



ArtsNational Gold Coast

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

Formerly the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society
& Associate Member of the Arts Society UK



SWELL FESTIVAL 2024

From the Chair

At the end of our 2024 lecture program, I reflect on the diverse group of speakers who presented their equally diverse topics to us. Next year promises to be just as interesting, so if you have not yet renewed your membership, contact Membership Secretary, Cara. The 2025 membership form, along with the 2025 program, will soon be uploaded to our website <https://www.artsnational.au/societies/gold-coast-bundall/>

I again thank our voluntary editor Val Shooter for another bright and informative newsletter, and all the contributors for this important document.

I also reflect on my first year as your Chairman. I hope that the society has progressed without too many glitches during 2024. We have shared many happy moments, sad ones too, some tricky challenges, and ill-health. I cannot thank my Committee enough for their support in ensuring things ran smoothly through it all, with all the i's dotted and t's crossed. We have been fortunate to have the skills of a volunteer as our Acting Secretary for the last few months. Sadly she is unable to join the Committee next year so we are urgently looking for someone to fill this essential role.



Margaret Hamilton, currently responsible for the Badges and Archives portfolios, has been a stalwart of our society for 9 years and will not be continuing on the Committee after the AGM for a Committee position in 2025. I sincerely thank her for her commitment and dedication to her various roles with ADFAS and ArtsNational Gold Coast. Her expertise is unparalleled.

Our AGM is on Thursday 12/12/24 at 10am at the Broadbeach Cultural Centre and I invite you all to come along to our final event for 2024. RSVP on Trybooking.

Your Committee is taking a well-earned rest from 16th December to 17th January before we are back preparing for the commencement of the 2025 lecture program. I wish you a safe and happy end-of-year break and encourage you to be on the lookout for insights from your travels to share with our members in next year's newsletters. Images are particularly valuable.

Best wishes

Gordon

Gordon Wright, Chairman ArtsNational Gold Coast



COACH TRIP to SWELL SCULPTURE FESTIVAL – 12/09/24



This 22nd SWELL exhibition didn't disappoint, with Members exploring the works at their own pace on the beach foreshore.

What is SWELL? SWELL Sculpture Festival is a multifaceted arts organisation that connects people, art, and place, based in Currumbin, Gold Coast, Queensland.

Since 2003, SWELL has exhibited 873 Sculptures in the main exhibition on Currumbin Beach with a portfolio value worth \$15.5M. SWELL was the brainchild of two creative minds, Natasha Edwards and Kylie Mitchell-Smith, who shared the idea of creating a new art experience for everyone.



beaches of Currumbin. Natasha Edwards continues her role as co-Founder, Artistic Director and Curator of SWELL.

The SWELL Sculpture Festival strengthened its presence on the Queensland art circuit in 2004 with an exhibition of works that included high calibre artists such as Christopher Trotter (Queensland) and international artists such as Andy Scott (Scotland) and Nick Horrigan (UK). In 2005, the festival extended to ten days and introduced the popular SWELL Smalls Gallery where you can buy small sculptures (like the cute wombat, left) for sale by sculptors exhibiting at the festival.

Artist awards were introduced such as the Environmental Awareness Award, Emerging Artist Award and the Gold Coast City Council Acquisition, which has led to a sculpture trail around the coast with SWELL works a predominant portion of this trail. A Major Award of \$15,000 is a drawcard for many Artists.



As with many of our events, this too was the result of Members' requests. Knowing how difficult it is to get a carpark at this very popular event, we engaged our own coach to drop us at one end and pick us up at the other, taking us then on to lunch at Alley's Restaurant at Currumbin RSL club (below).



Eventually it evolved into the SWELL Sculpture Festival, a free, outdoor sculpture exhibition on the beautiful





A popular free “decorate a pot” workshop was available courtesy of Southern Beaches Community Garden, Tugun – a family friendly, community organisation for composting, vermiculture and other civic minded projects.

<https://southernbeachescommunitygarden.com/>

We watched as parents helped their toddlers decorate recycled flower pots (like bits and pieces picked up on beaches – even discarded or lost footwear) and then plant their pots with seedlings to take home! Everyone was encouraged to “*Get creative with materials like buttons, fabric scraps, sparkles and bottle caps to personalize your pot; learn planting basics and then choose from a variety of seedlings...*” Our little artists of the future (or their parents) proudly carried their masterpieces around the festival site.



