring of views for and against the acceptance of the bequest.

Those who knew Margo and her daughters valued the artistic legacy the property represented and believed that the western suburbs of Sydney deserved the cultural facility of which the Lewers beguest could be the catalyst. They decided to band together as The Friends of The Lewers Bequest to change public opinion on this issue, and to persuade Penrith City Council to accept the Lewers daughters' generous offer.

Fight for the gallery

'The real struggle for the Friends began on March 15 1979, several interested people met to launch a campaign to convince Penrith City Council to accept the gift of the Lewers property and collection.'3 wrote Jan Lewis in her 2008 book, A Bequest, the Friends, the Blossoming of a Gallery.

Peter Anderson AM said later that access and equity were the predominant drivers of the desire for an art gallery in the western Sydney region, to give it a 'visual arts foothold'. The Lewers property, he said, was 'a great cultural oasis', but if all that the Friends had advocated for was 'the Lewers Gallery, it would never

2 Peter Anderson AM, interview with Sheona White, Penrith Regional Gallery Director, August 2019.

have got up'. He recalled, 'It was a tough fight, over a year, until it got up."4

The Friends mobilised support for accepting the Lewers bequest through petitions and personal letters advocating the establishment of the Gallery. Support also came from one local newspaper, the Penrith Press. However, the other local paper, the *Penrith District* Star, tended to favour the opposition to accepting the bequest and the establishment of a regional gallery on the site. Sydney newspapers also featured articles and letters of support. Jan Lewis noted that 'Generally, it was felt that the two houses, the gardens and artworks would form the basis of a much-needed resource for the people of the Western Metropolitan Region of Sydney and that a new gallery would become an important educational facility'.5

Petite Dallimore - who acted, with husband 'Dal', as caretaker at the Emu Plains property for 18 months following Margo's death - collected articles and letters documenting the story of the fight, including letters to the editors of the two local papers. She made a scrapbook that constitutes an invaluable record. including a letter to the *Penrith District Star* of 23 March 1979 by Necia Merrells of Emu Plains castigating Council for its short-sightedness in rejecting the bequest. She had recently toured the property and had appreciated its potential as a cultural venue:

> Inside the home and studio, the creative artistry of both Margo Lewers and her husband lives on in many floor mosaics, the wall panels and in countless other features of design. The acre of grounds offers itself to an ideal setting for visiting art exhibitions, musical afternoons and generally a rare chance for Penrith youth to experience the work of a famous local artist.

³ Jan Lewis, A Bequest, the Friends, the Blossoming of a Gallery. The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest, Penrith, NSW, 2008, p. 1.

⁴ Anderson/White interview, op.cit. 5 Lewis, op.cit., p. 7.

Only a council without vision could allow such a generous offer to lapse.⁶

Opposition to the proposal continued. Marian O'Neill of Penrith, who described herself as 'a woman with little education in the Arts', wrote to the *Penrith District Star* on 9 May 1979:

I cannot imagine that the majority of people who live on this side of the harbour and as far out as the western suburbs, can pretend to be interested in statues and pictures of this kind. The residents of Penrith, I am sure, would not spend any time on art when they can be entertained with the junk provided by the square box.

I am sure that there are many more important projects the City Council can spend the ratepayers' money on.⁷

While simple opposition to Council prioritising art in its spending was an important factor in the controversy, other voices opposed spending on this specific artistic project and argued for alternative options. Councillor Eileen Cammack OBE, who was Mayor of Penrith from 1975 to 1978, and a collector of more traditional decorative arts, supported the idea of a regional gallery but wanted to see it built in a more central location. She was also patron of the Nepean District Historical Society (NDHS) and favoured Council funding for the local museum run by the NDHS, the Arms of Australia Inn museum.⁸

6 Necia Merrell, letter to the Editor of the *Penrith District Star*, 23 March 1979, quoted in Lewis op.cit., p.7

Hostility to the proposal to accept the Lewers bequest also focused around more traditional local government concerns: the initial capital expenditure and running costs that Council would incur; locating the Gallery in a suburban area rather than a commercial district; and potential parking problems.

The Friends maintained the pressure on Penrith City Council and with Peter Anderson's assistance they advocated their cause to state government. In Jan Lewis' words, they 'helped to keep the whole concept alive'. Evan Williams, who in 1977 became director of cultural activities in Neville Wran's Labor Government in New South Wales, was enlisted as an ally.

The catalyst for victory was the personal intervention of then Premier Neville Wran. In discussions with Peter Anderson over the continued battle for the gallery he said, "we will fix this and make an offer they can't refuse". True to his word he offered to contribute \$1 million dollars of NSW State Government funds, on a dollar-for dollar basis with Penrith City Council, toward the construction of a regional gallery.¹⁰

Council decided to accept the offer of the bequest but opposition to the proposal continued.

The Penrith Press described the 'long and strenuous debate' in Council in early June 1979, during which 'interjections flew thick and fast', and the public gallery 'was seething with emotion over the issue' of whether Council would 'seize this last opportunity to accept the gift offered by the Lewers family'. Alderman Peter Anderson, then State Member for Nepean, made the clinching argument, claiming that 'future citizens of Penrith would claim Penrith aldermen of today lacked vision if the gallery offer was not accepted'. The Penrith Press declared that 'It was his motion that won the day —

⁷ Marian O'Neill, *Penrith District Star*, 9 May 1979, quoted in ibid., p.8 8 *Cammack, Eileen, (OBE) (1914-2000)*, entry in Australian Women's Register, Australian Women's Archive Project, www.womenaustralia. info/biogs/AWE1391b.htm

⁹ Lewis, op.cit., p.10 10 Anderson/White interview op.cit

¹⁰ DREAM REALISED 11

and gave Penrith a regional gallery provided the Division of Cultural Affairs of the Premier's Department comes to the party'. The debate, like the battle of Waterloo, was a 'close run thing': the Mayor, Alderman Brian King, 'used his vote to clinch Council's commitment to pay half cost of a regional art gallery at River Rd, Emu Plains'. The 'packed public gallery' erupted in applause when the result of the vote was announced.¹¹

In October 1979 Council agreed to accept the Lewers bequest in principle, with the proviso that financial assistance would be provided by the New South Wales Department of Public Works, and a new regional gallery would be part of the funded project.¹²

Realising the dream

Even though Penrith City Council had agreed to proceed with the Gallery project and had established an interim Management Committee in early 1980, the Friends continued to provide unwavering support. They took a crucial role in organising the fund-raising exhibition for the new gallery when a Mayoral Appeal was launched at David Jones Gallery in Sydney in August 1980. Over \$10,000 was raised by the sale of artworks donated by well-known artists.

The following month, September 1980, saw the formal handover by Darani Lewers and Tanya Crothers of the two River Road properties and artworks to Penrith City Council, for the payment of \$1. Construction of the new regional gallery building began immediately, and less than a year later New South Wales Premier, the Honourable Neville Wran QC, officially opened Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest on 21 August 1981. He paid tribute to Margo and Gerald Lewers as trailblazers in twentieth-century Australian art: 'Gerald and Margo Lewers' contribution to Australian art was significant. Their energies, and

11 'Art Gallery to go ahead', *Penrith Press*, 6 June 1979. 12 Lewis, op.cit., p. 10; Anderson/White interview op.cit.

12

those of their contemporaries, set new directions for the visual arts in our country.'13

The new Gallery's opening exhibition was drawn exclusively from the Art Gallery of New South Wales collection and included work rarely allowed on loan. AGNSW Director Edmund Capon, was an active supporter of the campaign to establish Penrith Regional Gallery and former staff member, Campbell Gray, become its first Director.

Peter Anderson AM sums up the story of this exhibition, *Dream Realised: our community victory*, as

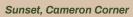
a celebration of the defeat of the opposition to the Gallery. The win for the people of Western Sydney and their right to be able to access culture. It is a victory for access and equity driven by the Friends of the Gallery.¹⁴

It is also an affirmation that Margo Lewers' dream has become a reality.

¹³ Neville Wran quoted in Fortescue, op.cit.

