DEAN BOWEN
RETURNING COMET
CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS ART GALLERY
MARYBOROUGH
Central Goldfields Art Gallery takes great pleasure in presenting Dean Bowen: Returning Comet, our major exhibition for 2012.

This event will showcase internationally renowned artist Dean Bowen in various mediums – paintings, sculptures and works on paper selected from the artist’s studio in Melbourne. The exhibition surveys his career including key works created over the last 15 years. This is the first major exhibition of Dean’s work to be held in Maryborough.

The artist’s works have wide appeal, and are held by major Australian and regional galleries, as well as numerous international collections, both public and private.

There is a subtlety in the exhibition title. Maryborough is Dean’s home town. Born and educated here, his nascent interest in art was encouraged during his secondary school years at the Maryborough Technical College through inspiring teachers in the art department. Trips with his father in the family truck left a lasting impression on the young Bowen, as did spending time in the bush near the family home observing the plethora of Australian flora and fauna that now inhabit his artwork.

Dean’s art has been variously described as eccentric, whimsical, quirky and joyous, but throughout there is one word that conveys the true feeling of the artist – optimism.

Many of Dean’s subjects are of a singular nature and appear deceptively simple. Birds, animals and people look out from the canvas seemingly staring at the viewer. Cars, aeroplanes and buildings are set in an urban environment, seen from an aerial or grid-like perspective. Whatever the subject however, on closer inspection there is an attention to detail (by the artist) that is quite remarkable in both its physical and technical accuracy.

The Gallery is privileged to have Central Goldfields Shire and True Foods as joint principal sponsors for this exhibition, and we express our gratitude for their very generous support and commitment to this landmark exhibition.

Councillor Geoff Lovett, Central Goldfields Shire
July 2012
Bird Lover

Dean Bowen, 55, had what he describes as a classic country upbringing in Maryborough where he fished for trout and trout with his father, made toast over an open fire with his mother before school, rode his bike all over the place and, when he was old enough, did the local paper round. Much time was also spent at his grandmother’s who had so many pets – and birds – it was like visiting a zoo or aviary.

Inspired by many art teachers at his local secondary school, in particular Neil Leveson and Wes Lancaster, he knew from his early teens that he wanted to be an artist and, at 17, headed for the city from his early teens that he wanted to be.

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Lovers Driving Home 2004
oil on board
56 x 76 cm

The Small Farm 2004
oil on linen
45 x 53 cm
Exotic Bird with Three Bees 2009
oil on linen
45 x 53 cm

Bouchon 2008
oil on linen
153 x 244 cm
Day by Day 2010
oil on linen
153 x 183 cm

Giant Treecreeper with Millipede 2011
oil on linen
122 x 153 cm
Small Koorka 2011
oil on linen
45 x 53 cm

Parrot Watching Ladybird 2012
oil on linen
153 x 137 cm
Bird Lover 2012
Bronze
19.5 x 70.5 x 6.5 cm
edition: 9

Girl with Birds 2012
Bronze
22.5 x 49.5 x 7.5 cm
edition: 9
Farmer Returning Home 1995
etching, aquatint, drypoint,
67 x 90 cm
edition: 25

Returning Comet 2011
lithograph,
48 x 68 cm
edition: 35
Country Boy 1997
etching, aquatint, drypoint,
67 x 89 cm
edition: 25

Country Girl 1997
etching, aquatint, drypoint,
67 x 89 cm
edition: 25
List of Works