Below L-R: Southern Beaches’ Decorate a Pot tent; Compost wheelbarrow with recycled ‘pots’; seedlings ready for planting... and some finished pots... (Last two photos produced with permission from Southern Beaches Community Garden)

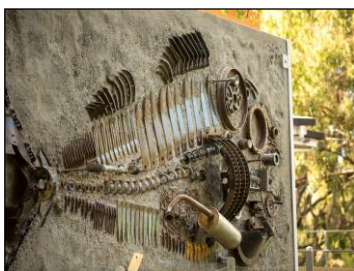


<https://www.swellsculpture.com.au/whats-on-swells-sculpture-festival-2024/seedling-planter-workshop/>



Wendy Spencer & information from www.swellsculpture.com.au

QUEENSLAND ROAD TRIP SUGGESTION – Goondiwindi 4 day Art Trail:



Interested? Click on this Southern Queensland Country link for comprehensive touring and art information:

<https://www.southernqueenslandcountry.com.au/blog/4-days-on-the-goondiwindi-art-trail/>

Art images from Southern Queensland Country website:
Left: Macintyre Cod Fossil Sculpture, Goondiwindi
Right: Grain silos at Yelarbon



ILLUSION ART

Amazing Painting by Artist Howard Lee – from <https://www.howardleeart.com/profile>

Howard Lee is a multidisciplinary artist based in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England. Illusion, trickery and playful deception are the hallmarks of Lee's hyperrealist drawing videos. Mixing an impressive array of media from Copic Marker through to Prismacolor Pencil and artist's acrylic paint, Howard Lee presents a re-interpretation of reality that asks you to question the validity of the online world.

First uploading a drawing video in January 2015, the work of Howard Lee has had countless millions of views the world over. Lee has featured on the Today Show on NBC, Outrageous Acts of Science on the Discovery Channel and has featured on DW Euromaxx in Germany and NTV in Japan. Collaborating with a wide variety of brands, Lee has worked with Paco Rabanne, Absolut, Jack Daniels, Southern Comfort, Guinness and Playstation. The artist's style draws on his experience of mixing traditional and digital media – an approach first developed as a Fine Art student at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Lee is continually growing his online video portfolio with fresh illusion, animation and collaboration. Look out for some new takes on tradition and more unique juxtaposition of drawing, painting and reality.



Videos: Watch Howard Lee creating his Illusion Art

*Hidden House Illusion and Trick Art – a 4:18 min video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCMIU57HPlw>

*Pegasus in a tree illusion – a 53 sec video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1J-cgcFmac>

<https://www.howardleeart.com/>



STREET ART ILLUSION by Kevin Lee – *The Invisibility of Poverty*

From Street Art Utopia: <https://streetartutopia.com/2024/05/18/the-invisibility-of-poverty-street-art-by-kevin-lee/>

Just because you can't see it, does that mean it isn't there?

This question is powerfully illustrated in UNICEF China's 2008 campaign to raise awareness about the "invisibility of poverty" affecting children in China. In a series of photographs by Kevin Lee, Haohui Zhou, and Bin Liu, homeless children in Beijing were painted to blend seamlessly with their surroundings, making them almost indiscernible from the urban landscape.

One of the most striking images features a boy sitting on a set of stone steps, painted so meticulously that one might have to look twice to notice him. A sign beside

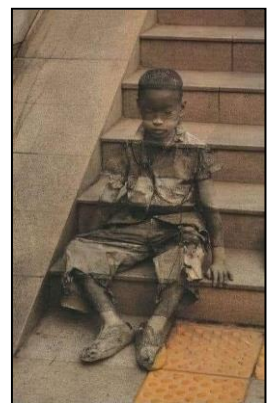


him reads “不要忽略我,” which translates to “Don't ignore me.” Beneath this, in smaller text, the sign highlights the plight of over 1.5 million underprivileged children in China, urging passers-by to recognize and address their hardships.

This powerful campaign, created by Kevin Lee in Beijing, China, in 2008, managed to raise approximately \$30,000 USD in just five days, significantly aiding suffering children. Although launched over a decade ago, these images continue to resonate, reminding us of the persistent issue of child poverty and the importance of empathy and action.

In today's world, these visuals gain renewed relevance, encouraging us to see and respond to the suffering that often goes unnoticed. The campaign's success and the enduring impact of these images underscore the vital role of art in advocacy and awareness.

