

SCULPTURE PARK

**LAKE
MACQUARIE
CITY
ART
GALLERY**

The logo for Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, featuring a stylized 'L' and 'M' with 'C' and 'A' integrated into the design.

ESTABLISHED 1996

The Collection and the Sculpture Park

Since 1980 the gallery's collection has evolved through purchase, acquisitive prizes, donations and commission. It comprises a strong core group of paintings, works on paper, sculpture, and photomedia by established contemporary Australian artists, including many from the Hunter region.

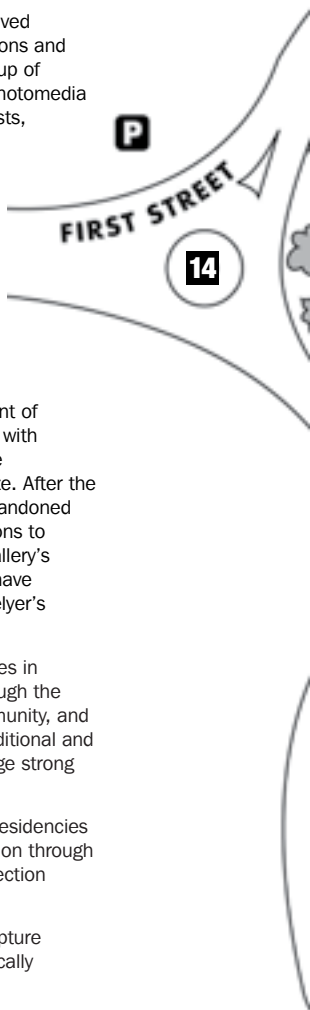
Works have been acquired through initiatives such as the City of Lake Macquarie and Charlestown Square Art Prize (1986–1991) and the Ronaldo Cameron Collection (1991). Another source has been the Ruth Spenser Komon Estate (2002), through which the gallery received a number of exquisite works by Sir William Dobell.

The sculpture park is a significant component of the collection and was established in 1996 with works commissioned as a result to the Lake Macquarie Biennial Acquisitive Sculpture Prize. After the acquisition of three works, the prize was abandoned in 2000 in favour of site-specific commissions to ensure the process stood in line with the gallery's curatorial practice. Four further sculptures have been installed since then including Nigel Helyer's *Radiolarians*, in early 2011.

Another significant approach the gallery takes in commissioning artworks for the park is through the community, particularly the Aboriginal community, and school projects. These works reflect the traditional and contemporary uses of the site and encourage strong community ownership.

The gallery also has a long history of artist residencies and three works have come into the collection through this avenue under guidelines set out in collection procedures.

The curatorial approach to the outdoor sculpture collection ensures each work adds aesthetically and thematically to the rich history of this significant cultural site.



14 HOPE

13 DR NIGEL HELYER

12 JANET LAURENCE

11 PATHWAY MOSAICS

10 CULTURAL
PARTNERSHIP MOSAIC

9 THE MEETING PLACE

8 FATU FEU'U



- | | | | |
|----------|------------------|----------|---------------|
| 7 | JOHN TURIER | 3 | TED PRIOR |
| 6 | RICHARD TIPPING | 2 | SUSAN MORRIS |
| 5 | BRADDON SNAPE | 1 | TREVOR WEEKES |
| 4 | GRAHAM GILCHRIST | | |



**TOM IRELAND WITH YEARS 9 AND 10
VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS
LAKE MACQUARIE HIGH SCHOOL**

Through hopeful eyes was developed over two terms in 2010 through the *artist+school+gallery=public art* project.

Artist Tom Ireland and Years 9 and 10 elective art students from Lake Macquarie High School worked together with the gallery to produce maquettes to reflect their designs for a sculpture. From these, *Through hopeful eyes* by Hugh O'Neill and Sandra Watkins was selected to take through to construction stage. The steel structure of the sculpture reads 'HOPE' and is a post-modern take on graffiti being used as a political tool. Through its location, the work also reinforces the idea that culture and education provide hope for our youth. The mosaic, made by all of the students, represents the lake and firmly places the sculpture within this site.

14

Through hopeful eyes 2010
Tom Ireland with Years 9 and 10 Visual Arts students
Lake Macquarie High School
steel, paint, mosaic tiles, concrete, native plants
300 x 500 x 600cm
consultants Paul Maher and Mark Johnson
supported through ConnectEd Program, Communities NSW
courtesy the artists



NEW ACQUISITIONS

DR NIGEL HELYER

Radiolarians is the gallery's most recent site-specific acquisition for the sculpture park. Conceived by internationally renowned sculptor Nigel Helyer, the work closely relates to its location and reflects the artist's ongoing interest in the symmetry and morphology of microscopic marine organisms. Helyer's fascination with the subject derives from both the organisms' complex beauty and their fascinating scientific history.