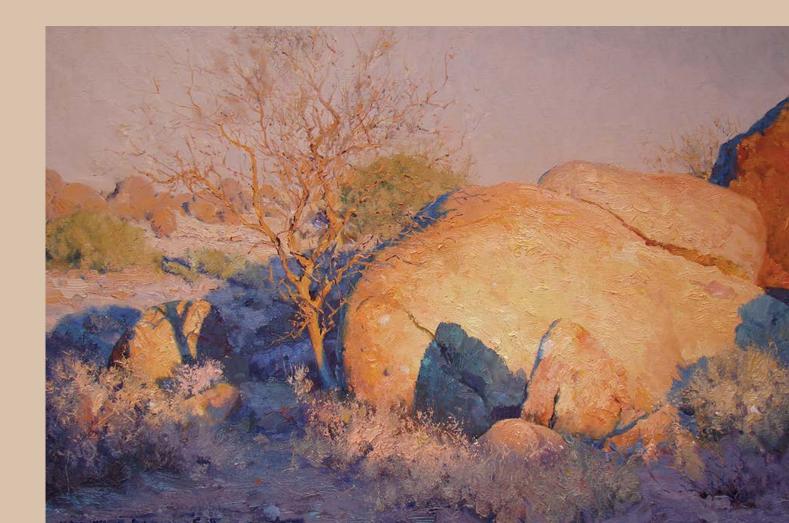
¹⁴ Cited in an email to the author from Sheona White, 31 January 2020.





2011 oil on canvas 60 x 90cm Courtesy of Private Collection

Photography by silversalt



WARWICK FULLER - CHASING THE LIGHT

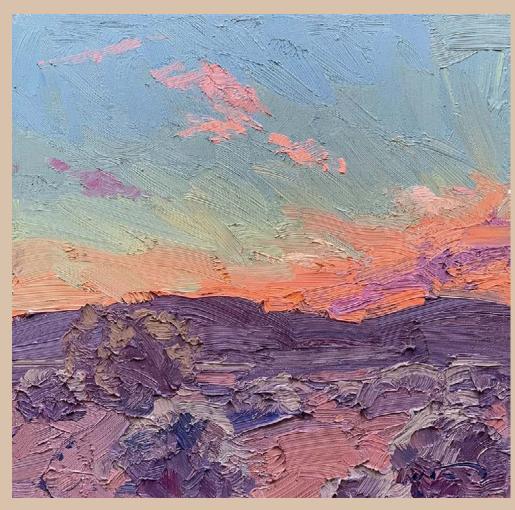
Like a sailor compelled to follow the sirens' song -Warwick Fuller follows the rhythm and caress of light on the landscape, acting quickly when the landscape tugs at his emotions compelling him to pull out his artist's kit and lay down a painterly response before the muse disappears. Aiming to capture the particular qualities of the landscape as it is momentarily touched by the light has driven Fuller's practice for over forty years. Largely self-taught, Fuller has forged his formidable skill in the blast furnace and misty chill of the Australian landscape across the seasons. Throughout this time, he constantly re-invigorates his relationship to painting by experimenting with techniques and turning his gaze ever more clearly and directly on to his subject. Fuller strives to make the relationship between his head, his heart and his hand so seamless that it is unfettered by art history or fashion or interrupted by technical challenges. In retrospect he's realised that it is, and always has been, chasing the light that compels him to paint.

Spending time with one of Fuller's paintings is an opportunity to encounter the Australian bush enlivened by the aesthetic sensibility and supple energy of a man whose early years were spent adventuring in the bushland of south west Sydney. He speaks fondly of camping out and cooking spuds (potatoes) in the coals of camp fires, making wooden boats with his mates and rowing them from Canley Vale to Botany Bay. A childhood that speaks of a different era with a different relationship to the environment, to play and to risk. During that childhood, inspired by his grandfather's amateur landscape paintings, Fuller always took his drawing book with him on family outings or holidays. He recalls his mum trying to keep his siblings happy, waiting in the car during one family holiday to the Snowy Mountains, while he sat on a rock drawing glorious serpentine Snow Gums. Developing his skills independently by returning again and again to painting outdoors, Fuller decided at twenty-nine, to try his hand



Into the Mystic, Kanimbla Valley
2015
oil on canvas
150 x 220cm
Courtesy of the Mary Casey Collection

Photography by silversalt



Desert Epilogue, Silverton 2019 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm Courtesy of Private Collection

Photography by silversalt

at being a professional artist. A brave decision for a man who at the time had a young family to support. This opened a pathway that has seen him create an extensive and impressive body of work with paintings in public and private collections across Australia and the world, including fourteen paintings in the private collection of Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

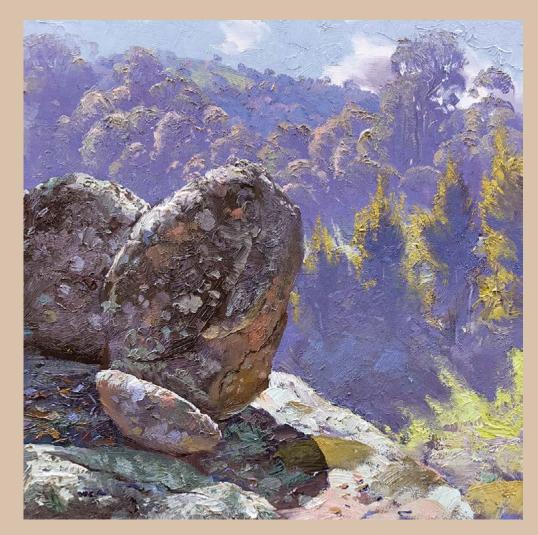
Fuller's relationship to his subject has been forged in the crucible of the Australian landscape, working outdoors with all its concomitant challenges of heat, wind, insects and changing atmospheric conditions. In his outdoor studies Fuller seeks to capture the particularity of the effects of light and, in so doing, creates painterly traces that resonate with the life force of his focus landscape. Gesturally, Fuller's energetic mark making evokes the texture and vibrant colour use of the Post Impressionism of Vincent Van Gough. In Melody in Mauve, Kanimbla, 2016, one can't escape the textural weight and viscosity of the paint with which Fuller renders a view from his studio of distant cliffs and nearby rolling hill. Fuller's gestural expressive style, particularly visible in smallscale oil sketches, also situates him within the embrace and tradition of the Expressionists – where emotion and feelings are expressed through the combination of the marks made by the artist's handling of paint and choice of colours. For example, The Sun Fell in the Creek, 2019, Patonga Sunrise, 2011, and Desert Epilogue, Silverton, 2019, with their diverse and evocative colour palettes, are clearly representational whilst also displaying a strong abstract, expressive quality. This is demonstrated in the fluid marks made with a fully loaded brush and a confident rhythmic movement of the artist's hand across the canvas.

Fuller often paints in the Blue Mountains, so named because of the blue haze created by over sixty species of oil bearing and vapour emitting Eucalyptus trees which are found in the area. The Eucalyptus oil in the trees heats up and then releases into the air, combing with dust particles and water vapour to create the

blue haze after which the mountains are named. In A Balancing Act, Kanimbla, 2017, Fuller's familiarity with the underlying geometry of his local region's natural landscape and his intuitive rendering of the perspectival atmospheric effects of the mountains, allows this work to be both loose and gestural as well as representational. In this compelling, intimate study, Fuller represents large granite boulders balanced on a rocky outcrop in wooded, hilly terrain and uses loose, lively brush strokes to reveal the colourful lichens and mosses scattered across their surface. Fuller captures the nuance of light play within the shadows and applies high-keyed purples and greens where the sun burnishes the edges of the rocks and to the outer branches of the trees. The atmospheric effects in this work evoke the sensation of summer heat rolling in to fill the contours of the land between the trees.

The curvilinear line of the pink road in *Blustery Morning near Yass*, 2012, acts as a compositional device drawing the viewer deeper into the landscape. Three bands of colour mark out a composition balanced in thirds with warm yellow ochre fields touched by pink hues, and a dynamic oblique line rolling between the white, and grey cumulonimbus clouds. In *Afternoon Sun, Glen Davis*, 2011, Fuller again exquisitely captures the afternoon sunlight warming sandstone cliffs, brushing over tree tops and pooling into shimmering puddles in the foreground. In *White Sands of Callala Bay*, 2017, Fuller captures the absolute interdependence of a stand of coastal casuarina trees to their environment, the beach, the coastal grasses, distant headland, the sky and permeating it all – the light.

