



NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 - 4, 2009

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TOM BASS MAQUETTES AT THE EXHIBITION SPACE

Tom Bass – Maquettes recently on show at The Exhibition Space revealed the artistic journey and importance Tom Bass placed on the role of maquettes and working models throughout his career. Featuring works that were the foundation for several significant civic and private sculptures in Australia, the exhibition included works from the early 1950s through to 2006 in particular the original working model (plaster) of Sydney's infamous *P&O Wall Fountain* (1962-63) and version 1 of the maquette for the National Library's monumental *Lintel Sculpture* (1967-68).

The 16 artworks offered viewers an intimate experience into Bass' development and construction processes that went on to produce large-scale sculpture commissions for universities, libraries, civic spaces and corporations. At 93 years of age, Bass revelled in the chance to revisit his early 'totemic works' and provide an insight in creating the precise content he wanted the final public sculpture to possess.

Visitors to the exhibition and public talks enjoyed the familiar sights of *AGC Sculpture* (1962-63) *Ethos Maquette*

(1959 61), *The Falconer Maquette* (1953), *The Children's Tree* (1962 63), *Entrance Sculpture – Communications* (1971), *Ascension* (1988), *Transportation Working Model - Head detail* (1963 64) and *The Idea of a University (Convocation of Scholars) Working Model* (1954-56).

However, in recent years, Tom Bass has undertaken the task of repairing, remaking and revisiting the maquettes and working models of major commissions and artworks. Newer versions included *The Tea Drinkers Maquette* (2008-09), *The Genii Maquette* (1973 2007), *The Student* (2009) and *Ethos Head* 2009, and *AMP Amicus Maquette* (2009).

The strong educational component to the exhibition included a collaborative essay and descriptions of design and fabrication processes by Tom Bass and Margo Hoekstra. Not since the Tom Bass Retrospective at the Sydney Opera House and Bathurst Regional Gallery, was Genevieve Carson able to offer viewers such detailed insights into Bass's dealings with clients and the cost to complete commissions.



'Edmund Rice: Father of Mary, Brother to all', Wendy Black.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' EDMUND RICE SCULPTURE UNVEILED

During their Founder's Day on 4 May 2009, Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham proudly unveiled the bronze sculpture '*Edmund Rice: Father of Mary, Brother to all*' by Wendy Black.

An exciting collaboration between Christian Brothers' Lewisham (CBL), Wendy Black and the Sculpture Studio, the sculpture represents stage one of The Edmund Rice Sculpture Project. With more sculptural reliefs planned for CBL, the panels will ultimately depict the

personal and educational achievements of the Irish born Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice (1762-1844) and his overall significance as the founder of the Christian Brothers' order and Presentation Brothers.

In '*Edmund Rice: Father of Mary, Brother to all*', Wendy Black has portrayed Rice 'as a warm, compassionate and principled man, who was loved as a father figure by all those who knew him', and she goes on to say, 'I have portrayed

him as a father sharing a bible story with his young daughter, Mary, on his knee.'

So far the project has presented an interesting challenge to Black, who was amazed by the historical inconsistencies about Rice. However access to more recently published accounts on the life and charitable work of Rice have resulted in the portrayal of a more humble and joyful figure.

TOM BASS MAQUETTES



Clockwise from top left: Ascension (FS), AGC (FS), The Falconer and the Dove (FS), Head of ETHOS (FS), Lintel Sculpture National Library (NFS), Genii (FS) and The Tea Drinkers (FS). Photos by Aaron Matheson

SPOTLIGHT ON

GREG JOHNS - NOVEMBER WORKSHOP W/SXS09

Continuing the now 6 year tradition of hosting Sculpture by the Sea (SXS) artist workshops, the Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School is delighted to announce that 2009 SXS (Bondi) exhibiting sculptor Greg Johns will run a two-day workshop on Saturday 31 October to Sunday 1 November.