Val Shooter



IRIS van HERPEN: SCULPTING the SENSES



The recent *Sculpting the Senses* exhibition at GOMA was an amazing display of exquisite, magical garments of contemporary fashion, accompanied by images immersing the viewer in a connection to art, natural history and cultural artefacts.

Internationally acclaimed Dutch fashion designer, Iris van Herpen (left) transported the exhibition exclusively to Brisbane, based on the original presentation at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. The GOMA exhibition was a collaborative

project by curators from Paris and GOMA.

Image above: <https://www.irisvanherpen.com/about/iris-van-herpen>

Right: L - R: *Immerse into the Inspiration/Seijaku* collection; *IVH Custom Heliosphere* gown worn by Beyoncé for her Renaissance world tour



Ten “out of this world” dresses greeted me in the first room. The fabrics, design and imagination combined fashion, art, science and technology in an innovative and beautiful way. More than 150 dresses and accessories were curated in themes: Space and the Universe; Water and Dreams; Marine Biology and Invertebrates – skeletal shapes of deep sea creatures (right); Nature – seeds, leaves and fungi... and meticulous research inspired the designs. Van Herpen’s clothing is designed to float diaphanously around the wearer so displays had fans trained on the fabric to produce this effect.

Accompanying the static models were screens showing models parading the outfits on the runway. Van Herpen creations are for customers such as Beyoncé, Cate Blanchett and Lady Gaga and some of the projected images showed them wearing her clothing.

Below: left - *Sensory Seas* collection; centre and right - *Earthrise* collection 2021 – filigree patterns were designed by looking at objects in nature through a microscope.

*Click on this link to watch a 6.46 min *Earthrise* video showing the scope of Van Herpen’s creativity:

<https://www.dezeen.com/2021/07/14/iris-van-herpen-earthrise-collection-fashion-ocean-plastic/>



Van Herpen combined her knowledge of haute couture with inspiration from nature, marine biology and quantum physics. Her work is more than fashion – it is art in motion. An example is her Water Dress, crafted with glass spheres, silicone and PETG (thermoplastic polymer which is widely used in 3D printing). One of her water dress designs in glass is pictured right. This piece, along with others in the Water and Dreams



section, highlights her fascination with water. The design process involved filming water splashes in slow motion and translating them into wearable form – bold, inventive and surreal.

One room showcased the techniques used in designing the garments: hand crafting and technologies of 3D printing – designed to create a layered effect of themes. I was impressed by van Herpen’s innovative ideas.

If you ever get the chance to visit *Sculpting the Senses*, I thoroughly recommend it. You will be inspired as well as awestruck by the beauty of the garments.



Above: L-R: *Roots of Rebirth* Collection; *Mano-Maya* dress from the *Meta Morphism* collection 2022; *Hydrozoa* dress from the *Sensory Seas* collection 2020; from *Syntopia* Collection; from *Sensory Seas* collection

* Comprehensive information about Iris van Herpen and her fashions: <https://www.irisvanherpen.com/sculpting-the-senses>

* GOMA *Sculpting the Senses* Website: <https://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/exhibition/iris-van-herpen-sculpting-the-senses/>

Dianne Cecil

SUSI'S HOTA GALLERY NEWS



first major exhibition held in the Gallery upon opening in 2021.

Opening night was 27 September, and it was truly a celebratory event. There's nothing like a group of excited artists to ramp up the mood! It was a fun night, as was the following day – the first day the exhibition was open to the public. There were fantastic artist talks and interviews, and multiple creative activities for family and friends.

Image right: Visitors enjoying the Artists' Talks on opening day of *HERE & NOW: Gold Coast Triennial* Remco Photography



The tote-bag printing activity was a genuine hit with our visitors.

Left: A participant's great work in the tote bag printing activity on opening day of *HERE & NOW: Gold Coast Triennial* Remco Photography

Below: A young participant's soon-to-be new library bag printed on opening day of *HERE & NOW: Gold Coast Triennial* Remco Photography

Six Gold Coast artists were commissioned to create ambitious bodies of work, and these form the

backbone of the exhibition. Artists Lyle Duncan, Norton Fredericks, Jay Jermyn, Kathy Mackey, Rebecca Ross and Larissa Warren represent an exciting snapshot of local practitioners making contemporary art that is both local and global in its ideas and execution. As a part of the triennial, artists from across the city were invited to submit an individual artwork through an open call out.