The practice of painting small studies outdoors has been part of the Western tradition of landscape painting for centuries, whether that be painting near the frigid chill of the Baltic sea, where German Romantic landscape artist Caspar Fredrich (1774 – 1840) grew up or painting the English countryside like John Constable (1776 - 1837). Indeed, Constable so evocatively captured the landscapes of his home



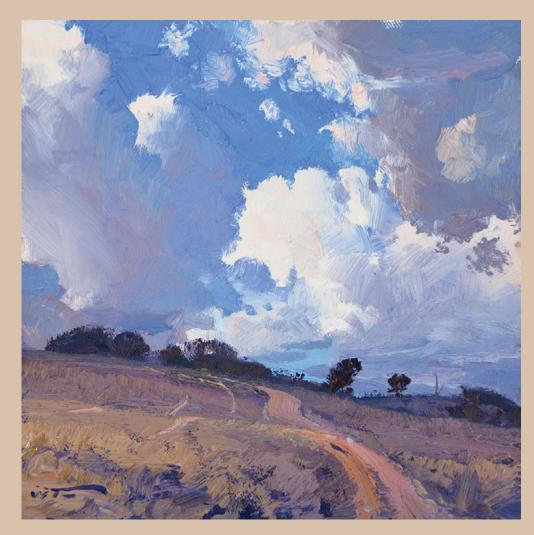
A Balancing Act, Kanimbla 2017 oil on canvas 45 x 45cm Courtesy of Ron Fuller and Susan Templeman

Photography by silversalt



White Sands of Callala Bay 2017 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm Courtesy of Mary Bergin and Alan Amos

Photography by silversalt

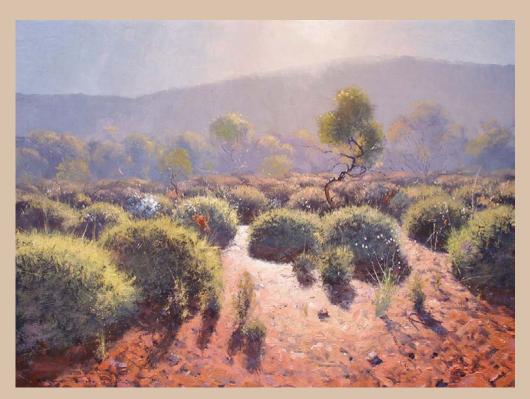


Blustery Morning near Yass 2012 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Photography by silversalt

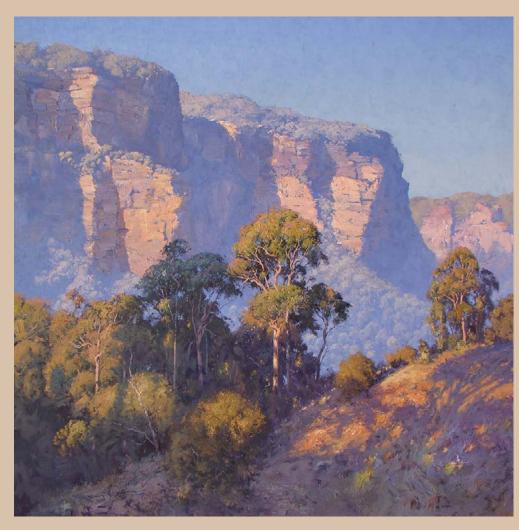
region in Dedham Valley, Suffolk that the region became known as Constable Country. Spending time in the environment can be viewed romantically and is part of the great tradition of Romantic landscape painters such as Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775 – 1851), who explored nature as evidence of the sublime and did pioneering work with light, colour and atmosphere that anticipated the work of the French Impressionists. The French phrase *en Plein Air* (in the open air) was popularised through the practice of the French Impressionists who painted outdoors for the dual purposes of capturing the atmospheric and fleeting effect of light on colour and to wrestle painting from the clutches of academic and History Painting. The Impressionists elevated scenes from daily life, such as landscape for its own sake, as worthy subjects for painters. Fuller describes himself as an outdoor painter, preferring the grounded vernacular of this Australian descriptor rather than the imported French phrase. The heat and dry shimmer of an Australian summer in Melbourne was understood and captured by artists and friends Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts, Charles Conder, Fred McCubbin and Jane Sutherland. This group became known as the Heidelberg School and are credited with bringing the actuality of the Australian landscape into the popular national consciousness of early twentieth century Australia. Warwick Fuller's journey as a landscape painter is part of a long lineage of painters who choose to return again and again to working within the landscape with all of its visual complexity, elemental challenges, sensory richness, physiological impacts and spiritual resonances.

In (Sketch for) Spinifex in Morning Light, Tom Price, 2011, we enter the landscape with red dirt and small scattered rocks at our feet, so evocatively painted we wouldn't be surprised to look down and see red dirt dusting our toes. Then, as we lift our gaze, our eyes move through the landscape: across mounds of spinifex grass which is perfectly adapted to thriving in hot, arid conditions; onto gnarly, stunted trees hunkering in the mid-ground; with distant mountains rendered



(Sketch for) Spinifex in Morning Light, Tom Price 2011 oil on canvas 90 x 120cm Courtesy of the Rosemary and Andrew Penman Collection

Photography by silversalt



Afternoon Sun, Glen Dαvis
2011
oil on canvas
150 x 150cm
Courtesy of the Michael and Marilyn Reardon-Small Collection

Photography by silversalt

in soft greys that emulate the atmospheric conditions created by the low-slung, morning light. In this work we are teetering between being both outside and within the landscape. The red dirt in the foreground is seen from a slightly tilted, aerial perspective and yet the trees in the distance are framed by an ocular, Eurocentric relationship to viewing and framing the landscape. Whilst Fuller is clearly part of a European tradition of landscape painting, initially inspired by his grandfather's amateur paintings and his early years playing in the Australian bush near his home, his sensibility, sensitivity and respect for the land has translated into a deep and sustained respect for Aboriginal culture and traditions. Traditional Indigenous artistic responses to the landscape rarely have a horizon line, rather the marks are made on the land itself. For example, in sand drawing, or in contemporary traditional painting, Aboriginal signs, symbols and ways of mapping are presented from an aerial perspective, congruent with a culture that walks the landscape into being and the being into the landscape.

Within each of us exists a memory of the land, the places we grew up, holidays we went on, and places we played. Many of us would have spent at least some time in a national park, a grassy paddock or in the bush, feeling the warmth of the rocks, the roughness of spiky Australian grasses, and inhaling the aromatic smell of gum trees. Fuller is an artist who looks deeply at the landscape on our behalf and in so doing helps us to see our environment with refreshed eyes. Van Gough, in a letter to his brother Theo in 1874 said, 'Painters understand nature and love it, and teach us to see.' When we look at Fuller's work painted from within the landscape it is a wonderful chance to refresh our connection to this vast. ancient and spectacular land and be reminded of what we need to treasure and protect: both because of our interdependence with it and also for its ability to be a source of joy, pleasure and light-filled renewal.

Naomi McCarthy Education Manager

ARTIST STATEMENT

I blindly plunged into my painting career about a year before that Lewers thing started. What turned out to be a fateful phone call from Petite Dallimore, started with 'would you like to call down to River Road for a chat about a 'local' artist's bequest to Penrith Council'. After forty years, the serendipity of that innocuous phone call, ranks with a handful of events that have highlighted my life.

Penrith nurtured me as I made my way through the 80's, the tough years. Looking back, I see ever more clearly the many good people who kept me going. Council funded a reciprocal exhibition to Fujieda Japan, Community fund raising to help me visit the great galleries of Europe, positive newspaper articles, Invitations to judge local shows, talks to service groups / societies etc, and a myriad of small kindnesses, all helped to sustain my spirits in the struggle to paint a good picture.

Oh, how naïve I was when I embarked on this journey. I'd hardly heard of Tom Roberts or Lloyd Rees, let alone Margo Lewers. What a wonderful shock when I walked into Margo's house in 1979! The emotional sensation that I felt from her work was powerful, immediate and hitherto unknown to me. That was the first time ever a painting really spoke to me.

My Grandfather's landscape paintings were a constant during my childhood and Mum's unnoticed, quiet encouragement of every little scribble, overlaid with a dearth of art education at school, led me unconsciously in the only direction I knew. Cementing my love for the landscape both to paint and to experience was a spirit of adventure fostered by annual driving and camping holidays as well as living in the outer suburbs near creek and bush. And parents with a very, very long leash. My chosen genre had me before I was old enough to weigh options.

About a year after the Lewers merry-go-round started, I went to a weekly night class that Kevin Oxley had just commenced at Windsor. I thought it would be a bit of a light diversion (as I did already know everything). Kevin helped me to formalise a lot of thoughts, techniques and theories that I had read about and developed instinctively and intuitively. Most importantly though, he taught me to question more critically what and why I was painting. Asking questions of myself I found some answers in recalling Margo's magnificent 'Green on Green' (and others) and its unfathomable effect on me. I started trying to see past the physical object as the object appeared not to play a part in Margo's paintings. Extrapolating that, I tried to work out what really drew me to select a subject worthy of painting. And so my real quest began.

I don't recall a time when I first understood that light was the constant in what enticed me to a subject for painting. By way of example though, I do recall trying to grasp the thrill of glancing out of the side window while driving down a steep forest road. The light in the valley viewed through the dark trunks flashing past blew me away even though what I saw was hardly a 'landscape'. It seems I was often taken by the light before the object, the glint on the water rather than the puddle.

That light regularly takes me by surprise. It beguiles and confounds me. Technically I can find ways and means to paint it but what I strive for is an expression of what I 'feel' for that subject, that light. I don't know if I'm getting any closer to that elusive goal, but my emotional response to the chosen subject which was awakened in me at Margo's house, forty years ago thrills and drives me still today.