13

Dr Nigel Helyer
Radiolarians 2011
corten steel, marine-grade
stainless steel wire cable,
stainless steel, concrete
96.5 x 132 x 288cm
supported by Arts NSW
courtesy the artist

JANET LAURENCE

This monumental addition to the sculpture park is inspired by the *Eucalyptus citriodora* that stood by the gallery until 2007. Using the height of the blade wall of the new education facility, the work echoes the tree's soaring verticality. Layered elements of glass imprinted with the tree's image and mirror-like steel, compose a memory of the Eucalyptus as well as reflect the immediate environment. Consistent with Laurence's current practice, *Ghost* speaks of our relationship with the living world and expresses the elemental and ephemeral character of nature.

Ghost 2009
glass, stainless steel, concrete
approx. 500 x 140 x 80cm
supported by Arts NSW and
Lake Macquarie Art Gallery Society
courtesy the artist

12



PATHWAY MOSAICS

The mosaics placed in the pathway to the gallery were designed and constructed during a series of workshops from 1996 to 2000 by Paul Maher and school students from the region. Each work reflects cultural diversity and changing aspects of the environment, as well as aspects of the gallery and its development. The images depicted are of Awaba House, the lake, the vegetation and local Aboriginal stories.

Cultural diversity [detail]
1996–2000
mixed glazed tiles
5 pieces, various sizes
courtesy the artists

11



CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP MOSAIC

The mosaic was produced as a collaborative project between the local Aboriginal community (including artists Doug Archibald and Jim Ridgeway) and members of the non-Aboriginal community (including artist Paul Maher). Incorporating local Aboriginal stories about the Awabakal people, the mosaic was produced in a series of workshops. The final work features Biame (Maker of Laws), encompassing symbols of the local environment in the style of the petroglyphs (rock engravings) found in Mt Yango.

Awabakal Dreaming [detail] 2001
Doug Archibald, Jim Ridgeway
and Paul Maher
mixed glazed tiles, Merewether churt
221cm radius
supported by the Australia
Council for the Arts
courtesy the artists

10



THE MEETING PLACE

A significant component of the 2003 *Lake's Edge* project was the development of *The meeting place*. This permanent installation uses mosaics, ceramics, paving and native grasses to symbolise a coming together of cultures, while acknowledging traditional and contemporary uses of the site. Designed and constructed during practical art workshops, it accesses information recorded through informal story-telling sessions. It is a place of reflection, and as such was dedicated to the late Uncle Cyril Archibald, a respected local Elder.

The meeting place 2003
Jim Ridgeway and Sue Stewart
with members of the community
concrete, commercial tiles,
handmade tiles, slip, underglaze,
paint, Feeny's red raku
native grasses, rhyolite
53cm x 998cm
supported by Arts NSW
courtesy the artists

9



FATU FEU'U

Samoa artist Fatu Feu'u has established an international reputation as the 'father' of Pacific Island art in New Zealand, his home between 1966 and 2008. Feu'u's philosophy is to actively pass on his extensive knowledge of traditional skills so as a part of the 2003 *Lake's Edge* project, he invited members of the local Samoan community to join him in making this totem. Tanifa O Tagalooa is the offspring of Tagalooa, the Polynesian ocean god, and possesses a tail much like the fish that swim from eastern Polynesia to the western coast of Australia.

Tanifa O Tagalooa [detail] 2003
Australian redgum, steel,
Cook Island black pearl shells
309 x 103 x 50cm
purchased by the Lake Macquarie
City Art Gallery Society
supported by Arts NSW
courtesy the artist

8



JOHN TURIER

Aeolian tree is situated amongst the trees to the south of Awaba House, overlooking the lake. In this location it triumphantly rises and moves like the ebb and flow of the lake. There is a sense of magic in the large and heavy 'sail' form balanced on a fine central point, from which it pivots gracefully in the wind as a giant weathervane. Named after Aeolus, the fabled keeper of the winds, the sail form dances between the trees and clouds.

Aeolian tree 2001
steel, fibreglass, terrazzo
concrete, bronze, stones
530 x 250 x 180cm
supported by Arts NSW
courtesy the artist

7



RICHARD TIPPING

Co-winner of the gallery's 1996 Lake Macquarie Biennial Acquisitive Sculpture Prize, this environmental sculpture is a visual poem. Growing from the circle of letters are messages and incantations – EARTH, HEART, HEARTH, HEAR THE EARTH and HEAR THE ART. A small grove of Tuckeroos (*Cupaniopsis anacardiodes*) has been planted which will eventually form a single canopy at the heart of the work, keeping the viewer in touch with nature and its energies. This meditation focuses on sound and the serenity of the lakeside edge, with its slow time, endless changes and reflections.