Paintings:
- **Lovers Driving Home**
  
  2004
  
  oil on board
  
  50 X 76 cm

- **The Small Farm**
  
  2004
  
  oil on linen
  
  45 X 53 cm

- **Bouchon**
  
  2008
  
  oil on linen
  
  153 X 244 cm

- **Exotic Bird with Three Bees**
  
  2009
  
  oil on linen
  
  45 X 53 cm

- **Night Hawk with Wasps**
  
  2009
  
  oil on linen
  
  45 X 53 cm

- **Day by Day**
  
  2010
  
  oil on linen
  
  153 X 183 cm

- **Black Canary**
  
  2011
  
  oil on linen
  
  45 X 53 cm

- **Chirpie**
  
  2011
  
  oil on linen
  
  45 X 53 cm

- **Bird Lover**
  
  2012
  
  oil on linen
  
  19.5 X 70.5 X 6.5 cm

- **Girl with Birds**
  
  2012
  
  oil on linen
  
  22.5 X 49.5 X 7.5 cm

Bronze Sculptures:
- **Lady with Flowers**
  
  2001
  
  bronze 51 X 43 X 27 cm
  
  edition: 9

- **Cat**
  
  2004
  
  bronze 20 X 19 X 38 cm
  
  edition: 9

- **The Child**
  
  2006
  
  bronze 50 X 57 X 16 cm
  
  edition: 9

- **Small Farmer**
  
  2007
  
  bronze 36 X 35 X 12 cm
  
  edition: 9

- **Bird Lover**
  
  2012
  
  bronze 19.5 X 70.5 X 6.5 cm
  
  edition: 9

- **Girl with Birds**
  
  2012
  
  bronze 22.5 X 49.5 X 7.5 cm
  
  edition: 9

Prints:
- **Farmer Returning Home**
  
  1993
  
  etching, aquatint, drypoint, 67 X 89 cm
  
  edition: 25

- **The Rough Nuts**
  
  1995
  
  etching, aquatint, drypoint, 29 X 43 cm
  
  edition: 25

- **Country Boy**
  
  1997
  
  etching, aquatint, drypoint, 67 X 89 cm
  
  edition: 25

- **Country Girl**
  
  1997
  
  etching, aquatint, drypoint, 67 X 89 cm
  
  edition: 25

- **Echidna**
  
  1998
  
  etching, aquatint, drypoint, 76 X 113 cm
  
  edition: 25

Drawings:
- **Rain at Sea**
  
  2009
  
  charcoal on paper
  
  75 X 106 cm

- **Owl**
  
  2012
  
  charcoal on paper
  
  75 X 106 cm

- **Pie in the Sky**
  
  2012
  
  charcoal on paper
  
  75 X 106 cm

Watercolours:
- **Every Dog has its Day**
  
  2003
  
  watercolour on paper
  
  70 X 106 cm

Artists Book:
- **Personnages et Animaux**
  
  1996
  
  artist’s book containing 24 etchings
  
  20.5 X 19.5 X 4.2 cm (boxed set)
  
  edition: 10

**Pink Kookaburra**

  2000
  
  monotype, 44 X 59 cm
  
  unique print

**Bird with Stick Insects**

  2010
  
  lithograph, 48 X 68 cm
  
  edition: 25

**Black Parrot with Ladybird**

  2011
  
  lithograph, 48 X 68 cm
  
  edition: 35

**Returning Comet**

  2011
  
  lithograph, 48 X 68 cm
  
  edition: 35

**Bird with a Heart Shaped Leaf**

  2012
  
  lithograph, 48 X 68 cm
  
  edition: 25

**Black Parrot with Ladybird**

  2011
  
  lithograph, 48 X 68 cm
  
  edition: 35

**Bird with a Heart Shaped Leaf**

  2012
  
  lithograph, 48 X 68 cm
  
  edition: 25
SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2000
- BMG Art, Adelaide
- Galerie Miyawaki, Kyoto, Japan
- Greenhill Galleries, Perth

2002
- Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- Journey. Recent paintings and lithographs. Galerie Miyawaki, Kyoto, Japan
- Year of the Dog, Galerie Miyawaki, Kyoto, Japan

2003
- RMIT, Diploma of Fine Art (Printmaking)
- Monash University, Master of Arts
- Monash University, Ph.D

2010
- Transmetropole, Axia Modern Art, Melbourne
- The Art of Dean Bowen, Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria
- Nillumbik Art Award (Acquisitive Print and Sculpture)
- Fremantle Print Award
- Public Art Acquisition, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne

2012
- Arts 21, International Export and Touring Program Grant

SELECTED MUSEUMS

Australia:
- Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria
- Toowoomba Regional Gallery (Acquisitive Sculpture)
- Bathurst Regional Gallery (Acquisitive Sculpture)
- The Inaugural Macarthur Cook Art Award 2007 (3rd Prize)

International:
- 12th Space International Print Biennial, Seoul, Korea
- The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award at Werribee Park, Catalogue of finalists 2008

SELECTED ARTICLES

1994
- McCulloch, Susan, 'Dean Bowen', Australian Galleries Catalogue, November 1995

2000
- Sullivan, John, 'Dean Bowen', The Art of Dean Bowen - An Australian Artist, 5 March 2003
- Cook, Robert, 'A birds eye view', The Age, 10 October 2003
- Elen, Judith, "Streets ahead", The Window of Arts, 3 June 2005
- Sinnott, Margaret, "Japanese Animations, Warrnambool Art Gallery and Artist Dean Bowen", ARTicle, 7 August, 2004
- Backhouse, Megan, 'Colour separation makes the art grow yonder', The Window of Arts, 13 November, 2004
- The Journal of Art Education Victoria

2010
- The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award at Werribee Park, Catalogue of finalists 2008
- The Age
- The Adelaide Advertiser

2015
- Bathurst Art Purchase, Bathurst Regional Gallery (Acquisitive Sculpture)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Central Goldfields Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through its Creative State Investing Program and the contribution made by Louise Bellassen and Geoff Lowndes

Artist Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank Kay Parlin and Geoff Lowndes for running my exhibition at the Central Goldfields Art Gallery and also thank the joint sponsors, Central Goldfields Shire and Keith de Vries for all their support. The catalogue is on sale. Thanks also to Louise Bellassen for her photography and wonderful work with the catalogue, and also to Anna for her hard work and collaboration in printing the photograph.

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