- Warwick Fuller, 2020

WARWICK FULLER – CHASING THE LIGHT LIST OF WORKS

(Sketch for) Afternoon Seα Mists

1986 oil on canvas 36 x 44cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

(Sketch for) Autumn Sunset

2011 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

(Sketch for) Enduring Gum, Silverton

2019 oil on canvas 45 x 60cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

(Sketch for) Full Mo

(Sketch for) Full Moon Morning, Tom Price

2011 oil on canvas 45 x 60cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

(Sketch for) Late Break, Little Hartlev

2005 oil on canvas 22 x 30cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

(Sketch for) Petrichor

2016
oil on canvas
30 x 45cm
Courtesy of Private Collection

(Sketch for) Saint Mary of Heath

2016
oil on canvas
60 x 35cm
Courtesy of Mary Casey

(Sketch for) Spinifex and Snappy Gum, Tom Price

oil on canvas 30 x 45cm

2011

Courtesy of the Skinner Family Private Collection

(Sketch for) Surrender the Day, Capertee Valley

2010 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of the Artist

(Sketch for) Wet Sails

2016
oil on canvas
30 x 30cm
Courtesy of the Artist and

Lost Bear Gallery

(Study for) Afternoon Sun, Glen Davis

2011 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

(Study for) Grampians Grazing Country

2002 oil on canvas 44 x 60cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

A Balancing Act, Kanimbla 2017

oil on canvas
45 x 45cm
Courtesy of Ron Fuller and
Susan Templeman

A Gentle Sunset, Kanimbla

2018
oil on canvas
30 x 30cm
Courtesy of the Artist and
Lost Bear Gallery

A Western Sunset, Silverton 2016

oil on canvas
60 x 90cm
Courtesy of the Artist and
Lost Bear Gallery

Afternoon Sun, Glen Davis

2011
oil on canvas
150 x 150cm
Courtesy of the Michael
and Marilyn Reardon-Small
Collection

Alpine Stream near Talbingo 2011

oil on canvas 60 x 45cm Courtesy of Private Collection

Approaching Storm, Sorell, Tasmania

2013
oil on canvas
90 x 60cm
Courtesy of the Michael
and Marilyn Reardon-Small
Collection

Atmospheric Morning near Wee Jasper

1997
oil on canvas
45 x 60cm
Courtesy of the Artist and
Lost Bear Gallery

Autumn Afternoon,

Tumut River
2007
oil on canvas
45 x 60cm
Courtesy of the Ray Annson
Collection

Blustery Morning near Yass

2012
oil on canvas
30 x 30cm
Courtesy of the Artist and
Lost Bear Gallery

Boats in Morning Light, Devon, UK

2008 oil on canvas 30 x 45cm Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Breaking Wave, Tasmania

2013 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

30 x 30cm Courtesy of Private Collection

Bridge over Micalong Creek, Wee Jasper

2016 oil on canvas 45 x 60cm

Courtesy of the Forster Family Collection

Butes of Monument Valley

2012
oil on canvas
45 x 60cm
Courtesy of the Artist and Lost
Bear Gallery

By the Campfire, Glen Alice

2018 oil on canvas 60 x 45cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Camden Landscape

1976 oil on canvas 30 x 45cm

Courtesy of the Tom and Sheree Tumanik Collection

Capertee Sunrise

1998 oil on canvas 45 x 90cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Cool Shadows Creeping In

2009 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Copper and Gold Sunset, North Head

2014 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Creekline. Stuart Town

2015
oil on canvas
45 x 45cm
Courtesy of the Debra and Greg
Morgan Collection

Cristie's Lilies

2002
oil on canvas
90 x 60cm
Courtesy of the Artist and
Lost Bear Gallery

Daffodils at Dumfries House

2018 oil on canvas 30 x 45cm

Courtesy of the Brendan Smith Collection

Dance of Light, Lake Lyell

2015 oil on canvas 90 x 120cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Dance of Light, Little Hartley

2014
oil on canvas
60 x 90cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Dancing Dinghy, Eden

2011 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Dawn's Grey Harmony, Cairns

2018 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of the Laurie and Rita Spiteri Collection

Desert Epilogue, Silverton 2019

oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Dry Valley Floor, Glen Alice 2018

oil on canvas 60 x 45cm

Courtesy of the Alan and Lois Little Collection

WARWICK FULLER – CHASING THE LIGHT LIST OF WORKS

Enduring Gum, Silverton

2019 oil on canvas 100 x 120cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Ephemeral Light, Burraga

2019
oil on canvas
92 x 122cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Fishing at Stockton Beach

2017 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Foissac Farm After Rain,

France 2003

oil on canvas 23 x 30cm Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Forest Intersection. Barmah

2014 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Into the Mystic, Kanimbla Valley

2015 oil on canvas 150 x 220cm Courtesy of Mary Casey

Japonica

32

1989
oil on canvas
90 x 60cm
Courtesy of the Cristie Fuller
Collection

Kurrajong Panorama

1985 37 x 52cm

Courtesy of the Ray Annson Collection

Lagoon and Surf, Narooma

1994
oil on canvas
40 x 50cm
Courtesy of the Albert
Woodroffe Collection

Last Sun in the Gilmore Valley

2015 oil on canvas 26 x 30cm

2016

Courtesy of Private Collection

Melody in Mauve, Kanimbla

oil on canvas 45 x 45cm Courtesy of the Ginny Gould Collection

Melting Frost, Gundagai

2015 oil on canvas 80 x 120cm

Courtesy of Lynette and Daniel Beltran

Moondance, Windemere Dam

2003
oil on canvas
23 x 30cm
Courtesy of Private Collection

Morning Light on the Thαmes 2003

oil on canvas 30 x 45cm Courtesy of the Laurie and Rita Spiteri Collection Murray Flow

2014 oil on canvas 45 x 60cm

Courtesy of the Ray Annson Collection

Oh Darling, near Bourke

2006 oil on canvas 110 x 150cm

Courtesy of the Ray Annson Collection

Old Chevy

1977 oil on canvas 38 x 50cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Overgrown Track

1986
oil on canvas
61 x 76cm
Courtesy of the Artist and
Lost Bear Gallery

Patonga Sunrise

2011 oil on canvas 30 x 45cm

Courtesy of the Chris and Susan Bonsall Collection

Phegans Bay Boatshed

2009 oil on canvas 60 x 75cm Courtesy of Judy Dickens

Pink Azaleas

1996 oil on canvas 45 x 60cm Courtesy of Private Collection Quietude at Day's End

2018
oil on canvas
170 x 200cm
Courtesy of the Artist and
Lost Bear Gallery

Red Hill Sunset

2013 oil on canvas 45 x 30cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Rugged Ramparts, Flinders Ranges

1984 oil on canvas 90 x 120cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Sheep in the Stubble, Bannockburn

2012 oil on canvas 45 x 45cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Shimmering Light on Gilmore Creek

2017 oil on canvas 45 x 45cm

Courtesy of the Robert Mitchell Collection

Sky Study 1983

30 x 38cm Courtesy of the Robert Simpson Collection Songs of Praise

2017 oil on canvas 30 x 30cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Spell of a Summer's Afternoon

c. 2007 oil on canvas 150 x 180cm Courtesy of the

Courtesy of the Michael and Marilyn Reardon-Small Collection

Conconon

Spinifex in Morning Light, Tom Price

2011 oil on canvas 90 x 120cm

Courtesy of the Rosemary and Andrew Penman Collection

Stark Morning Light, Mossy Point

2008 oil on canvas 90 x 120cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

Sun on Tinkers Hill

2003
oil on canvas
25 x 45cm
Courtesy of the Martin Campbell
Collection

Sun through Light on Cloud, Little Hartley

2014
oil on canvas
60 x 90cm
Courtesy of Private Collection

Sun, Smoke & Stubble, near Young

2017 oil on canvas 120 x 150cm

Courtesy of the SteelReid Collection

Sunrise Glow. White Cliffs

1997 oil on canvas

45 x 60cm Courtesy of Private Collection

Sunset, Cameron Corner

2011 oil on canvas 60 x 90cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

The Cutting, Hartley Vale

2014 oil on canvas 45 x 60cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

The Sun Fell in the Creek

2019 oil on canvas 30 x 40cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

The Wave

1985 oil on canvas 60 x 76cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Lost Bear Gallery

WARWICK FULLER – CHASING THE LIGHT LIST OF WORKS

Tower of Stone, Capertee Valley

2016 oil on canvas 45 x 45cm

Courtesy of the Benjamin

Rich Collection

Track through the Heath (Sussex Inlet)

