

Griffith Artworks Newsletter

Issue 3, Semester 1 2011

GUAC PHILANTHROPY NEWS

Gloria Petyarre is from the community of Utopia in the Eastern part of the Central Australian desert, traditional home of the Anmatyerre and Alyawarre peoples. She began painting around 1988, and was quickly recognized for her unique style which draws inspiration from the natural world, from body painting and from dreaming stories. In Leaf Petyarre has used a distinctive leaf-like brushstroke to fill the page with a sense of movement and colour, using curved lines to evoke a strong rhythmic quality. In Awelye Petyarre used heavy black lines on a white background to create powerful works evocative of modernist painting. The word 'Awelye' signifies the dreaming for the women of Utopia, and these images relate to the ceremonies and rituals that are the basis of Anmatyerre and Alyawarre culture. Petyarre's innovative practice and distinctive style have made her a highly sought-after artist. These works entered the Griffith University Collection as gifts by Eva and Michael Slancar in January 2011.



ON-CAMPUS EXHIBITION PROGRAM

Griffith Artworks has been working in collaboration with the library renovation team on Nathan Campus to install two permanent large sculptures.

The first is a work entitled Unstable Surface Tension (2005-6) created by Carly Scoufos, a recent graduate of Queensland College of Art. It won a major award when first exhibited at what is now Griffith University Art Gallery, South Bank. The piece consists of a number of sculptural forms, individually hand woven by the artist out of galvanised wire. Although laboriously constructed over many months, the work depicts a brief moment in time, just as the surface membrane of a section of water is disrupted. A seductive undulating topography of shapes and forms accounts for the resultant fluidity of order and chaos.

The work was conceived to be suspended, which is why the particular location in the Willett Centre was chosen. Here it can be experienced from multiple points of view, from levels one and two of the building. Visitors and students beneath the work can glance up and contemplate its delicate spatial dynamics. Within the context of a library – a virtual sea of knowledge – it might trigger contemplation of wider issues such as the collision and contest of ideas around water use and management. On level two viewers can change their perspective as they scour racks of books by being elevated above it, as if to be implicated in the water's passage downward.



The second major sculptural installation in N53 involves relocation of a work that has resided in the building for a number of years. Sssh...ark! by Ian

Gentle has been in the Griffith University Art Collection since 1996, and was in the Library foyer on level one for much of that time. The work is constructed of wood and measuring over 6 metres in length depicts an abstracted shark-like form. The work will be move to the Post-graduate Research Area on level two at the top of the main Library stairwell.



ON-CAMPUS SITE REVIEW

The Griffith Artworks **On-Campus Exhibition Program (OCEP)** was reviewed in 2010. During the review all 152 sites hosting aspects of Griffith University Art Collection (GUAC) were ranked based on their ability to satisfy OCEP and GUAC objectives. These objectives include collection visibility, best-practice asset management standards and resource allocation. A report detailing the results of the review is being considered by Griffith Artworks now, and will be communicated to PVC (AEL) and the Office of the Vice Chancellor. New goals for the program will be developed, including resolution of a capped number of sites across the 5 campus zones, further focus on semi-permanent sculptural displays and museum standard obligations for display and condition management. For any queries please contact Camille Serisier, Acting Art Collections Manager on extension 55505.

GRIFFITH ARTWORKS + GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY, QCA

Art Collections Manager (Acting), Camille Serisier
Curatorial & Collections Assistant, Kat Sawyer
Curatorial Officer, position vacant
Exhibition & Public Programs Officer, position vacant
Administration Officer, Karen La Rocca (FTE)
Director, Simon Wright (FTE)