Upon graduating from the South Australian School of Art in 1978, Johns made an immediate impact exhibiting his work in Adelaide, Sydney (Robin Gibson Gallery), and Melbourne, West Australia and overseas in New York, United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, China and Denmark. His work can be found in prestigious private and corporate collections in Australia and overseas.

Inspired by forms within the Australian landscape, mythology and spirituality, Johns' signature totemic, symbolic, monumental works fabricated in Corten steel can be found in rural and urban

landscapes throughout the country. His passion for the landscape took another inspiring turn in 2004 when he founded the artist-run event the Palmer Sculpture Biennial on his property 70km outside of Adelaide. The fourth Palmer Sculpture Biennial in 2010 will include up to twenty artists from Australia and overseas.

Workshop:
SAT 31 OCT 1.30pm - 6pm
SUN 01 NOV 9.00am - 6pm with a Talk by Greg Johns at 4.30 on the Saturday

You are invited to participate in this unique workshop which will give you an opportunity to share Johns vision and explore your personal connections to the Australian landscape.



Standard Fee: \$300
Friend's Early Bird 4 weeks: \$260
Friend's Early Bird 2 weeks: \$280
Fees include the talk and one of the Walking tours of SXS (See Friends Events on Page 4) normal costs: \$25/\$15 friends. Non workshop participants can register for the talk for this small fee. Bookings for the walk, talk or workshop contact Aaron on 02 9565 4851.

MATTHEW TALBOT SCULPTURAL RELIEF UNVEILED

Bass Sculpture Studio School successfully completed a sculptural relief dedicated to the reformed alcoholic and Irish Catholic, The Venerable Matthew Talbot (1856-1925) for the Jim Da Silva Farm in Nowra.

Commissioned in 2008 by the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, the Farm is a residence for homeless men with mental disabilities including the effects of addictions. Reflecting its surroundings the sculptural relief sits in small circular mud-brick chapel within the Farm. Christie has portrayed Matthew Talbot kneeling in prayer in front of a table with an overturned bottle, rosary beads in

hand and a spiritual book with the inscription "all I ask of you is to love."



Commissioned nearly forty-two years after Tom Bass AM first designed the iconic St Vincent de Paul Logo (1967), Christie reflects, "It is my hope that the Relief will have the effect of placing the Farm under the patronage of Matthew Talbot, and provide a spiritual focus for residents and visiting groups."

THE 36TH ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION
Sun 13 December

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BJ (BEOMJIN) KIM HIGHLY COMMENDED IN WATERHOUSE PRIZE 2009

Following the success of his dynamic portrayal of Herbie Collins for the Captains' Walk in Cootamundra, BJ (BeomJin) Kim, capped off 2008 by winning the Peoples' Choice Award at the Annual Student Exhibition with 'Do Geese See God?' (plaster). It is with great pride that the Sculpture Studio heard BJ Kim was highly commended for 'Do Geese See God?' (bronze) in *The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize 2009*.

Juggling a full-time career as a lawyer and volunteering his expertise to the Studio, BJ is developing his latest sculpture commission. *The*



Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize was on view at the South Australian Museum and travels to the National Archives of Australia, Canberra for 24 September - 15 November 2009. To view BJ's work online visit www.thewaterhouse.com.au

Congratulations also go to staff member Aaron Matheson as a finalist for his painting entitled 'An Uncommon Beauty.'

TED KENNEDY-MUM SHIRL PROJECT (AM)

In 2006 friends of Ted Kennedy approached Tom Bass, who has been a friend of Ted, to make a memorial to honour Fr Ted who died in 2005.

Fr Ted Kennedy is remembered in Redfern for his work with the local aboriginal people. In the 1970's he joined Mum Shirl, an aboriginal elder who was already very active in the local community with her prison work and care for her people.

Early in 2008 Damien Lucas, Sue Alexopoulos and Peter Bartlett worked with Tom Bass to formulate ideas for the sculpture, after meeting with parishioners and interested local residents. Both Mum Shirl and Ted Kennedy are remembered for their tireless altruistic activity and the idea of abstracted hands as a symbol for working together was developed. The hands were to reflect their



different roles. Fr Ted's hand over-arching, like a roof, providing shelter. Mum Shirl was perceived as a nurturing and supportive person and her hand is represented to be in a cradling/supportive gesture.