(Sussex Inlet

oil on canvas 45 x 60cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Trees in Filtered Light, Forbes

2009

oil on canvas 90 x 100cm Courtesy of Private Collection, Wentworth Falls

Untitled (My first oil)

1964

oil on canvas 25 x 30cm Courtesy of the Artist

Verdant Harmony

2009 oil on canvas 45 x 30cm

Courtesy of Private Collection

Waterhole

2013 oil on canvas 100 x 75cm Courtesy of the Artist and

Lost Bear Gallery

White Sands of Callala Bay

2017
oil on canvas
30 x 30cm
Courtesy of Mary Bergin and
Allan Amos

Wolgan Valley Morning

1985 59 x 74cm

Courtesy of the Ray Annson

Collection

Wongarbon Sunset

2015

oil on canvas 30 x 60cm

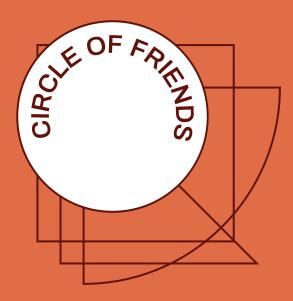
Courtesy of Private Collection



Wongarbon Sunset

2015
oil on canvas
30 x 60cm
Courtesy of Private Collection

Photography by silversalt



Stanislaus Rapotec
Untitled
1968
synthetic polymer paint on masonite
137 x 182.5cm

Purchased with the assistance of the Australian Art Research Fund, 1990. Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest Collection. Copyright courtesy of the Estate of the Artist

Photography by Michael Waite



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends celebrates the generous, sustained and ongoing support that The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest have given to the Gallery and its collection. Beginning in 1979, before there was even a gallery to support, the Friends was formed by a small visionary group of locals who collectively recognised the wonderful opportunity the Lewers bequest represented for the people of Penrith and beyond. The advocacy of the Friends ensured that Council accepted the bequest and committed to developing the site, that was originally the Lewers family home, as a public gallery. The Friends group quickly grew in number to become, at the opening of the Gallery in August 1981, a group of 185 individuals/local residents - united by a shared vision of what the first regional gallery in Western Sydney could become.

For over forty years the Friends have been instrumental in developing both the Gallery and its Collection. In the early days it was the Friends who formed the Gallery Changeover Committee, volunteering their time to install exhibitions, fundraise and generally support the care and growth of the Gallery's historic collection. With assistance from the Friends, successive Directors were able to secure significant acquisitions, increasing the Gallery's holding of artworks by artists such as Elwyn Lynn and Leonard Hessing, who alongside a significant holding of artworks by Margo and Gerald Lewers, were represented in the original bequest.

Friendships amongst the painters, sculptors, writers and architects who were known to have travelled from the city to visit the Lewers at the Emu Plains property throughout the 50s and 60s are also reflected in the Penrith Regional Gallery Collection. These relationships, be they familial, scholarly, or friendships grown out of shared interest in the Modernist cause,

were strengthened through the free expression of ideas and robust respect for criticism and debate that characterised their gatherings. The artist friends of Margo and Gerald shared influences and joined forces with a larger circle of friends, whose works are included in this exhibition, and who, with the passing of time, have come to be recognised for the important contribution they made to our understanding of Modernism in Australia.

It could be said that the loyalty and commitment to their artistic ideals which sustained these artists in friendship, still echoes through the site today, through the dedication and commitment of the Friends. A volunteer group whose unwavering support will continue to benefit current and future generations of visitors by ensuring the survival of a thriving and robust regional gallery that welcomes all, excites and delights many, and remains a unique and thriving part of the cultural landscape of the region. Our region owes much more to the Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery than we will likely ever realise.

Sheona White Director



Eva Kubbos
Shifting from Dark to Light
1962
coloured linocut
37.5 x 49cm
Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1990
Copyright courtesy of the Artist



Robert Klippel Structures in a Landscape
1965
lithograph
54 x 78 cm (image)
Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1991
© Andrew Klippel, Courtesy of The Robert
Klippel Estate, represented by Annette Larkin
Fine Art, Sydney and Galerie Gmurzynska,
Zurich

Photography by silversalt

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

YVONNE AUDETTE Born Sydney, NSW, 1930

Yvonne Audette, at the age of seventeen, while still at high school, enrolled in weekend classes at the Julian Ashton Art School, before also studying at the East Sydney Technical College, and at the evening classes of Desiderius Orban. At the age of twentytwo, Audette travelled to New York and studied at the Art Student's League of New York and the New York Academy of Design. She became friends with key figures in the New York avant-garde art scene such as Clement Greenberg and Willem de Kooning, at a pivotal stage in the development of American abstract expressionism. This, and her later experiences of living in Italy, (where she became friends with and was considerably influenced by Cy Twombly) and travelling extensively throughout Europe, deeply informed her signature abstract style.

Audette returned to live in Sydney in 1966. In 1968, she had her first Australian show with Robert Klippel at the Bonython Gallery in Sydney. Included in the Australian abstraction survey New Directions: 1952-1962, held at Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest, in 1998. In 1999-2000 Audette was included in the group exhibition The Antipodeans: Challenge and Response in Australian Art, 1955-1965 at the National Gallery of Australia. In 2008, her artistic contribution was further recognized through a major solo exhibition of paintings and drawings from her expatriate years, titled Different Directions: 1954-1966, at the National Gallery of Victoria. Since 1969, Audette has lived and worked in the Dandenong Ranges in Melbourne, where she continues to paint daily.

ROBERT KLIPPEL Born Potts Point, Sydney 1920 Died 2001

Robert Klippel began making miniature model ships from the age of six, becoming significantly skilled in this craft practice. Leaving school at the age of sixteen, Klippel trained and worked as a wool classer. In 1939, he was called into serve in the Navy, his roles included building model aircraft for recognition training at the Gunnery Instructional Centre at Woolloomooloo. Post his years of military service during the second world war he began studying at East Sydney Technical College eventually becoming a fulltime student in 1946. Lyndon Dadswell, one of Klippel's tutors was also a friend and frequent visitor to the Emu Plains property when it was the home of Margo and Gerald Lewers.

Klippel lived in London from 1947 – 1950 and further developed his preoccupation with the relationship between machinery and nature. By the early fifties he had returned to Sydney and built friendships with Sydney abstractionists such as John Olsen, William Rose, Yvonne Audette, John Passmore and Peter Upward. In 1956 Klippel exhibited in the highly influential exhibition *Direction 1*, moved to New York soon after, and took up a teaching position at the Minneapolis School of Art. Klippel returned to Australia in 1963, and began teaching at the National Art School and in the Architecture department at the University of New South Wales. Klippel became arguably one of the most influential Sydney based abstract sculptors specialising in assemblage sculptures made from recycled mechanical parts.

BIM HILDER Born Parramatta, NSW, 1909 Died Sydney, NSW, 1990

Bim Hilder was a sculptor, painter and printmaker. His father was artist JJ Hilder who painted in the style of Australian Impressionism. Bim developed an interest in architecture and furniture design when he began working with Walter Burley Griffin at Castlecrag, Sydney during the 1920s. He also worked on theatre sets, opera and film and during World War Two worked designing camouflage and new construction methods. After the war Hilder became involved with the Contemporary Art Society (CAS), as were founding members Margo and Gerald Lewers.

Hilder wrote in the first issue of *Artviews* the journal of the Artists' Guild of Australia, in 1962, "Winning the Reserve Bank Prize for a Wall Enrichment in their new Martin Place Building brought me other commissions, and from there on, I seemed to be an established sculptor. 'All natural phenomena fascinates me, the flight of birds, wave formation, patterns of erosion, characteristics of plant growth, marine life, crystal structure...I have two main approaches to sculpture – one is to allow the shape and grain of the wood to influence me in the form that develops; the other, for larger works, is to use copper beating, welding, cutting away and adding, like a three-dimensional drawing in space. I don't have any great aims or direction – just do the best I can with the ability I have."

The ten years following the Reserve Bank project saw many public sculpture commissions around Australia, but the Reserve Bank wall-enrichment and the Burley Griffin Memorial Fountain in Castlecrag (1965) are, arguably, his best known public art works. In 1962 Hilder began teaching art part-time at the East Sydney Technical College and from 1973 he also gave classes in sculpture at the University of New South Wales for their Student Union. In 1978 Hilder was awarded an MBE for his services to art.

LYNDON DADSWELL Born Stanmore, NSW, 1908 Died Elizabeth Bay, NSW, 1986

Lyndon Dadswell's significant contribution to Australian sculpture encompassed his own substantial and varied body of studio work and his innovative activities as Head of Fine Arts at East Sydney Technical College. He was a promoter of major civic commissions as the founding Vice-President of The Sculptors Society. Dadswell's work attracted critical acclaim, being awarded the International Co-operation Art Award and the Britannica Australia award for art in 1967, and an Australia Council for the Arts Award in 1973. His work is represented in the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia and most State galleries.

