



# TOM BASS SCULPTURE STUDIO SCHOOL

1a Clara St, Erskineville NSW 2043  
www.tombasssculptureschool.org.au  
email [tbsss@tpg.com.au](mailto:tbsss@tpg.com.au) (02) 9565 4851  
May 2005

Dear Friends,

There are a lot of exciting developments at the school and I hope you enjoy this newsletter. We invite you to check the website about our July 2005 program. Please note the Open Weekend as well as specials for the drawing class below.

Check the website '*Diary at a glance*' for a quick find of our programs

## New feature section about Tom Bass' work on page 2 of this newsletter

### Keeping in touch

In recent times quite a few people have said "if I had known you were doing that workshop I would have done it". We do emails and mail outs but if you are particularly interested in a workshop send us an expression of interest and we will contact you closer to the time. We also put information on the website and we are always happy to talk to you on the phone

### Book early

Increasingly we find that some of the classes are filling up and people come unannounced and then cannot be accommodated. It is difficult to predict which class will fill up and we advise that you let us know asap if you would like to come to a class so we can put you on the list. We always offer early bird payment and there is an advantage in paying before the class starts. Check the website or ring or email Ann Fisher at the school

### April 2005 Workshops

Damien Lucas took an interesting workshop in fabrication with wood and steel. People loved it. Not only was it an opportunity to explore a different medium and develop different concepts, for those less adept at handling tools it was a chance to learn under the master's guidance. With his background in the trades, Damien is highly capable of turning his ease with tools to their application in the making of interesting sculptures. It is a class on its own as the burring and grinding sounds of tools delighted the participants in this intensive and charged workshop environment.



**Damien is doing another intensive 'construction' class in July so if you are interested register your interest now**

Sinu Kang (pictured right), who was visiting from Korea was with us full time through term 1 and April – being at the school turned his life upside down and he is now hopeful of learning sculpture when he returns home after a few months of traveling in Australia. Sinu also enjoyed the many other classes offered including the newly established Head Study class on Friday mornings.



As part of his **carving class**, Paul Hopmeier gave a talk about the history of carving on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Some people responded to our invitation to attend this free event and we were greatly entertained by Paul's passion for the

carved works through out the ages. Thank you Paul.

**Open Studio Saturday and Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Please bring your family and friends to see the studio school.  
***The Pioneer Woman*** by Damien Lucas will be able to be viewed on the Sunday.  
This bronze, life size sculpture was commissioned for the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach. It will be the last opportunity for Sydney-siders to see her before she is transported to her permanent home there.

## Drawing Class

The drawing class has been buzzing. Tom feels that it is an essential class in the school and encourages anyone seriously interested in sculpture to attend. To make this class more accessible to as many students as possible **we have reduced the cost to \$150 for the 6 classes and you can come on an occasional basis for \$30 per class** Tuesday nights at 6.30 to 9pm from May10<sup>th</sup> for 6 weeks.

## About the Website:

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

Check out our new website- it has taken on a very dynamic and interesting character

We would like feedback about it so that we can continue to improve it. In response to web surfer's suggestions we have updated the Classes/Class Outlines page and also added a "Diary at a Glance".

## About one of Tom's works

It has been suggested that we write something about one of Tom's sculptures. With an endless source of these works it will provide interesting reading for quite a few newsletters to come.



The Genii was made in 1973. As you can see it is a children's sculpture and since the we are currently making a children's sculpture in the Public Sculpture class for Erskineville Public School, I thought this is a nice way to start this special section of the newsletter.

The photos are now a good 30 years old as the lad, Tom's son Marco, now takes his own children to sit and play on this sculptural 'gym'. You can imagine children climbing on this animated creature with its smiling face and energetic stance. It stands in the Queen Victoria Gardens in Melbourne, opposite the Art Gallery. The little curls on the head of the Sumerian sculptures in the gallery inspired the texture of the back and legs of the sculpture. This is not the first children's sculpture Tom has



made and he has modeled children in quite a few of his other works.

The Genii was commissioned by Melbourne City Council and when Tom designed it he wanted to make something which would stimulate the imagination of children and would immediately attract them when they walked into the park. "I have actually seen that happen" said Tom "When a group of children saw the Genii at a distance and then made a spontaneous rush to get to it and then climbed all over the Genii and sat on it and did all the things I hoped they would do"

Recently Diana Padua Fernandes from Brazil saw the Genii and liked it so much she tracked us down when she moved to Sydney and did a class in the head study with Damien. Someone else wrote to Tom this week: "I am a woman past the age of "child hood" who enjoys nothing better than a trip to the Queen Victoria Garden (Melbourne) so that I can interact & play with "the Genie". I love to climb & sit & make the Genie sing to all who are nearby by banging my open palm on its head. It resonates far & wide. Thankyou, Thankyou, thankyou. You bring joy to the child within."

To quote Tom "When I finished the maquette I looked at it and I thought this sculpture has to have a name because if I don't give it one someone will give it one I don't like. I was racking my mind to think of a name when suddenly the word Genii popped into my mind At that moment if I had been asked what a genie was I would have thought of a puff of smoke coming out of a flask. When I consulted the dictionary I found that the word Genii was of 'a sprightly winged figure' which is exactly what I have designed"



## New talent in the office

We are happy that Genevieve Carson has joined us on a part time basis. Genevieve comes with a background in arts management and curating, most recently in her work with Sculpture by the Sea and arts journalist Michael Reid. It is wonderful to have her guiding presence for the next phase of the studio school's life as we consolidate our resources and progress some of the projects that require her expertise

## Past Students

We want to add past students to our webpage and we are interested to profile them on our About us/ Past student page. Please reply to this email ( [tbsss@tpg.com.au](mailto:tbsss@tpg.com.au) ) to let us know what you have been doing in your creative life and if you know any past students tell us about them so we can get in touch with them