



SCULPTURE STUDIO SCHOOL  
FOUNDED 1974

TERM 1 -2 2009

# NEWSLETTER

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Photo: Brian McInerney 2009

## 8 SCULPTORS AT THE EXHIBITION SPACE

From the simple, clean walls of the School's new gallery, The Exhibition Space is currently showcasing its inaugural exhibition *8 Sculptors at The Exhibition Space*. The gallery itself is a simple and by being demountable, an ingenious and gentle intervention into the Studio space. It is the product of the foresight and hard work of the School's talented and devoted Management arm. It will undoubtedly extend the School's ability to reach out to the community by showcasing the works of its artists in a manner, which does justice to the works they produce.

Devotion of a similar kind can be found in the sculptures on exhibition which comprise the works of eight of the School's most experienced sculptors: the School's four teachers - Wendy Black, Michael Christie, Bernice Lowe and Damien Lucas; and, four of the School's most advanced students - Sue Alexopoulos, Peter Bartlett, Margo Hoekstra, and Cliff Pain.

The works exhibited range from life studies, to sculptures produced in the School's workshops and Master classes, in particular, Tom Bass' newly founded Master Class,

and works arising from individual or personal projects. The sculptures however, inevitably share a common tradition - that of the life study, the core tradition of the School and one, which Tom Bass and the School's teachers have sought to teach, explain and practice time and time again.

In this exhibition, we are fortunate enough to have a collection of works which showcases how, after years of practice and dedication, a sculptor can engage in "real seeing" (as opposed to just looking). We discover how each of the 8 sculptors have harnessed Bass' teachings and expressed their sculptural knowledge and experience in their own distinctive way.

*8 Sculptors at The Exhibition Space* represents a wonderful landmark for the School in teaching, administration and School spirit and it has been a true pleasure to feel its shining presence entering and leaving the School this past month. **BJ (BeomJin) Kim**

**For BJ Kim's extensive exhibition review please visit**



Photo: Aaron Mathieson 2009



Photo: Aaron Mathieson 2009

## ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION (ASE08) HIGHLIGHTS



### SPOTLIGHT ON

#### 2 CARVERS:

#### IAN MARR, ARTIST & LETTER CUTTER

The Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School is delighted to announce that Australian artist and letter cutter Ian Marr will be running a three-day workshop as part of the School's 2009 Winter School program. Marr, who has exhibited internationally since 1977 and nationally since



Photo: Ian Marr working on the *Furphy Memorial*  
Courtesy of Ian Marr 2004

1982, began letter hand cutting works in stone in 1995 using ancient carving techniques.

Becoming a full-time artist in 2000, Marr has undertaken several prestigious artist residencies in regional Australia, the United Kingdom, China, and Europe over the last six years. His work can be found in private collections in Australia and overseas along with many important regional public collections including Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Broken Hill City Art Gallery, North Sydney Council, Mildura Arts Centre and Orange Regional Gallery.

Our 'Letter Carving Workshop with Ian Marr' will run from Saturday 4 July to Monday 6 July. This workshop will begin with a structured approach to carving letters in stone. Students will be able to carve some more organic forms at the end of the workshop as a way of building confidence with both tools and stone.

Please contact the office to enrol  
Cost: \$395 / FRIENDS: \$345

#### CLIFF PAIN- 'MODESTE'

Cliff Pain's heightened sense for the subtle shines through in his sensuous and mysterious, *Modeste* 2008 . *Modeste* is part of a series of three sculptures each of which have made graceful appearances in the studio and would have arrested the eyes of most people who have visited the studio in the past 12 months or so.



Photo: Cliff Pain *Modeste* 2008 (Limestone)

Cliff (who has been a student of the school since [insert]) explains that the series began from a desire to make a garden sculpture. All express movement through some form of twisting and/or turning but *Modeste* is the only one of the series which incorporates a reference to the human (female) torso. In *Modeste*, Cliff has elegantly combined the geometric with the figurative and has produced a truly breathtaking work.