From over 200 responses to the call out, 36 artworks were selected and make up the salon exhibition that runs the gamut of contemporary practice, and includes works ranging from installations, video, sculpture and an array of colourful 2D works.

One of the features I love about the *GCT* is that Gallery visitors can explore and wander through the seven interconnected spaces of the show. To me, it's like exploring artists' studios, albeit pristinely tidy ones!

HERE & NOW is a free exhibition, and there's a terrific range of public programs complementing the show. There's a weekly session (that's right up my alley) called Cocktails with Curators, where visitors enjoy a guided tour of the show with a Curator, before heading up to the Exhibitionist Bar where they enjoy bespoke cocktails introduced by our resident mixologist Tom, who has created delicious thirst-quenchers inspired by the artistic practices of the commissioned artists. In the culinary arts vein, executive chef Dayan Hartill-Law has curated an amazing and delectable tasting menu with dishes that echo the themes, colours and emotions of the artists' work. Believe me; these gourmet treats are absolutely delicious! (There's definite perks to the job!). There are also Panel Discussions and our ArtLab workshops designed to engage visitors of all ages.





Up in Gallery 2, *HOTA Collects: Direction* is an exhibition I worked on. The HOTA Collection is a source of pride for the community, and a significant cultural asset of the City. I know many of you as ArtsNational members have contributed to the development of our fine collection. It was a privilege and a joy for me to delve into the HOTA Collection for the first time since my appointment last November. Narrowing down my choices was quite a challenge, as the Collection truly is a veritable treasure trove. I've selected works by artists I not only admire, but whose practices chronicle social history and are wonderful story tellers. There's figurative works, as well as landscape and works of contemplative still life depicted in painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics. There are a couple of new acquisitions by artist Gerwyn Davies too.

Left: Edwin Bode, *Not titled [Wire Rope Falls on Guanaba Creek]* not dated, watercolour on paper, Collection, HOTA Gallery. Gifted by the citizens of the Gold Coast to future generations 2018. Copyright expired.

Below: Vida Lahey, *Surfers Paradise* c. 1933, oil on canvas, Collection, HOTA Gallery. Gifted by the citizens of the Gold Coast to future generations 2000 © Image courtesy of the Estate of Vida Lahey



The Gallery has programmed a range of public programs to highlight artists in *Direction* throughout the duration of the exhibition. There's some great In Conversations coming up with some of my favourite artists, so mark your diaries and please come along!

On Sunday 27 October at 1.00pm I was In Conversation with Michael Zavros – one of the Gold Coast's favourite artists, and who has recently been appointed as the Artistic Director of BLEACH* 2025. And on Sunday 24 November at 1.00pm I'll be interviewing internationally renowned artist Euan Macleod. An Archibald Prize winner, Euan is best known for his dramatic landscapes which explore sense of place and the human condition.

You can find more details, and book online at HOTA's website for these talks at:

<https://hota.com.au/whats-on/live/talks-and-ideas/hota-gallery-director-susi-muddiman-oam-in-conversation-with-michael-zavros> and <https://hota.com.au/whats-on/live/talks-and-ideas/hota-gallery-director-susi-muddiman-oam-in-conversation-with-euan-macleod>

Current Exhibitions: <https://hota.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/current-exhibitions>

There's so much coming up on the HOTA Gallery calendar! I'm really looking forward to the next exhibition in the Children's Gallery – *Anna Carey's Magic + Memory: Make me a home*. This show opens on 9 November and I just know it will delight our visitors. The Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award 2024 or the JUWSPA as we all know it, opens on 14 December. I'm excited to see the finalists' entries on the wall and await our Judge's decision on the winner! Our Judge this year is Chris Saines CNZM, Director QAGOMA.



I hope you had a chance to call in and see this year's *ENERGIES* exhibition in Gallery 4 which closed on Sunday 10 November. *ENERGIES 24* is a renowned exhibition showcasing the exceptional work of senior secondary visual art students on the Gold Coast. <https://hota.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/current-exhibitions>

I look forward to seeing you at the Gallery soon.

