



arc

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arc at 30

Celebrating 30 years
The Art Resource Collective
1982 - 2012

69 SMITH ST GALLERY, MELBOURNE

August 15 - September 2, 2012

Arc at 30: Is this Australia's most tenacious artist-run space?

Rodney Forbes

The original Art Resources Collective (Arc) at Yinnar in Gippsland had its origin in an active group of students finishing their studies at the Gippsland School of Art (now Monash's Gippsland Centre for Art and Design) and wanting somewhere to continue working in a collaborative manner.

The Gippsland School of Art was a radical experiment in Art Education, founded by Dutch painter/printmaker Kees Hos. He believed profoundly in freedom, and proved it by risking his life to hide and pipeline to safety fugitive Jews in nazi occupied Holland. His Gippsland art school had 24 hour access, no grades, no crit sessions and a sense of equality between lecturers and students. It valued collaboration and cross-disciplinary practice long before these became fashionable in contemporary art. Hos hired exciting contemporary artists to teach in the school and maintained an ambitious international visiting artist program. Word soon spread and the school attracted ambitious artists as lecturers and students, who were to go on to become some of Australia's leading artists and curators. Above all, the ethos of the school honoured resourcefulness and this was a quality certainly in evidence during Arc's first tenuous years of existence.

Inheriting many of the values of Kees Hos's free art school, Arc proved to be a refuge and lifeline for contemporary Gippsland artists who wanted to remain and practice in the ravishing Gippsland landscape when their courses ended. It helped quality artists to remain in the area, contributing to the exceptional contemporary art scene Central Gippsland enjoys today.

I remember the kerosene lamp-lit inaugural meeting to explore the idea of Arc at artist Rodney Scherer's hobbit-like dwelling in

the Jeeralang Hills. Scherer was the unstoppable motivating force behind Arc in its early years as it rented an abandoned school in Boolarra, then secured ownership of an ex Butter Factory, its present home, in Yinnar.

It has been suggested that Arc was the first artist-run initiative, as we now think of them, in Victoria. The collective work and passion of many artists and administrators and the support of the local community has sustained Arc over a long period when many similar ventures have come and gone.

Arc continues to provide a quality working and exhibiting venue for contemporary artists, curators and musicians in Gippsland and to honour the principles on which it was founded. Long may it thrive.

Churchill 2012

Rodney Forbes is a painter, curator and writer and the Director of Gippsland Centre for Art and Design at Monash University

Opening Speech Arc at 30

69 Smith St Gallery

I started my studies at Gippsland school of Art in 1980, lured there from Melbourne by its reputation as a radical art school, and my last year of undergraduate study was 1982, the year arc started.

As the end of art school loomed, I went along to a late night meeting at Rod Scherer's hobbit-like house in Bennet's Creek where the idea of arc was first discussed. I had no idea back then that I would end up as the head of the art school and Rod had no idea that he would become the Director of the regional gallery. It just seemed like finishing art school meant a return to the city and a boring day job

Rod and I had quite a good no-income collaboration going, designing and printing posters and t shirts. I remember that we did the other than a nine dash five poster, which celebrated the art school's 24 hour access, sadly a casualty of OHS policies, the inaugural Boolarra wood chop poster, and a tee shirt lampooning the publicity for the NGVs van Gogh blockbuster. That t shirt ended up in the wearable art collection of the Australian National Gallery - I guess that gave me my first inkling that you could forge an art career while living in the country.

A lot of other artists had the same feeling and I guess that's what created the idea of arc. Arc really is a treasure. With no recurrent government funding, it survives in a tiny country town like Yinnar and gives many Gippsland contemporary artists their first solo show as well as providing the focus for many great collaborative exhibitions.

I'm very honoured that arc has invited me to open this wonderful exhibition celebrating it's first thirty years. I was thirty when I first moved to Gippsland (you can do the sums)! I had my first solo show outside art school at arc and next Tuesday I'll be opening my 15th solo show at Australian Galleries just down that street there. (do come along!)

So don't let anyone ever tell you you can't launch an art career from the country. And I think arc's inspirational message is that when a group of people get together and cooperate they can defy all the odds.

Thank you

Rodney Forbes

Acting Director: Ryan Johnston
Open 7 days, 10am-4pm, public holidays 1pm-4pm, Free entry Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

12 July to 9 September
Proposition For a Banner March and a Black Cube Hot Air Balloon
Raafat Ishak and Tom Nicholson.

69 Smith Street

Artist Run Space, 69 Smith Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065
t: 0405 629 091
e: info@69smithstreet.com.au
www.69smithstreet.com.au
Wed to Sat 11am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm

4 July to 22 July

Red
Liz Zanella
Three Men and a Red Head
Kaliopy, Otto Boron, Thomas Delohery, and Patrick Jennings Brady.

Second Edition

Katy Bowman

Similitudes II

Susan Pavlovich

Sacrosanct

Amy Mills

Frottage Workshop

Susan Pavlovich, Jill Maclean, Marianne Little.