ASE08 Photos clockwise from top left: Liz Lobb; Barbara Hall Best & Cliff Pain; selection of Masterclass works; Triumphant *People's Choice* Award Winner BJ (BeomJin) Kim with his parents & Tom Bass; a closer inspection; *Serenity* by Michelle Bull; BJ Kim; Jana Wendt & Margo Hoekstra; overview of ASE08.  
ASE08 Photos: Marek Pluskiewicz & Ciska White 2008

#### WINTER SCHOOL 2009

Sun 28 June - Sun 12 July  
For details or to enrol,  
please contact the office on  
Tel 9565 4851

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TOM BASS HONOURED



Photo: *In that Darkness and Tom Bass* by Brian McInerney 2006

The Board of the Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School is delighted to announce The University of Sydney will honour Tom Bass AM with the degree of Doctor of Visual Arts at the graduation ceremony to be held in the Great Hall on Wednesday 8 April 2009.

The Honorary Doctorate has been awarded in recognition of Bass' excellence as a sculptor and teacher and marks a fifty-six year association with the University. The University holds three Bass sculptures in its collection including *The Student* 1953 (sandstone) and *Votive Figure of the Sacred Heart* 1961 (polychrome concrete) situated at Sancta Sophia College.

This will be a poignant celebration when Bass walks through the Great Hall, twenty-five years after completing *The Arts and The Sciences* for the niches on this neo-Gothic building, commissioned and unveiled by Lloyd Rees AC CMG in 1984.



Photo: Tom Bass *The Student* 1953 (sandstone), Main Gates, University of Sydney

## BASS' TEA DRINKERS THEN & NOW

When the *Tea Drinkers* were first made, Tom Bass was at the start of his career. He made them in a small room next to the cottage in which he lived. The room was so small he couldn't stand back far enough to get an overall view of them and he used mirrors to lengthen the distance. They were modelled in clay and then cast into concrete. At that stage the use of a dry mix was not yet on Tom's radar and the concrete was placed in as a slurry - the blue metal used lies close to the surface of the sculpture adding an interesting texture.

The tea drinkers are two sculptures which represent an iconic composition of a man and woman lounging on their bench with a cup of tea resting on their knee. They sit in the country surrounded by trees. They may be having a picnic or they are a farmer and his wife resting for the morning tea which she has brought to him - she is not dressed for work outside.

The *Tea drinkers* were an early expression of Tom's ideology of totemic sculpture which has its roots in his childhood. As a child, Tom lived in Parkes and Gundagai. As a youth during the Great Depression, he went on 'the track' by 'jumping the rattler', trying to get work on farms and trying to keep body and soul together. It was these experiences that kindled a passion for rural Australia, and making them as his first major sculptures was his tribute to the very roots of our Australian identity.

Now, seeing them again, he is more than content with them and with the wisdom gained over many years. He is amazed that even back then he knew so much about sculpture and that he was able to make a work of which he is still very proud.

**Margo Hoekstra**  
-Chair of the TBSSS Inc, and Tom's Wife.

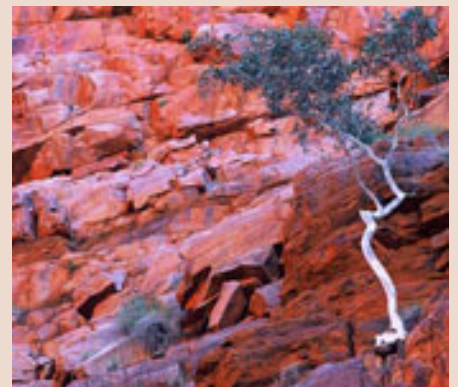


Photos: Courtesy of Tom Bass

## SCULPTURE IN THE DESERT

29 August - 5 September 2009

Into the Blue Creative Walks in association with the Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School will be hosting its first Central Australia sculpture tour accompanied by Sydney artists Wendy Black and Michael Christie. This tour will provide a wonderful creative opportunity to journey from the urban into nature. It will challenge and provide ideas for different sculptural expression as the tour leads through the Larapinta Trail in the MacDonnell Ranges while making visits to Aboriginal communities including Black Tank and Western Arrenture country of Ipolera. Licensed with the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service, *Sculpture in the Desert* was inspired by adventurer and entrepreneur Raymond Hawkins. As own/director of Into the Blue, Hawkins has lead over a thousand successful expeditions in Tasmania, the Blue Mountains, Central Australia and New Zealand. His 'Desert' themed tours include Desert Photographers, Writers, Artists and Choirs.