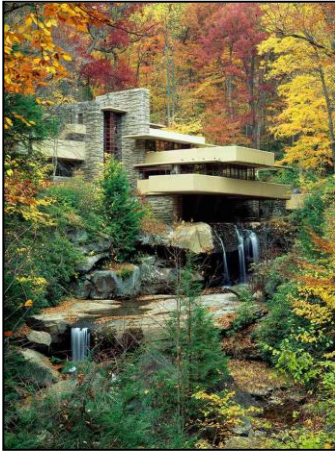
Very best wishes

Susi

Susi Muddiman OAM Gallery & Visual Arts Director HOTA



WHAT WOULD FRANK HAVE DESIGNED?



October's Frank Lloyd Wright lecture highlighted the legendary architect's love of nature and his commitment to designing buildings to blend into the environment. From *Architectural Digest*: <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/fallingwater-everything-to-know-about-frank-lloyd-wrights-masterpiece>

Though the late American architect designed more than 1,000 buildings during his career, Frank Lloyd Wright's "Fallingwater"—a private home situated over an active waterfall in forested Mill Run, Pennsylvania—is one of his most celebrated. Considered a masterwork of the [organic architecture style](#), Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater embodies a harmony between site and design that the architect championed.

"There in a beautiful forest was a solid, high rock ledge rising beside a waterfall, and the natural thing seemed to be to cantilever the house from that rock bank over the falling water," Wright once explained of his 1935 design for the Fallingwater house.

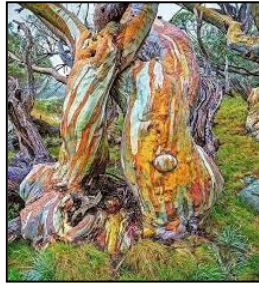
Image credit

[https://www.travelandleisure.com/thmb/WL_d0z7YsevHT9EObCTPWbrWJI=/1500x0/filters:no_upscale\(\):max_bytes\(150000\):strip_icc\(\)/TAL-fallingwater-exterior-and-patio-FALLINGWATER1122-a06008f46283430ca9d1087542c510b2.jpg](https://www.travelandleisure.com/thmb/WL_d0z7YsevHT9EObCTPWbrWJI=/1500x0/filters:no_upscale():max_bytes(150000):strip_icc()/TAL-fallingwater-exterior-and-patio-FALLINGWATER1122-a06008f46283430ca9d1087542c510b2.jpg)

But what would Frank have designed had he seen Australia's High Country and the magnificence of its Snow Gums? It only takes a little mist for the trunks and limbs to glow with spectacular colour reminiscent of the glorious autumn foliage at Fallingwater.

Snow Gum - Nature's Colourful Transformation

Text credit: Earth Unreal



The *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, commonly known as Snow Gum, graces the Australian landscape with its unique beauty. This evergreen tree boasts twisted branches adorned in creamy-white, pale grey, and green smooth bark. As it matures, the bark peels away in cinnamon strips, revealing a stunning transformation.

The adult leaves, glossy and grey-green, grow up to 8 inches (20 cm) long. In spring and summer, clusters of 9-15 white flowers appear among the foliage, followed by large gum-nuts. But it's the bark that steals the show—a gradual shedding process that unveils a mesmerizing array of colours and textures.

Native from Queensland to Tasmania, Snow Gums thrive in diverse conditions, from frigid cold to scorching heat. They reach heights of 12-50 feet (3-15 metres) and prefer full sun and slightly acidic soil. However, be cautious: Snow Gums are toxic to dogs, cats, and horses.

Images from Earth Unreal Facebook page: [Earth Unreal](#)

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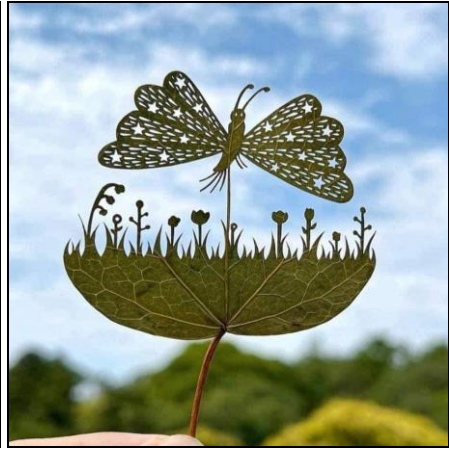
Frank may have heartily approved of the family home in the wilderness at Fish Creek on Wilson's Promontory.

Image and more information from *Grand Designs Australia Magazine* <https://granddesignsmag.com.au/tv-homes/season-11/fish-creek>
Seeking a country retreat for all their family, Ross and Cathy use their knowledge and love of the outdoors to build a cutting-edge straw home that can withstand the harshest of elements.