Hear the art 1996
brick, native trees
2646cm radius
supported by EnergyAustralia
courtesy the artist

6



BRADDON SNAPE

Cardinal point represents the four major directions on a compass: in this case indicating not only the geographical, but also the historical and cultural significance of the site. The sculpture's topmost symbol, a west cardinal marker, indicates (in sailing terms) that the safe side is west of the mark. The horizontal surface represents the lake and below the flowing metal rods suggest seepage into the lake and hidden currents. The coal at the base symbolises the final form for all organic life as well as reflecting the industrial history of the region.

Cardinal point [detail] 1997
stainless steel, mild steel, coal
170 x 120 x 50cm
gifted by the artist under the
Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program
courtesy the artist

5



GRAHAM GILCHRIST

The late Graham Gilchrist was motivated by environmental concerns. 'Industrial chimneys are polluting the environment,' he observed, 'lake life is under threat.' The sculpture combines the industrial and the organic with staunch uprights suggesting chimney stacks, and silhouettes of stainless steel animal and plant life, rippled by the wind. This engaging work was created and installed during the artist's residency in 1997.

Windrift [detail] 1997
timber, stainless steel
380 x 154.5 x 100cm
donated by the artist's family 2007
courtesy the artist's estate

4



TED PRIOR

Co-winner of the gallery's 1996 Lake Macquarie Biennial Acquisitive Sculpture Prize, *Love boat* is symbolic of human relationships. It acknowledges the initial closeness of early love but by setting the two figures back to back, suggests a rocky ride could ensue with each partner seeking independence. The implication of unrest is enhanced by the seesaw aspect of the piece, with the puppet-like figures joined by a central vertical core affixed to the boat shape and mounted within a deck anchored by six bollards.

Love boat 1996
white mahogany, tallow
wood, enamel paint
180 x 340 x 152.5cm
supported by Arts NSW
courtesy the artist

3



SUSAN MORRIS

Winner of the gallery's 1998 Lake Macquarie Biennial Acquisitive Sculpture Prize, this work reflects and echoes the quiet twilight and evening periods in the lakeside park. The three dominant stainless steel rings represent the phases of the moon – waxing, full and waning. The rings are welded to a 'wave' bed at ground level that signifies the tide. An abstract fish is brazed onto the surface of the wave, reminiscent of the marine life moving as the tide drifts into the lake from the sea.

Moon and tide 1998
stainless steel, concrete
195 x 220 x 198cm
supported by Arts NSW
courtesy the artist

2



TREVOR WEEKES

This sculpture was commissioned to mark the entrance to the new gallery (which opened in May 2001) and welcomes the visitor with symbols of the lake. The left pillar depicts a rock shelf and life under the water. The right is a mooring, a solitary and dignified object with great purpose. Spanning the two is a familiar hull shape – here resembling a discarded wreck. At the top of this skeletal form is a steel rod which hints at the pastime of fishing. At the base is a ripple pattern, evocative of wind combing the surface of the water.

Gateway sculpture [detail]
2001-02
ciment fondu, aluminium,
stainless steel
360 x 500 x 100cm
supported by Arts NSW
courtesy the artist

1



**LAKE MACQUARIE CITY ART GALLERY
OPEN TUESDAY TO SUNDAY 10AM – 5PM
& SELECTED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 11AM – 4PM
(TELEPHONE FOR DETAILS)
ADMISSION IS FREE**

**FIRST STREET BOORAGUL NSW 2284
BOX 1906 HUNTER REGION MC NSW 2310
T: (02) 4965 8260 F: (02) 4965 8733
E: artgallery@lakemac.nsw.gov.au
www.lakemac.com.au**

**AWABA HOUSE CAFE RESTAURANT
CAFE OPEN TUESDAY TO SUNDAY 10AM – 4PM
T: (02) 4950 6366 F: (02) 4950 6166**

Cover: *Ghost 2009*
glass, stainless steel, concrete
approx. 500 x 140 x 80cm
supported by Arts NSW and
Lake Macquarie Art Gallery Society
courtesy the artist



Communities
arts nsw
LAKE MACQUARIE CITY ART GALLERY IS ASSISTED BY
THE NSW GOVERNMENT THROUGH ARTS NSW.