Meet Raymond Hawkins of Into the Blue Creative Walks at our OPEN STUDIO on Sunday 19 April from 2pm - 4pm at 1A Clara Street Erskineville. A thirty minute Q&A session will commence at 2.30pm. For booking details and trip notes go [www.intotheblue.com.au](http://www.intotheblue.com.au) or phone 02 4787 6027

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009

### TERM 1 2009

Sat 31 Jan - Thurs 4 April

### OPEN STUDIO

Sun 19 April 2pm - 4pm

### 8 SCULPTORS

#### @ THE EXHIBITION SPACE

ends Fri 24 April

### TERM 2 2009

Sat 25 April - Thurs 2 July

### WINTER SCHOOL

Sun 28 June - Fri 12 July

### TERM 3 2009

Sat 18 July - Thurs 24 September

### SCULPTURE IN THE DESERT

Sat 29 August - Sat 5 September

### TERM 4 2009

Sat 3 October - Thurs 10 December

### THE 36TH ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION (ASE09)

Sun 13 December

For further information call  
Tel 02 9565 4851

# FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

## Join now and receive great benefits:

Friends can increase their knowledge of sculpture in Australia while developing a stronger connection with the Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School and its founder Tom Bass AM. Our stimulating Friends Program is available to members of the public as well as students of sculpture. You will have the opportunity to meet and socialise with other students, art collectors and artists who seek genuine opportunities to engage more fully in the world of sculpture in Australia all year round.

Members receive: Biannual newsletter, Annual Workshop Schedule, Invitation to the Annual Student Exhibition, discounts to Summer & Winter School programs Invitations to The Exhibition Space shows, private viewings at artists' studios and guided tours of sculpture exhibitions and collections.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES (INCLUSIVE OF GST):

**Annual:** Individual \$30 / Household \$50

**Life:** Individual \$180 / Household \$300

## EVENT COST PER PERSON:

Children \$5 / Friend \$15 / Non-Friend \$25

## DON'T MISS OUR 2009 EVENTS:

### **Sculpture 21 exhibition talk @ Robin Gibson Gallery:**

Sat 27 June, 2pm - 3.30pm

### **Sculpture highlights from the AGNSW**

Sat 1 August, 2pm - 3.30pm

### **Bass in the City Sculpture Walk**

Sat 5 September, 2pm - 3.30pm

### **Sculpture by the Sea Bondi 2009**

Fri 16 October, 7am - 9am

### **Sculpture by the Sea Bondi 2009**

Fri 16 October, 5.30pm - 7.30pm



Photo: Aaron Matheson 2008

*Sculpture by the Sea Bondi 2008* tour with Genevieve Carson and exhibiting artist Bjorn Godwin



Photo: Brian McInerney 2009

*The Exhibition Space February 2009* artist drinks with exhibiting artist Margo Hoekstra and Tom Bass AM



Photo: Marek Pluskiewicz & Ciska White 2008

Photo: Aaron Matheson 2008

Left to right: *Annual Student Exhibition 2008* and Cliff Pain finishing *Modeste 2008*

## CONTRIBUTORS

Karen Alexander  
Genevieve Carson  
Margo Hoekstra  
BJ Kim

## CPE / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School (TBSSS) provides CPE professional development activities. Many of our workshop classes and master classes have been attracting professionals from architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, legal and medical fields. TBSSS is now establishing partnerships with organisations like RAI, AILA, PIA and NSW Architects Registration Board. Members can claim their CPE/CPD points through TBSSS-run sculpture workshops and enhance their professional life. Workshops provide a range of experiences in practical and design processes through making sculpture in a studio environment. For more information email [tbsss@tpg.com.au](mailto:tbsss@tpg.com.au) for upcoming events.

For more information on workshops, master classes and events visit our websites  
[www.tombasssculptureschool.org.au](http://www.tombasssculptureschool.org.au)

[www.tombass.org.au](http://www.tombass.org.au)

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