As with Margo and Gerald Lewers, Dadswell was particularly inspired by the work of British sculptors Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, and the modernist ideal: 'truth to materials'. Dadswell socialised with the Lewers, often visiting their home at Emu Plains, along with other artists, writers and architects, including artists Frank and Margel Hinder. Throughout his career he engaged with formalist aesthetics such as shape, proportion, scale, structure, texture, colour and context, his work capturing a sense of happening, rather than of being made. After four decades of teaching, Margel Hinder noted: there is hardly a sculptor in Sydney who is not indebted to Dadswell in some measure. His teaching contributed to the development of notable sculptors: Marea Gazzard, Robert Klippel, Ian McKay, Paul Selwood and Ron Robertson-Swann.



Lyndon Dadswell
Untitled [Bird]
Circa 1965
brown gummed paper on metal support and wooden base 137 x 110 x 95cm
Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979 Copyright courtesy of the Artist's Estate

All artwork dimensions are in cm(hxwxd)

All artworks are from Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The **Lewers Bequest Collection**

Yvonne Audette

Dream of an Ancient Tablet Circa 1960s

oil on composition board 98.5 x 83.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1991

Light Waves

1961 mixed media: gouache and ink on paper 31 x 22.5cm Gift of Jan Martin, 1991

Tan 1961

watercolour and white on paper 30.5 x 24.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1990

Nancy Borlase

Blue Centre

1960 oil and mixed media on canvas laid on board 90.7 x 55.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1995

Joan Brassil

Untitled [Bird's Nest]

Unknown carved wood sculpture with twigs and carved eggs 13 x 24 x 24cm Purchased with the assistance of The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest, 1993

John Coburn

Untitled

1963 oil on board 121 x 60.1 cm (image), 141 x 80 x 6 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1988

Lyndon Dadswell

Construction

Circa 1975 stainless steel sculpture, raised on a concrete plinth 76 x 138 x 24cm Plinth: 58 x 32 x 22cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquisitions Fund, 1984

Sketch for Sculpture

1966

ink and wash on paper 15.2 x 10.2 cm (image), 32 x 26 x 5 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 2000

Untitled

1968

brown paper gummed and wire sculpture on chipboard 160 x 86 x 18 cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquisitons Fund, 1984

Untitled [Bird]

Circa 1965

brown gummed paper on metal support and wooden base 137 x 110 x 95cm Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979

Bert Flugelman

Cartoon for Sculpture with Cactus

1984

mixed media: charcoal, pastel and pencil and paper 112 x 77cm (image), 136 x 100 x 4cm (frame) Purchased by the Penrith Regional Gallery Acquisitons Fund with the assistance of the Visual Arts Board, 1985

Untitled [Sculpture with Cactus]

1984 stainless steel sculpture 148.5cm x 107 x 77cm Purchased by the Penrith Regional Gallery Acquisitons Fund with the assistance of the

Visual Arts Board, 1985

All artwork dimensions are in cm (h x w x d)

All artworks are from Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest Collection

Thomas Gleghorn

Devastated Landscape 1960

oil on board 53 x 63.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1988

The Sacrifice - The Firebird

1959
oil on composition board
120.5 x 90.5cm,
125 x 94 x 7 cm (frame)
Penrith Regional Gallery
Acquistions Fund, 1988

Spanish Drawing

1962 mixed media: watercolour and gouache on paper 31 x 26.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery

Acquistions Fund, 1988

Leonard Hessing

Harbour Mask II 1963

mixed media: wash and collage on paper 61.5 x 49.6cm (image), 84.3 x 68.5 x 2.5 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1988

The Indifferent Mechanism

1960 oil on canvas 83.5 x 129.5cm (image), 85.5 x 131 x 4 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1994

The Night is a Long Snake 1964

coloured lithograph 54.5 x 78cm (image), 77.5 x 105.5 x 2 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1988

Bim Hilder

Female Torso with Child

Unknown
carved wood
23.5 x 14 x 12.8cm
Purchased with the assistance
of The Friends of Penrith
Regional Gallery, Home of The
Lewers Bequest, 1993

Mother & Child

Unknown carved mahogany 20 x 12.7 x 12.2cm Purchased with the assistance of The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest, 1993

One of [2] Kidney Shaped Ashtrays

Unknown brass 6.2 x 9 x 2.8cm Purchased with the assistance of The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest, 1993

One of [2] Kidney Shaped Ashtravs

Unknown
6.2 x 9 x 2.8cm
Purchased with the assistance
of The Friends of Penrith
Regional Gallery, Home of The
Lewers Bequest: 1993

Reclining Nude

Unknown
carved cedar
13.2 x 26.5 x 9cm
Purchased with the assistance
of The Friends of Penrith
Regional Gallery, Home of The
Lewers Bequest, 1993

Untitled

Unknown copper 4 x 4 x 9cm (2 pieces), 4 x 4 x 12cm and 4 x 2 x 12cm Purchased with the assistance of The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest, 1993

Untitled [seated figure]

Unknown
cedar
13.5 x 10.2 x 8.5cm
Purchased with the assistance
of The Friends of Penrith
Regional Gallery, Home of The
Lewers Bequest, 1993

Untitled [Set of interlocking pyramids] Unknown

copper various dimensions Purchased with the assistance of The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest, 1993

Robert Klippel

Opus **298** 1970-1974

bronze, steel and found objects 48.2 x 17.5 x 15cm
Purchased with the assistance of The Friends of Penrith
Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest, 1991

Structures in a Landscape

1965 lithograph 54 x 78 cm (image), 71.5 x 95 x 4 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1991

Eva Kubbos

Coast

1968 synthetic polymer PVA on board 50 x 70cm Gift of Leo G. Christie, 1990

Shifting from Dark to Light 1962

coloured linocut 37.5 x 49cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1990

Untitled

1962 coloured linocut on paper 35 x 45cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1990

Untitled

1962 gouache, watercolour and chalk on paper 74 x 97.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1990

All artwork dimensions are in cm (h x w x d)

All artworks are from Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest Collection

Ron Lambert

EGM 1968 oil on board 122 x 137.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1996

Peter Laverty

Wet Night City 1959 oil on masonite 91.3 x 71cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1989

Gerald Lewers

Dancing Forms 1951 aluminium and swamp wood 34.7 x 17 x 17cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquisitions Fund, 1984

Margo Lewers

Anew Circa 1964 PVA on board 50 x 68.8cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1988

Red Circle 1969 acrylic and oil on canvas 136 x 161cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1985

Under Consideration 1966 acrylic and oil on masonite 91.5 x 183cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1985

Elwyn Lynn

The Ancient Mariner 1958 oil on board 31.5 x 24.3cm (image), 49 x 41.5 x 3 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1985

Cliffs at Fall Circa 1961 mixed media on canvas 76.5 x 101.5cm (image), 78 x 102.5 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1990

Herculaneum 1961 mixed media on canvas 101 x 136cm Gift of Victoria Lynn, 1998

lan McKay

Marionette IV Unknown steel sculpture 148.5 x 107 x 77cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquisitons Fund, 1984

All artwork dimensions are in cm (h x w x d)

All artworks are from Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest Collection

John Olsen

Child's Fifth Birthday 1957 oil on canvas 72 x 90.5cm (image), 74 x 94 x 5 cm (frame) Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1989

Portrait of the Dog who Lives Near the Sea

1963
mixed media: gouache with
pastel on paper
55 x 75.5cm (image),
84 x 101.3 x 6.5 (frame)
Purchased with the assistance
of The Friends of Penrith
Regional Gallery, Home of The
Lewers Bequest, 1990

Stanislaus Rapotec

Black Phite 1960 PVA on board 56.4 x 76.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1987

Untitled

synthetic polymer on masonite 137 x 182.5cm Purchased with the assistance of the Australian Art Research Fund, 1990

Henry Salkauskas

Autumn Landscape 1961 linocut 56.6 x 35.5cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1988

Untitled

1961 linocut 51.5 x 36.2cm Penrith Regional Gallery Acquistions Fund, 1988

Guy Warren

The Clearing III
1965
watercolour on paper
54.5 x 74.5cm
Penrith Regional Gallery
Acquistions Fund, 1988



Frank Hinder

Darani & Tanya

1945

Pencil and coloured wash on paper

Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of
The Lewers Bequest Collection

Copyright courtesy of the Artist's Estate



ART LIVES HERE

Penrith Regional Gallery. Home of The Lewers Beguest, was the private home of two artists - Gerald and Margo Lewers - and their daughters, Darani Lewers and Tanya Crothers (nee Lewers). Gerald purchased the property in 1942 as a base from which to reside during the week while working nearby at the Farley and Lewers Quarry. During their time living here - from 1950 when the family moved to live permanently to Emu Plains through to 1978 when Margo passed away – the property became a site of great creative energy and artistic exchange. Margo and Gerald used the entire property as their studio by creating their public commissions and works on site in the house and yard. Their domestic lives were lived as an extension of their creative practice. Margo and Gerald's garden, and later the design and construction of Ancher House, remains a testament to their commitment to maintaining a Modernist lifestyle.