Featured in Series 11 Episode 2 Fish Creek; Duration: 55 minutes 44 seconds <https://iview.abc.net.au/video/FA2214H002S00> and shown on ABC's *Grand Designs Australia* on October 11, 2024, the episode traces the build from conception to completed modern architectural gem. Who would have thought that wall panels made of compressed straw could withstand bushfires and gale force winds? Window walls invite unrestricted views of the magnificent surroundings. A bespoke fireplace is created by Ross and Cathy's daughter; their son takes on the challenge of rehabilitating forest that had been destroyed and an architectural pizza oven somehow blends into the scene. Frank Lloyd Wright would have applauded.

Val Shooter





LEAF CUTTING ART

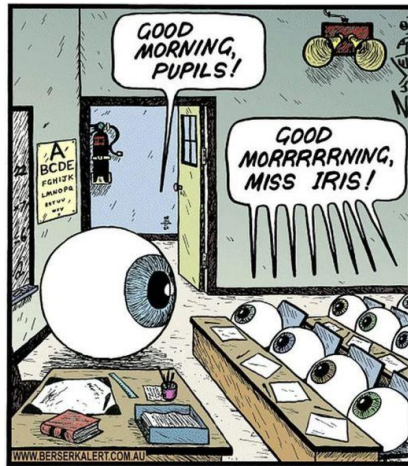
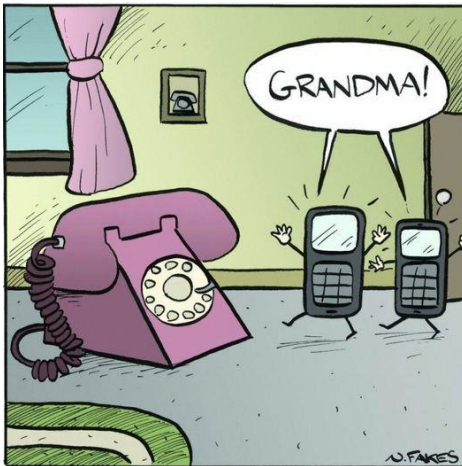


Lito Leaf (right) is a leaf-cutting artist, born in 1986 in Kanagawa, Japan. To make positive use of his attention deficit and hyperactivity due to ADHD, he started creating works by himself in 2020. In just 2 years his carved leaves, published on social media have aroused great curiosity and attention. They have been featured on TV programs, newspapers and magazines in Japan, and surprisingly also taken up by online media in the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany, Russia, Iran, Thailand, India, Taiwan and many other countries. He has held exhibitions of his works all over Japan with great commercial success. The first book of his works *I'll Always Be with You* was published in May 2021 and received great feedback.



More information and images of Lito's art: https://sumitomoexpo.com/en/topics/creatorcollaboration_litoleafart/

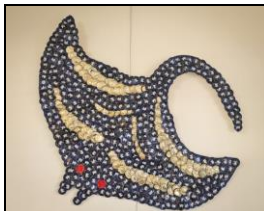
THOSE CRAZY CARTOONISTS are at work again...



DEMENTIA in ART EXHIBITION – KIRRA – SEPTEMBER 2024

Below: Some of the art on display this year. Photos courtesy of Emilee from Dementia Australia's *Out and About* Gold Coast Program. For more information <https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/one-of-a-kind-gallery-opens-today-featuring-artworks-by-artists-with-dementia>

There will be more information on Dementia in Art in one of next year's newsletters.



STREET THEATRE COMPANY: ROYAL de LUXE

Years ago, I clearly remember the thrill of entering a time warp just by walking through a modern day door. I'd suddenly entered the sights, sounds and activity of the fully functioning 1850s *Sovereign Hill* gold field at Ballarat. It would have been similar to what Claire in Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series felt as she was transported back in time from 1945 Scotland to 1743 – just by walking past the fictional Craigh na Dun standing stones.

Have you ever thought of time warping into 1726 – to Jonathan Swift's lands in *Gulliver's Travels* – to the Land of the Giants where we humans can be the short citizens of Lilliput? Fortunately we don't have to actually do this because the Giants come to us – courtesy of the **Royal de Luxe Theatre Company**.



