



# HotArt

## Pigments & Prizes @ BDAS



This month, with an exhibition of paintings by two weekly workshop groups and the presentation of two annual art prizes, BDAS continues to foster the growth of local artists.

'Pigments 10' is a combined exhibition of works created by the Tuesday watercolour and the Wednesday oil and acrylic classes that are held regularly at the BDAS, primarily under the guidance of Gillian Hook and Barbara Trapnell. Showcasing paintings from a range of artists of varying ages with varying degrees of experience, but sharing enthusiasm and goodwill, the exhibition celebrates the 10 years these classes have been conducted.

With a Southern Highlands theme, the 'Mt Eymard Art Prize' for over 55s is up for grabs for the first time, while time for the annual 'Alvaro Painting Prize' has come around again.

**'Annual Pigments Exhibition' from 5 to 9 June. Official Opening: Friday 5 June @ 5.30pm; 'Mt Eymard Art Prize' from 13 to 14 June. Official Opening 12 June; 'Alvaro Painting Prize' from 20 June to 5 July. Official opening: 19 June @ 5.30pm. All @ BDAS, Short Street, Bowral.**

## FutureArts

upcoming arts...for the diary

- **Ceramics by Jane Barrow** @ Sturt Gallery, Range Road, Mittagong until 14 June.
- **Gemini Project, Plus!** Identical twins Rex and Carl Merten, along with Clark Barrett present their exhibition of works in jewellery, sculpture and paintings in pastels, acrylics and oils @The Milk Factory Gallery and Exhibition Space, Station St Bowral, 5 to 18 June
- **The Wizard of Oz** by Southern Highlands Youth Arts Council Inc (SHYAC) @ Clubbe Hall, Frensham School, Mittagong 10 to 20 June. Bookings on 4869 4031 or [www.shyac.org.au](http://www.shyac.org.au)
- **Red Earth Country**, pastels and paintings from the desert by Roland Hemmert @ the Milk Factory Gallery, 19 June to 2 July
- **Amazing Musical Journeys with Andrew Ford** @ CTC@Robertson, 21 June, booking is essential, phone 4885 2665, all proceeds towards CTC running costs
- **Drawings & Sculpture by Brian Kirkby** and A Celebration of Form, Ceramics by the late Gillian Broinowski @ Sturt Gallery, Range Road, Mittagong 21 June to 26 July
- **Rent the Musical** presented by Magic Box Productions @ Mittagong Playhouse between 3 to 18 July
- **Culture at War**, gritty artworks by local musician and artist Stan Korytnyj @ BDAS, 9 to 14 July, official opening 10 July, 5.30pm

Lots of painting in the Highlands, while a Master Craftsman offers a stunning sculpture to the Shire

## Breathing light and life into Corbett Plaza



Bert Flugelman in his studio with maquette

An idea which percolated over coffee in the plaza with renowned fellow artist and friend, Max Miller has resulted in longtime Highlands resident Bert Flugelman presenting the Wingecarribee Shire Council with an offer which is surely too good to refuse.

He wants to donate a sculpture to the community. Nothing small, not just any piece, but one of his own sculptures; an artwork which he has specifically designed to fill the void where the fountain once stood in Corbett Plaza, Bowral.

A generous proposal at any time, this offer is made more breathtaking by the fact that the 85-year-old Flugelman has for almost five decades enjoyed recognition as one of the finest Australian sculptors of works designed for open sites and public places.

Primarily made of reflective stainless steel, his contemporary sculptures can be found in numerous high-profile corporate and private collections and public places across Australia, from Adelaide's Festival Hall and Rundle Mall and Canberra's National Gallery of Australia, to Sydney's Spring Street and the Universities of Sydney, Canberra and Wollongong to name but a few.

Flugelman's iconic, often large and seemingly timeless abstract shapes embrace his chosen medium. His astute use of polished stainless steel for mirrored and playful effects links each sculpture with its physical and social environment to invite speculation and interpretation and, at times, controversy. Familiar with coping with adversity, much of his work deals with triumph of the human spirit.

Flugelman's more universally known sculptures include 'Spheres' (affectionately known as 'Mall's Balls') in Rundle Mall, Adelaide, 'Pyramid Tower' (aka 'The Silver Shish Kebab') for the Dobell Memorial, in Spring Street, Sydney, and his energetic 'Cones' in the National Gallery of Australia's Sculpture Garden, Canberra. Each sculpture embraces and interacts exquisitely with its environment to reflect the ground, trees and changing skies or the dynamics of a lively city to rejuvenate what could otherwise be perceived as dead spaces.

Flugelman wrote to Council with his offer last July, and made a well-received presentation with maquette (a small scale model of the sculpture) to the Arts and Culture Board last August.

His creative vision and generosity are commendable.

"Having lived in the area now for a number of years, and feeling very fond of it, I would like to give something back to this community," he says. "Recently I noticed that the fountain has been removed from Corbett Plaza and it occurred to me that this would be an ideal place for a sculptural work I had been thinking about for some time.

"The work I have in mind for Corbett Plaza is a stainless steel spire approximately 2.5 metres high on a square metre concrete plinth (total height from ground 3 metres). The height would depend on what would work best with surrounding shops. The stainless steel surface would form a mirror, reflecting the trees, sky, shops and people walking through the plaza. The design and materials would be chosen to avoid any issues with safety, maintenance or vandalism."

According to Jenny Kena, Community & Cultural Development Officer for Wingecarribee Shire Council, Flugelman's offer to donate the design and supervision costs and request for assistance to meet the additional \$35,000 in fabrication and installation costs is being explored.

"For twelve months now, we have been looking at ways to raise the required funds. We are in the process of developing an application for a grant from the Australia Council," Kena recently said.

"John Olsen has offered his assistance, but to strengthen our application we need to demonstrate support from the community as well. So we have organised author, gallery owner and Emeritus Professor Peter Pinson to give a talk on the public sculptures of Bert Flugelman to familiarise the community with his work."

Bert Flugelman's life appears to be almost as adventurous as his work. He was born in Vienna in 1923, and came to Australia at age 15 as a refugee following Hitler's invasion of Austria. He studied at the National Art School, Sydney, then returned to Europe to paint. Despite having contracted polio, which left him partially crippled, he developed an aptitude for sculpture and returned to Australia to hone his craft.

While pursuing a successful career as a teacher, tutor and lecturer in art schools and universities in several states he further developed his practice to create an exceptional range of commissioned public sculptures. Along the way, Flugelman has been anointed with an illustrious array of doctorates and honorary awards.

Let's not look this gift horse in the mouth.

*'The Public Sculptures of Bert Flugelman' by Peter Pinson. author of the book 'Flugelman: on Further Reflection', Pinson will speak about Bert Flugelman's public sculptures in Sydney, Canberra and Adelaide @ The Milk Factory Gallery and Exhibition Space, Station St Bowral, 28 June @ 2pm. Contact Jenny Kena ph: 4868 0855 [jenny.kena@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jenny.kena@wsc.nsw.gov.au)*