As with Gerald, Margo was highly sought after for public art commissions: her mosaic work, as seen on site in the Gallery kitchen and courtyard, form the precursor for two major commissions which were completed for the Rex Hotel, Canberra (1960) and for the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Western Australia (1961). After Gerald's death in 1962, Margo completed Gerald's outstanding Reserve Bank of Australia, Canberra commission. The yard behind Ancher House was used to create a full-scale structure of chicken wire and paper, to fabricate and complete Gerald's sculpture.

Margo and Gerald's home was also the site of large gatherings of artists who travelled to Emu Plains for parties and weekends away. Here, their guests were encouraged to work in the garden and many created artworks in the area – sketching the local landscape and scenes at the house. The property at Emu Plains was known as a lively hub of debate and creativity for

a wide circle of family and friends such as Margo's brother Carl Plate and his family. Two artists, who were frequent guests of Margo and Gerald and whose work shows the influence of their time spent here, are Frank Hinder and Sonia Farley.

The Penrith Regional Gallery Collection holds a substantial number of works on paper by Frank Hinder, gifted by the artist in the 1980s, that were created on site during his stays with the Lewers family. Hinder took great interest in sketching Gerald, evidenced in the many drawings that not only depict the close friendship between the two men but also demonstrates the deep admiration and respect Hinder had towards Gerald. When compiled, the works offer an insight into the techniques, skill, energy and concentration Gerald employed when carving his sculptures in wood and stone, as well as domestic ware such as bowls.

Being related to the Lewers family, Gerald's niece, Sonia Farley was a frequent visitor to the site when it was the family home. Working extensively as a sculptor, Farley was attracted by the modernist pursuit of remaining honest to both material and form. Her commitment to nature, organic shapes and modern sculptural form morphed abstraction with functionality. The influence of her uncle, Gerald Lewers, is keenly evident in the objects on display in this exhibition.

Lauren Parker Registrar

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

SONIA FARLEY Born Sydney, NSW, 1927 Died, 1997

Sonia Farley was raised with an appreciation for environmental issues and developed a keen interest in nature. An inherent respect and appreciation of nature and the qualities of natural materials became a foundation principle of her work.

Farley began her career as a carver during the 1950s at a time when woodworking, as an art-form, attracted little interest. Wood workers were traditionally male and orientated towards the business of trade, which relied on working with a lathe. For carving, it was difficult to attain good quality tools, supplies and information. It was, therefore, particularly unusual for a woman to take up creative woodwork. Farley, worked extensively as a sculptor, and was influenced both by her uncle, Gerald Lewers, with whom she would carve, and by her own interest in the textures and colours of native timbers and the desire to carve natural forms. Farley was also attracted by the modernist pursuit of remaining honest to both material and form. Her commitment to nature, organic shapes and modern sculptural form morphed abstraction with functionality; resulting in the creation of hand carved works, a small representation of which are on display here.

Sonia was a frequent visitor to the site when it was the family home. Her enthusiasm for supporting Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest was demonstrated through a financial donation that resulted in the construction of workshop studios. The studios located on the Gallery grounds are named in her honour.

GERALD LEWERS Born Hobart, Tasmania, 1905 Died Cairns, 1962, lived and worked in Sydney and Penrith

Gerald Lewers began studying art in 1924 and in the late 1920s, while attending evening classes at the studio of Antonio Dattilo-Rubbo, Gerald met and later married Margo Lewers (nee Plate). In 1928 Gerald joined his brother-in-law Mervyn Farley in a guarry and construction firm, called Farley and Lewers, only to depart for Europe shortly after. In 1934 both Margo and Gerald attended the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London, where Gerald studied under the tutelage of John Skeaping (1901 – 1980). Skeaping's interest in the natural world greatly influenced Lewers, whose work from this time aimed to capture the essence of movement within the static object. Spending his youth exploring the bush greatly influenced Gerald's appreciation of natural materials, and his craftsmanship developed out of a keen understanding of the qualities inherent within the wood and stone with which he chose to work. Upon returning to Australia Gerald again began work at Farley and Lewers, eventually taking over management of the quarry at Castlereagh, near Emu Plains in 1942, before retiring in 1950 to work full time as an artist.

A member of the Society of Artists, Sydney, and of the Contemporary Art Society, Gerald took part in many group exhibitions. He helped to establish the Society of Sculptors and Associates in 1951 and was its founding treasurer. From 1953 until his death Gerald received over fifteen major commissions. among them Relaxation, a reclining 'sandstone figure of heroic size' (University House, Australian National University, Canberra, 1953), and the sandstone relief on the York Street front of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Sydney (1954). He and Margo were jointly commissioned to create a garden of pebbles, cacti and sandstone shapes for the MLC Building, North Sydney (1957). Gerald worked with swiftness and certainty, and later began to use metal, especially for public fountains such as those at ICI House. East Melbourne (1959) the John Christie Wright Memorial Fountain in Macquarie Park Place, Sydney (1960).

At the time of Gerald's sudden death in 1962, following a horse-riding accident, he had been working on a commission for a public sculpture for the Reserve Bank of Australia's Canberra office. Using the maquette created by Gerald and her intimate understanding of Gerald's work, Margo completed the commission in 1964.

Quote abridged from Michael Crayford, *Lewers, Gerald Francis* (1905–1962), Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 15, Melbourne University Press, 2000, pp 89–90.

MARGO LEWERS Born Sydney, NSW, 1908 Died Emu Plains, NSW, 1978, lived and worked in Sydney and Emu Plains

Margo Lewers was raised by her mother, following the early death of her father - German writer, artist and adventurer Adolph Plate. Margo spent her 20s working as a designer in a small craft workshop and then later established her own studio business, designing pottery, interior furnishings and hand printed materials. As a cadet artist for the Daily Telegraph, Margo met Gerald in Sydney when she enrolled in evening drawing classes being taught by Dattilo Rubbo. In 1934, a year after they married, both Gerald and Margo travelled to Britain to study at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London, where Margo studied painting and drawing.

Margo returned to Sydney in 1945 and began studying painting with Desiderius Orban. Margo remained true to the Modernist ethos within her paintings and in all her creative pursuits - including developing the family home and garden here in Emu Plains. Margo spent the next two decades exploring the limits of various media and became recognised as one of Australia's leading abstract painters.

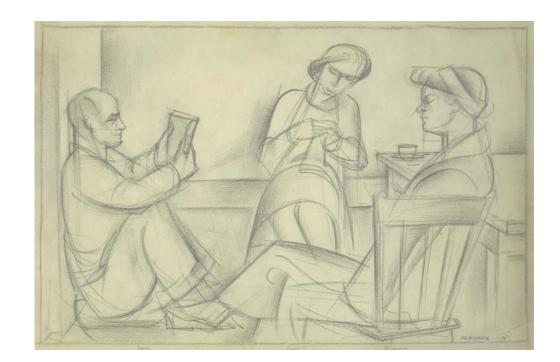
A founding member of the NSW Contemporary Art Society, Margo held 24 major exhibitions during her lifetime which saw her work exhibited throughout Australia and internationally. Margo won 14 art prizes, with her paintings now held by all State Galleries. Margo was sought after for public art commissions: her mosaic work as seen in the Gallery kitchen and courtyard form the precursor for two major commissions which were completed for the Rex Hotel, Canberra (1960) and for the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Western Australia (1961). After Gerald's death in 1962, Margo completed Gerald's outstanding commission for the Reserve Bank of Australia, Canberra.

The property at Emu Plains was known as a lively hub of debate and creativity for a wide circle of family and friends. In the final years of her life, Margo expressed her wish for the house and garden to remain an active centre for art following her death, which resulted in the establishment of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest in 1980, and opened the following year with a new gallery building in 1981.