At three community meetings over 200 local residents gave support through signing a petition. With the generous help of Cracknell Lonergan Architects an Environmental impact statement has been prepared which will be submitted with the Development Application. We are grateful to all the hard work and effort everyone has contributed to date.

A TRIBUTE TO CLIFF PAIN

Cliff came to the Sculpture School 8 years ago and embarked on a prolific outpouring of sculpture in various media. He was a great presence at the school for so many years every Thursday morning.

Tom loved teaching Cliff – he was so receptive. He recognised the quality of the man and in 2003 nominated Cliff onto our inaugural Board as treasurer. Cliff accepted the position with good grace. For the last 5 years he generously gave of himself brining with him all his expertise in management as well as technical skills with lighting, computers and equipment. He was a driving force behind the creation of the Exhibition Space and his last appearance at the studio was to preside over its opening in February.

The last years of Cliff's work as a sculptor were a reflection of the person he was. Cliff described his work *Modeste* as 'Demure and sensuous, *Modeste* gives us a sense of calm and refinement'. Cliff was a genuinely modest man, he was quiet and ordered and unfussed and he also had an enormous capacity for compassion, grown from difficult life experiences. He was fair and non judgemental and the rudder that steadied our fledgling organisation in challenging times.

About his sculpture *Germination* Cliff commented: 'As it springs from the Earth, *Germination* fills us with the joy of creation'. *Germination* acknowledges the pleasure Cliff got from making sculpture and how he valued the beginning of things, and doing them well. In his ideas and ventures Cliff paid attention to detail and having sown the seeds he then tended them with care and attention until he had achieved his goal.

Cliff was a man fundamentally at peace with himself about living, and then about dying. This peace can be seen in *Upwards* made in 2007. Cliff captured the abstract movement of this in a very gentle and wholesome way. From the time of being told he had advanced cancer his acceptance was remarkable for a man who had still so much to live for.

As in the living of his life, in the completion of it, Cliff lived with integrity and courage.

We miss him. Our condolences are extended to Barbara, Cliff's wife, and to his family.



THANKING VOLUNTEERS OF 2009

The care and commitment of our staff, students, supporters, donors and Board, has enabled exciting changes and much needed improvements to occur at the Sculpture Studio School. We have created this corner in the newsletter to acknowledge this and tell you a little about the people who make these contributions.

In this issue we would like to convey our gratitude to Sue Alexopoulos for her significant contribution to maintaining the workshop area and to Thérèse Clancy for covering and repairing the School's precious library collection on loan from Tom Bass.

Art has always been a lifelong passion for Sue Alexopoulos. Joining the School as a student in 2001, she retired from work as a psychologist and teacher in 2002, to dedicate more time to sculpture. Sue has consistently volunteered to help with clean ups, open days, preparing and manning exhibitions and more recently help with re-organising the workshop area. The School has been extremely fortunate that Sue's diverse talents have led her to become our newest teacher.

Introduced to the Annual Student Exhibition several years ago by friend and current student Christine Crimmins, Thérèse Clancy enrolled in Life Drawing classes in 2008. Having not met Tom Bass until 2008, Thérèse had been a long-time admirer of his work particularly Bass's three works at St Augustine's Church (1955-56) when she was at boarding school in Yass. Thérèse worked as a teacher librarian for 26 years and it is her years of experience that have enabled well-loved books to be reconditioned in the library, cover them and fix broken spines.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009

TERM 4 2009

Ends Thursday 10 Dec 2009

SCULPTURE BY THE SEA TOURS 2009

Friday 30 Oct, 7 - 9am

Saturday 31 Oct, 5 - 7pm

TOWARDS THE LAND (see page 2): A Masterclass with Greg Johns

Saturday 31 Oct, 1.30pm - 6pm to

Sunday 1 Nov, 9am - 6pm

The 36TH ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION (ASE09)

