

ELIZABETH DUGUID

ALBERT SHIRE LANDSCAPES

The works in this exhibition are some of the more tangible results of Elizabeth Duguid's Artist-in-Residency with the Albert Shire Council south of Brisbane, between February and August, 1986. Most of the small pastel and mixed media drawings were produced during that time, many actually at the site they depict, and the paintings have been produced since, from the artist's accumulated sketches, drawings and memories of the Albert Shire.

The Residency was originally instigated by the Council as a way of sponsoring works which would capture what they felt to be the fast vanishing rural beauty of the area. However finally, with financial assistance from both the Visual Arts and the Community Arts Boards of the Australia Council, the Residency took on a second purpose, which was to stimulate community awareness of and involvement in the arts.

Elizabeth Duguid was eminently suited to both these tasks. Firstly as an artist with a long interest in depicting the natural environment, and secondly as a trained art teacher with a passion for community arts and particularly for involving the young in art. She combined both aspects of the Residency by encouraging the people of all ages and stages with whom she worked to depict various areas or characteristics of the Shire, thereby stimulating not just an involvement in art, but also an awareness of the natural beauty of the environment.

This was particularly so with the children she worked with, many of whom had never previously painted, or really "seen" their environment. And some of them, for instance, "naturally" put snow on their mountains because, no doubt, that is what they see in books and on Christmas cards.

The photographs included in the exhibition depict the three murals which are the other concrete results of the Residency. "In the Albert Shire" was produced over six weeks by Year 7 students at the Nerang Primary School, with each child eventually deciding on and working his or her own section. Similarly students from Woongoolba Primary School, many of whose families are involved in the sugar industry and live in the heart of cane country, were also encouraged to paint what they know - their own industry - and with obvious success.

The Beenleigh Senior Citizens' Club, again with encouragement, painted a composite mural and record of old buildings from the area. These are now housed in the Council's new administration building, and the Club is beginning another similar project on its own initiative.

This continuing activity is among the least finite but perhaps most important results of the project. Others are the activities of the outdoor sketching group which Elizabeth Duguid instigated and which continues to meet weekly, or the ongoing interests of the large group of visitors she brought to the Queensland Art Gallery to see the "Masters of 20th Century Art" exhibition. These new visitors to the Art Gallery were astonished by the variety of ways of depicting the world and many of them now visit the new Gold Coast Gallery regularly.

Underpinning all these activities are the Residency's contributions to an on-going sense of community, of locality and of history to the people of the Shire and as well the enjoyment those involved devised and continued to get from their own artmaking. Although immeasurable, these results and the wealth of the experience seem as tangible as the works included here.



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Griffith University
Brisbane

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For six months during 1986 Elizabeth Duguid was Artist-in-Residence with the Albert Shire Council in the Gold Coast hinterland, producing paintings based on the local environment, and working with community groups on a series of arts projects. Born in Sydney, Elizabeth has taught and painted in and around Brisbane for the past fifteen years and has won many local art prizes. The concrete results of the residency include the paintings in this exhibition and three murals based on environmental and industrial themes, painted with members of the Beenleigh Senior Citizen's Club and students at the Nerang and Woongoolba Primary Schools. Less tangible were the residency's ongoing contributions to a sense of community and locality, an interest in local history, and stimulus to the artistic consciousness of the people in the Albert Shire.

You and your friends are invited to join us at a preview of the exhibition which has been organised by the Queensland Film and Drama Centre at Griffith University.

FRIDAY 3 APRIL 1987
6PM - 8PM
CENTRAL THEATRES GALLERY
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

The exhibition will open at 6pm on 3 April and will remain open 9am - 8.30pm weekdays and 12pm - 2pm Saturdays until 8 May. GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY, KESSELS ROAD, NATHAN, QLD. 4111 TELEPHONE: 275 7414

This project has been assisted by the Queensland Division of Cultural Activities, the Visual Arts and Community Arts Boards of the Australia Council, the Albert Shire Council, and Griffith University.