25 July to 12 August

Incandescent
Julie-Anne Armstrong-Roper

The Print Salute

Paula McLoughlin

Journey with a Pencil

Mireille Beaufremez

15 August to 2 September

arc at 30
A group show by John Abery, Sharon Anderson, Dana Ashlakoff, Prue Clements, Shelley McDermott, Sue Pavlovich, Jenny Peterson, Dianne Shaw, Fiona West, Anthea Williams.

Likeness

A group show by members.

Sophie Gannon Gallery

2 Albert Street, Richmond VIC 3141
t: 03 9421 0857
www.sophiegannongallery.com.au
Tues to Sat 11am-5pm.

24 July to 25 August

Sarcophagus

Julia deVille

1 August to 5 August

Melbourne Art Fair Stands C42 and 43

www.stephenmclaughnangallery.com.au
Wed to Fri 1pm-5pm, Sat 11am-5pm and by appointment.

4 July to 14 July

Jill Anderson

Opening Saturday 7 July.

11 July to 28 July

South Gallery: Janelle Humphreys

Opening Saturday 14 July.

18 July to 28 July

David Martin

Opening Saturday 21 July.

1 August to 11 August

Peter Hutchison

Opening Saturday 4 August.

15 August to 1 September

Jason Haufe

Opening Saturday 18 August.

St Heliers Street Store and Gallery

The Abbotsford Convent,
1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford VIC 3067
t: 03 9415 8022
e: info@stheliersstreet.com
www.stheliersstreet.com
Wed to Sun 10am-6pm



Rhys Lee, *Very Handsome*, 2012, shellac on paper, 56 x 76 cm.

6 July to 12 August

Paintings of Steve's Paintings

St Heliers Street Gallery at the Abbotsford Convent presents *Paintings of Steve's Paintings*, a group show featuring Rhys Lee, Rob McHalfie, Matlok Griffiths, Pia Murphy, Nephew Cam, Weddle, Spew Corp, Hank Josefsson and Sal Cooper.

Opening Friday 6 July, 5pm-8pm.

Settling in for a Friday night at the House of Refreshment, regulars Matlok Griffiths and Nephew Cam were simultaneously overcome with a need to

amidst writers, artists and community organisations, Until his recent departure Handsome Steve created a unique atmosphere for tenants and the fastidiously curious. Denizens were met with a famously sparse menu, but the abundant, ironically rich environment ignited inspiration.

23 August to 17 September

Fine Family Living

Hank Josefsson, Julia McFarlane, Matlok Griffiths and Rick Milovanovic.

Opening 23 August, 5pm-8pm

The Substation

1 Market Street Newport, VIC 3015

t: 03 9391 1110

e: info@thesubstation.org.au

www.thesubstation.org.au

Thur to Sun 11am-5pm

Until 16 September

Sub12

Santina Amato, Trevelyan Clay, Ry Haskings, Mark Titmarsh, Rebecca Agnew, Juan Ford, Steven Rendall, Sanné Mestrom, Steven Asquith, Sanja Pahoki, Simon Pericich, Masato Takasaka. Twelve artists twelve weeks twelve ambitious new works.

Sutton Gallery

254 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065

t: 03 9416 0727

www.suttongallery.com.au

Tues to Sat 11am-5pm

30 June to 24 July

Jackson Slattery

Rebecca Ann Hobbs

2 August to 1 September

Stephen Bush

Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery

Horseshoe Bend, Swan Hill VIC 3585

t: 03 5036 2430

www.swanhillart.com

Tues to Fri 10am-5pm, Sat and Sun 11am-5pm



Harry Nankin, *Szygy*

11 July to 26 August

Szygy

Harry Nankin

Exposed by the sky on clear moonless nights at Lake Tyrrell near Swan Hill, Harry Nankin's remarkable



Michelle Hunt, *Chaos Calm*.

11 July to 5 August

Chaos Calm

Michelle Hunt

An exhibition exploring the cycles of the creative and emotional spectrum, a collection of 22 works, divided by the conceptual and aesthetic themes of chaos and calm. Times of spontaneous activity are heightened by attraction to vivid colour, intensity of detail, conglomeration of ideas and concepts, and a process of automatic abstraction. Times of grounding are exemplified by restraint and a measured process, more refined concepts, and an escape from overstimulation, shifting to muted colours and naturalistic form.

7 August to 2 September

In name only

A collection of smaller works from the permanent collection. This exhibition provides the viewer the opportunity to consider scale, detail and the notion of intimate versus epic.

Switchback Gallery

Gippsland Centre for Art and Design,
Monash University Gippsland Campus,
Building 6S, Churchill VIC 3842
t: 03 9902 6261

e: gippsland@artdes.monash.edu.au

Mon to Fri 9am-5pm or by appointment.

Until 5 July

Un-acclimatised

Presented by Monash University Museum of Art I MUMA. Curated by Catherine Bennetts-Cash, featuring works by Geoff Lowe, James Morrison, Susan Norrie and Blair Trethowan, amongst others.

11 July to 2 August

Zahidah

Paintings by UAE-based Syrian artist Zahidah Millie. Opening Tuesday 10 July, 5pm

8 August to 30 August

Zone Of Sensation

Installation by Kim McDonald.

Opening Tuesday 7 August, 5pm