Sunday 13 Dec 2009

SUMMER SCHOOL 2010

Sunday 3 January – Sunday 24

January, 2010

Sunday Jan 3: *Sculpture in a Day*

Monday Jan 4 to Friday Jan 8:

Life Study Intensive

Saturday Jan 9 to Monday Jan 11:

Carving Workshop

Sunday Jan 16 to Monday Jan 18:

Portrait from Life

Sunday Jan 24: *Life Drawing day*

2010 TERM DATES

- 1 Saturday Jan 23 to Thursday Apr 1
- 2 Tuesday Apr 20 to Saturday Jun 26
- 3 Tuesday Jul 13 to Saturday Sept 18
- 4 Saturday Oct 2 to Thursday Dec 9

2010 FRIENDS EVENTS

Jennifer Turpin Studio visit

Saturday 13 Feb, 3pm – 4.30pm

Crawford's Casting

Workshop Visit; Casting day

Tues 12 Mar, 10.30am – 12pm

Alex Seton at Sullivan & Strumpf

Saturday 19 Jun 3pm – 4.30pm

For further information call

Tel 02 9565 4851

THE FRIENDS PROGRAM

For the last two years the Friends program has been a new addition to the Sculpture Studio School. It was introduced by Genevieve Carson in her capacity as Studio Projects Manager and has added a fantastic public dimension to our activities. Friends can increase their knowledge of sculpture in Australia while developing a stronger connection with the Studio School, contemporary artists and arts organisations.

Genevieve has been doing her PhD with a focus on Tom Bass' work as a public sculptor since the beginning of 2008. It is with much regret that she left us to focus on her studies, but fortunately she is able to continue to manage the Friends Program.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

Join and receive great benefits in 2010

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 with sculpture all year round.

Members Benefits: Significant discounts to Term workshops, Summer and Winter Schools and merchandise, Biannual newsletter, Annual Workshop Schedule, Invitation to the Annual Student Exhibition, Invitations to The Exhibition Space shows, private

viewings at artists' studios and guided tours of sculpture exhibitions and collections.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual: Individual \$30, Couples/Household \$50

Life: Individual \$180, Couples/Household \$300

EVENT COST PER PERSON

Children (under the age of 18yrs) \$5

Friend \$20 / Non-members \$30

THE 2009 SCULPTURE BY THE SEA TOURS

Join exhibiting sculptors on these popular tours during Sculpture by the Sea

Dawn tour: Friday 30 October, 7-9am

Twilight tour: Saturday 31 October, 5-7pm

THE 2010 PROGRAM

Jennifer Turpin Studio visit

Saturday 13 February, 3pm – 4.30pm

Crawford's Casting

Workshop Visit; Casting day

Tues 12 March, 10.30am – 12pm

Alex Seton at Sullivan & Strumpf

Saturday 19 June 3pm – 4.30pm

Contact TBSSS for bookings

THANK YOU, FAREWELL & WELCOME

Earlier this year, Damian Lucas, a valued teacher and friend to the School decided to relocate to Lismore NSW. Damien had been at the school for a long time and is missed by many. We hope he will return for future workshops.

We are delighted to welcome Sue Alexopoulos to our teaching staff. An accomplished sculptor and long-time supporter of the School, Sue now teaches our Wednesday morning (AM) class.

At the end of August we farewelled Genevieve Carson who managed Studio projects and assisted in establishing The Exhibition Space. Dedicating more

time to her doctorate on Tom Bass, Genevieve will continue to manage events for our Friends Program 2009-10.

After three years, the School's Board would like to convey its sincere thanks to Wendy Black for her dedication in the role of Teaching Coordinator. Wendy continues to teach our Thursday morning (AM) and afternoon (PM) classes.

As a long-time student, board member and supporter of the School I am delighted to replace Wendy as the Teaching Program Coordinator and look forward to continuing our exciting and challenging sculpture programs.

For more information on workshops, masterclasses and events visit our websites
www.tombasssculptureschool.org.au
www.tombass.org.au

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