FRANK HINDER Born Summer Hill, NSW, 1906 Died, 1992

Frank Hinder began studying art at Royal Art Society School, Sydney in 1924, continuing his studies at East Sydney Technical College from 1925-27. During 1927 Hinder travelled to America, where he began studying at the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, and then at the School of Fine Arts, New York, in 1929. From 1930 to 1931 Hinder studied at the Master Institute of the Roerich Museum, New York, before returning to Australia in 1934 with his wife, Margel Hinder, and their daughter, Enid. During his time in America, Hinder embraced the idea of 'Dynamic Symmetry' which held that the universe, and everything within that universe, was ordered and mathematical. The ideas of rhythm within nature, mathematic repetition and abstraction became the foundation of Hinder's practice. In 1939 Hinder worked on Exhibition 1, a group show headlining the works of Sydney's modernist artists. For the duration of World War Two, Hinder was assigned to the Royal Australian Engineer's Camouflage Wing where he used his knowledge of abstract shapes, colour, and repetition to create the Hinder Spider camouflage design.

After the war, Hinder began teaching at East Sydney Technical College. Frank along with his wife Margel were frequent visitors to the home of fellow artists Margo and Gerald Lewers, in Emu Plains. While there, Hinder sketched the Lewers family, especially Gerald at work on sculptures, resting and socialising. Hinder depicted people with a focus on the shapes within each body but also the shapes and rhythms created between people and between people and their surroundings. Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest has a significant holding of these drawings which from a wonderful archive of life at the property while it was the Lewers' family home.



Frank Hinder
Untitled (Jerrry, Noel, Margo)
1946
Pencil on paper
Penrith Regional Gallery,
Home of The Lewers
Bequest Collection
Copyright courtesy of the
Artist's Estate

ART LIVES HERE LIST OF WORKS

All artwork dimensions are in cm (h x w x d)

All artworks are from Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest Collection

Max Dupain

Sonia Farley works on exhibition at Macquarie Galleries 1964

archival photographs
Donated through the Australian
Government's Cultural Gifts
Program by David Farley, 2010

Sonia Farley

Bowl - small dark wood (date unknown) wood

3 x 12.5 x 7cm Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by David Farley, 2010

Egg

(date unknown) wood 3.5 x 6 x 4cm Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by David Farley, 2010

Guinea Fowl Bowl Salt Shaker

Unknown {Not recorded} coconut, feather 15.5 x 8.5 x 9cm Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by David Farley, 2010

Salad Servers

Circa 1986
pecan nut
fork: 5.7 x 32 x 5.5cm
spoon: 4 x 32 x 5.5cm
Donated through the Australian
Government's Cultural Gifts
Program by David Farley, 2010

Salt Shaker

Unknown (date unknown)
wood
2.5 x 8.5 x 6cm
Donated through the Australian
Government's Cultural Gifts
Program by David Farley, 2010

Spice bowls - pair (date unknown) woody pear, bees wax estapol Piece 1: 7 x 11.5 x 4cm Piece 2: 7.5 x 12 x 4cm Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by David Farley, 2010

Terminalia Seed

1993
Conkerberry
5 x 6.5 x 8cm
Donated through the Australian
Government's Cultural Gifts
Program by David Farley, 2010

'Slipper' bowl

(date unknown)
wood
9 x 31.3 x 8.5cm
Donated through the Australian
Government's Cultural Gifts
Program by David Farley, 2010

'Spoon' bowl

(date unknown) wood 8.6 x 43 x 16cm Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by David Farley, 2010

Frank Hinder

The Dinghy, Nepean, Emu Plains

watercolour and pencil on paper 12.4 x 20.5 cm Gift of Frank Hinder, 1988

Emu Plains

1945 watercolour and pencil on paper 24.5 x 29cm Gift of Frank Hinder, 1981

Emu Plains

1946
watercolour and pencil on paper
22 x 29.8cm
Gift of Frank Hinder, 1981

Emu Plains

Unknown watercolour on paper 25.2 x 33.4cm Gift of Frank Hinder, 1988

Emu Plains

Unknown watercolour and pencil on paper 23.4 x 30.2cm Gift of Frank Hinder, 1988

Farley and Lewers - Emu

Plains
1944
watercolour and pencil on paper
12.9 x 20.7 cm
Gift of Frank Hinder, 1988

Lewers Crusher in Emu Plains Circa 1945

watercolour and pencil on paper 17.5 x 25.5cm Gift of Frank Hinder, 1981 Nepean. Emu Plains

Circa 1944
watercolour on paper
13 x 21cm
Gift of Frank Hinder, 1981

Nepean, Emu Plains

Circa 1944 watercolour on paper 18.5 x 21cm Gift of Frank Hinder, 1981

Untitled

Circa 1946 watercolour on paper 24 x 30.7cm Gift of Frank Hinder, 1981

Untitled

1945 watercolour on paper 24.5 x 33 cm Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979

Selected works from the collection

circa 1945 various dimensions Gift of Frank Hinder, 1981, 1983 and 1988

Gerald Lewers

Four legged wooden bowl

Unknown wood 10 x 20 x 39.5 cm Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Kathryn J Robertson, 2016

Model for Fountain No. 2

Circa 1960
green patinated copper
sculpture
6 x 26.2 x 10cm
Overall size: 46.5 x 24 x 10.5cm
Gift of Tanya Crothers and
Darani Lewers, 1979

Model for Section of Wall Sculpture in Reserve Bank,

Canberra
Circa 1962
copper
80 x 70cm
Gift of Tanya Crothers and
Darani Lewers, 1979

Seated Figure

Circa 1950 silky oak 20.5 x 77 x 19 Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979

UntitledUnknown

wood 23.4 x 8.4cm Purchased with the assistance of The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest, 1993

ART LIVES HERE LIST OF WORKS

All artwork dimensions are in cm (h x w x d)

All artworks are from Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest Collection

Margo Lewers

Interior (Centre) (diptych)
Circa 1965
synthetic polymer paint on
composition board
188 x 250 cm each panel
Donated by The Women's
College within the University of
Sydney, 2014

Quarry Face 1956 oil on composition board 49.5 x 44.5 cm Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979

Ephemera

Full-scale model of Gerald Lewers' 1964 commission for the Reserve Bank, Canberra as erected by Margo Lewers behind Ancher House photographer and date unknown archival photograph Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979

Farley and Lewers quarry photographer and date unknown archival photographs Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979

Various ephemerα circa 1950-1960 ceramic tiles and handtools Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979

Work Lives On After Artist, Sydney Morning Herald 30 July 1964 newspaper clipping annotated by Margo Lewers Gift of Tanya Crothers and Darani Lewers, 1979



Frank Hinder
Nepean, Emu Plains
Circa 1944
Gift of Frank Hinder 1981
Copyright courtesy of the
Artist's Estate

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Artists

Yvonne Audette Warwick Fuller Thomas Gleghorn Eva Kubbos John Olsen Guy Warren

Artist's Estates

The Estate of Lyndon Dadswell
The Estate of Sonia Farley
The Estate of Frank Hinder
The Estate of Peter Kaiser
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The Estate of Ian McKay
The Estate of Stanislaus Rapotec
The Estate of Henry Salkauskas
The Estate of Peter Upward

Collections and Lenders

Ray Annson Collection Martin Campbell Collection Mary Casey Collection Chris and Susan Bonsall Collection Lynette and Daniel Beltran Mary Bergin and Alan Amos Cristie Fuller Collection Forster Family Collection **Ginny Gould Collection Robert Mitchell Collection** Debra and Greg Morgan Collection Michael and Marilyn Reardon-Small Collection Rosemary and Andrew Penman Collection **Robert Simpson Collection Brendan Smith Collection** Laurie and Rita Spiteri Collection SteelReid Collection Ron Fuller and Susan Templeman Tom and Sheree Tumanik Collection

and Private Collections and Lenders

Galleries

Annette Larkin Fine Art
Defiance Gallery
Charles Nodrum Gallery
Galerie Gmurzynska, Zurich
Lost Bear Gallery
Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art

Opening Event

Hon Peter Anderson AM, Chair of the Board of PP&VA Cr Ross Fowler OAM, Mayor of Penrith Warwick Fuller

Exhibition Partner:

Lost Bear Gallery, Director Geoff White

PRG Exhibition Team:

Director, Sheona White Exhibition Manager, Marian Simpson Lead Technician, Mary-Anne Cornford Exhibitions Assistant, Camille Gillyboeuf

PRG Collection Team:

Collection Manager, Dr Shirley Daborn Registrar, Lauren Parker

PRG Venue Services Team:

Venue Manager, Gallery, Fiona Knoke Gallery Assistant – Retail, Dale Reid Gallery Assistant – Events, Kristin English

PRG Education Team:

Education Manager, Naomi McCarthy Education Coordinator, Christine Ghali

PP&VA Marketing Team:

Marketing Director, Krissie Scudds Marketing Manager, Malvina Tan PR Coordinator, Jaala Hallett

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Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest

Participant, Carolyn Gartside, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Penrith City Council

Participant, Lynda Henderson, President of The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery,

Home of The Lewers Bequest

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The Friends of Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest

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PENRITH CITY COUNCIL





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