

Research Report 2004 – 2005

Welcome to the 2004 – 2005 Research Report.

The report highlights research undertaken by Arts Centre curators and by external researchers.

The year in review saw the successful completion of research in three priority areas:

- **Inheritance** - contribution of individuals or companies to the development of Australia's performing arts

Kylie Minogue – an exhibition was researched and staged and includes costumes, designs, awards and photographs. The project commenced with the acquisition of over 300 costumes and accessories which were documented by Margot Anderson. *KYLIE: the exhibition* featured a catalogue of the collection and an online module.

- **Artistry** - development of art forms as reflected in the Arts Centre's Collections [circus, dance, music, opera, theatre]

Musical theatre – an exhibition researched by Margaret Marshall and Simon Plant which explored the evolution of the Australian musical. Extensive research was undertaken in the Performing Arts Collection [including the J.C. Williamson Archive and Frank Thring, Gladys Moncrieff, Betty Pounder, Cid Ellwood, Barry Humphries, Peter O'Shaughnessy, and Don Battye and Peter Pinne Collections], the State Library of Victoria, National Library of Australia, Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company and Black Swan Theatre Company.

Circus – the Arts Centre and the Australian Centre, University of Melbourne awarded a PhD scholarship to Andrea Lemon to study Australian circus histories and culture, including oral histories, from the 1920s onward.

- **Interactions** – exploration of cultural and artistic crossovers

Two exhibitions were researched and presented which examined the intersection between performing arts and visual arts in very different ways.

Creating a Scene – examined the work of Australian artists as stage designers from 1940 to 1965. The catalogue featured two essays by Arts Centre curators. Carolyn Laffan's essay provided a performing arts context for the development of stage design while Lesley Harding's explored the visual arts environment during this period. The Performing Arts Collection [The Australian Ballet, Louis Kahan and Laurel Martyn collections], National Gallery of Australia and Performing Arts Collection of South Australia, Adelaide Festival Centre were primary sources of research and designs.

The Sound of Painting – explored the contemporary visual arts and considered the influence of music in the recent work of ten Australian artists. The works in the exhibition explored music in all its diversity.

Research by Arts Centre curators

Exhibition Catalogues

Anderson, M and Barrand, J, 2005, *Kylie*, Victorian Arts Centre Trust, Melbourne

Harding, Lesley (ed) 2004, *Creating a Scene: Australian Artists as Stage Designers 1940 - 1965*, Victorian Arts Centre Trust, Melbourne

Harding, Lesley (ed) 2005, *The Sound of Painting*, Victorian Arts Centre Trust, Melbourne

Harding, Lesley (ed) 2004, *National Art School Degree Show 2004*, National Art School, Sydney

Harding, Lesley (ed) 2004, *National Art School Honours Exhibition 2004*, National Art School, Sydney

Harding, Lesley (ed) 2004, *Louis Kahan: Drawing on Life*, McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park, Langwarrin

Catalogue Essays

Harding, Lesley 2004, 'The Visibility of Practice', in *The Visibility of Practice: Recent work by National Art School academic staff*, ed. Miriam Williamson, National Art School, Sydney

Harding, Lesley 2005, *Visual and multiple pleasures: Merrin Eirth's les petites morts*, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne

Harding, Lesley 2004, 'Material journeys', *Washi: a paper exhibition*, Craft Victoria, April

Harding, Lesley 2004, 'Creating a scene: the art of stage design', in *Creating a scene: Australian artists as stage designers 1940 – 1965*, ed. Lesley Harding, Victorian Arts Centre Trust

Laffan, Carolyn 2004, 'Setting the scene: Australian stage design 1940 – 1965', in *Creating a scene: Australian artists as stage designers 1940 – 1965*, ed. Lesley Harding, Victorian Arts Centre Trust, Melbourne

Marshall, Margaret 2004, 'Putting it all together', in *Making a song and dance. The quest for an Australian musical*, Victorian Arts Centre Trust, Melbourne

Journals

Harding, Lesley 2004, 'A summer in Taos: Frank Hinder and the influence of Diego Rivera', *Art & Australia*, vol 41, No 3

Research Service

During the year the Research Service received 387 inquiries with 40% coming from the arts industry and 30% from the education sector. Over 18,000 objects from the Performing Arts Collection were accessed by external researchers.

Articles

Bollen, Dr. Jonathon 2005, 'Reedy River' in *Australasian Drama Studies*, April

Button, James 2004, 'We loved them (yeah, yeah, yeah)', *The Age*, 12 June

Kumm, Elizabeth 2004 – 2005, 'The Quite Wonderful World of Olga Nethersole', *On Stage*, Victoria Theatre's Trust, Melbourne

Scatena, Dino 2004, [40th anniversary of the Beatles], *Weekend Australian Magazine*, July

Books

Gyger, Alison 2005, *Australia's Operatic Phoenix: From World War II to War and Peace*, Pellinor, Sydney

Martineau, Helen 2005, *On the Inside: An Intimate Portrait of Sheila Florance*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne

St Pierre, Paul Matthew 2004, *Portrait of the Artist as an Australian: L'Oeuvre bizarre de Barry Humphries*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal

Postgraduate Research

Lemon, Andrea, *Tough as Buggery and Bugged to Boot. Traditional Australian Circus – history and culture, 1945 - 2005*, PhD thesis, University of Melbourne [in progress]

Mullett, Jane 2005, *Circus Alternatives: the development of new circus in Australia, America, Canada and France*, PhD thesis, LaTrobe University

Film and Television

George Negus Tonight, 'Reg Livermore' (video recording), Series 2 Episode 76, July 2004, ABC TV