



ACT & Region

HELEN MAXWELL

Helen@helenmaxwell.com

Canning Stock Route

100 years ago the Canning Stock Route was first used to drive cattle from the Kimberley region in WA to the southern goldfields in SA. Opening Thursday 29 July at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, is an important exhibition of paintings, oral history and multimedia works that re-imagines the history of the country the Canning Stock Route traversed, through the eyes of the people who were profoundly affected. The exhibition and accompanying projects are a curatorial collaboration of a number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Many of the artists will come to Canberra for the opening and a Festival Day on 31 July. They include Kayili artists from Patjarr, Yulparija artists from Bidadanga, Paruku artists from the IPA, Mulan, Biriliri Buru artists from Wiluna, and artists from Balgo, Mangkatja, Papunya Tula, Matu Milli and Ngurra art centres. As part of the Festival Day program, artists will talk about their works and dance. A series of short films by younger artists will be shown. The exhibition and associated events continue for several months and will include an exhibition of Matu Milli artists at the Chapman Gallery, Manuka and Western Desert prints at Nomad Art Gallery, Manuka.

Reincarnations

When Studio One Print Workshop and Leichhardt Street Studios in Kingston closed down several years ago, artists' studios were relocated to a site near the Fyshwick Markets. The organisation was named M16 and along with studios, houses a gallery. Though staff and artists have made the

cavernous building as comfortable as possible on a small budget, there are limitations, and M16 will imminently relocate to the refurbished buildings of the old Griffith Library. With the assistance of others, the current Director of M16, Joseph Falsone, has worked tirelessly in negotiation with the ACT Government to effect the relocation. The new M16 offers around 30 studio spaces at affordable rent, meeting rooms and other facilities including a handsome gallery. The official opening is Friday 13 August with an exhibition of works by some of the original studio holders at Leichhardt Street Studios, Kingston.

New light on Canberra skyline

The evening of Friday 21 May was cool and overcast, the air moist – perfect for the launch, by the ACT Chief Minister and Minister for the Arts and Heritage, Jon Stanhope, of the latest work by Warren Langley, *Touching Lightly*, a tower of glass and blue light at the Canberra Glassworks on the Kingston Foreshore. The green energy powered tower that rises from the existing smokestack gallery at the former Powerhouse, is 25 metres high and is internally lit. It shimmers during the daylight and at night radiates an intense blue. Built between 1913 and 1915, the Powerhouse supplied Canberra with coal-generated electricity until 1957. *Touching Lightly* is a startling addition to the Canberra Glassworks and the Kingston Foreshore which is ever increasing in its richness as a cultural precinct.

Art + Maths + Science

Visual artist Erica Secombe is working with experimental and theoretical scientists from the Department of Applied Mathematics at the Australian National University on a collaboration that will assist towards understanding the complex interrelationship of mechanical 3D components of physical objects and balancing visual density with information content. A complementary and concurrent focus on the visualisation and animation of complex datasets will also contribute to Secombe's long-term research project looking at the influence of scientific technology on visual media and contemporary art.

Black beasts and blue eyes

Melbourne-based artist Heather B. Swann has recently completed a commission for the foyer of the new South apartment block at NewActon, the precinct on Lake Burley Griffin. The sculptural installation comprises 5 shiny black beasts that hover ominously above the inner entry of the

1/ Marion Borgelt, Studio view - foreground: *Moonlight Tsukimi*, 2008-09, background: *Lunar Warp: No. 7*, 2009; *Lunar Circle: Figure A*, 2006. Courtesy the artist and Dominik Mersch Gallery. *Marion Borgelt: Mind & Matter*, a 15-year survey, is at ANU Drill Hall Gallery, only until 4 July. www.anu.edu.au/mac/content/dhg

2/ Natalie Mather, *Soundless*, 2010, acrylic, oil, chrome and reflective paint on plywood. *Just a little bit precious*, with artists Emma Beer, Jessica Herrington, and Natalie Mather is showing at M16 Artspace, Canberra until 4 July. www.m16artspace.com

3/ Ian Factor (Factor Design), *Legato Chaise Lounge*, 2009-10 Western Australian Jarrah (certified sustainable timber). Showing in *Abstract*, featuring 10 pieces of hand-crafted timber furniture, until 31 July at Craft ACT: Craft & Design Centre, Canberra. www.craftact.org.au

foyer, their snouts pointed to the floor, and a massive padded leather peacock whose tail eyes light up blue. This is the latest example of the NewActon developers' commitment to the inclusion of visual art in the built environment.

Imaging Marcia Langton

Last month the National Portrait Gallery unveiled its latest commissioned portrait, a unique screenprint on paper work by Aboriginal artist Brook Andrew of eminent Aboriginal scholar and activist Professor Marcia Langton. Commissioned by the Gallery's Dr Christopher Chapman, the pairing of Andrew and Langton makes for a particularly dynamic study. Langton, who has written extensively on Andrew's practice (see, for example, her article 'Brook Andrew: Ethical portraits and ghost-scapes' in the *Art Bulletin of Victoria*, Vol. 48, 2008, pp. 47-61) is depicted as 'a powerful Goddess in command of the earth's elemental forces'. In July, the Gallery teams with the ANU's Research School of Humanities and the Arts to host the symposium *Imaging Identity: media, memory and visions of humanity in the digital present*. Keynote speakers include Professor WJT Mitchell (University of Chicago and editor of *Critical Inquiry*) and David Elliott, Artistic Director of the 2010 Biennale of Sydney. At the National Portrait Gallery, 15 to 17 July. Registrations via www.portrait.gov.au/site/IIS.php (Ed.)