Information from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_de_Luxe

Royal de Luxe is a French mechanical marionette street theatre company which specialises in giant puppets. It was founded in 1979 in Aix-en-Provence by Jean-Luc Courcoult. After some years based in Toulouse, the company moved to Nantes in 1989. The company has performed in France, Belgium, England, Germany, Iceland, Chile, Australia, Mexico, Canada, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Ireland. Jean-Luc Courcoult Image credit left: https://www.royal-de-luxe.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Courcoult_JeanLuc-credit-Quentin-Faucompre-425x550.jpg

Marionette characters include giant animals such as a 21-metre-high elephant, a 38-ton spider or a giant minotaur as well as a collection of "human" giants: deep sea diver; little girl giant; grandmother – to name a few.

Spectacular parades of these colossal creatures are designed to travel throughout the streets of a city.

"Saga of the Giants" parades have attracted nearly 20 million spectators worldwide. Royal de Luxe brings together 200 talented artists overflowing with imagination: inventors, acrobats, metal-workers, dancers and poets work together to tell fantastic stories through majestic performances. All the marionettes are manipulated by acrobats pulling strings while leaping and running around the puppets and jumping from gantries connected to mobile cranes supporting them. Images above right and below are from

The Atlantic: <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2018/10/final-appearance-giant-puppets-royal-de-luxe/572647/>



Above: Royal de Luxe's Shipwrecked Giant, one of the world-famous theatre company's street marionettes, walks along the promenade at New Brighton as he takes part in "Liverpool's Dream" in Liverpool, England - October 5, 2018.

In the photo, you can see the size of the puppet, the crane supporting its weight and the bevy of red-costumed workers required to manipulate it.

Left – July 25, 2014: Xolo, a giant dog, is steered through the centre of Liverpool as she and two other giants, a grandmother and a girl, paraded for three days telling the story of the city's involvement in World War I. Rapport between the puppet and the delighted audience is evident.

To see how these marionettes come to life – click on the BBC News link:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-17762154>

Image below left: Sultan's Elephant in London (2006): By <http://www.cgpgrey.com>, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=37514094>



Above centre: A Royal de Luxe operator manipulates the Sultan's Elephant head. Image: By foshie / Mark Fosh from Watford, London (UK) - Flickr, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1848362> Above Right: Lilliputian workers' costumes

Snippets from an extensive history of Royal de Luxe: <https://www.royal-de-luxe.com/en/compagny/history-of-the-company/>

After establishing the company in 1979 and performing in theatres, warehouses and indoor spaces, the company decided in 1980, it was easier to reach audiences by performing outdoors. It was an immediate success. Street Theatre was born and fledgling overseas engagements started in 1981.

In 1984, the company developed a show extending over three days: enabling it to tell a story by including the city in the story. The concept appeared for the first time in “the lake of Bracciano”, reaching its peak with performances from the *Saga of the Giants* – where the link with *Gulliver’s Travels* and Lilliput was forged.

1985 saw the creation of two astonishing images: “The house in the trees” and “Cars in the trees”. This form was based on the idea of a rendezvous with the audience every day in the same place and at the same time, around an unusual event such as a couple moving into a tree.

By 1989, extensive International touring with giant puppets commenced for Royal de Luxe. The marionettes were controlled by as many as thirty puppeteers dressed in red costumes redolent of the 1726 fashion of *Gulliver’s Travels*. By using pulleys, strings and one another’s body weight, these puppeteers breathed life and action into the giants.

The first steps of the Giant...

In September 1993, in Le Havre, Royal de Luxe created *The Giant fallen from the sky* – a story told once again, over three days. Workers called Lilliputians (because of their size compared to the giant puppets) accompanied the Giant and quickly became the signature of the Giant Saga.

... In February 2009, the sets left for Australia as part of ‘Perth International Arts Festival’ and in March 2010 they moved on to Wellington, New Zealand, at the invitation of the International Festival of Arts. Links to performances:

***Giant marionettes in Perth for the 2015 International Arts festival:**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-12/giant-marionettes-in-perth-a-once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity/6088430>

***The Giant of Guadalajara** is a creation presented in Guadalajara, Mexico from 23 to 28 November 2010 at the invitation of the Mexican Presidency. This show was created especially for the Centennial of the Revolution and the Bicentennial of Independence and the 3.5 million spectators who attended it.

<https://www.royal-de-luxe.com/en/creation/the-giant-of-guadalajara/>

To capture the action and magnificence of the Royal de Luxe giants, please click on these video links:

*** Giant street puppets videos from France Facebook posts ...**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/249578776938765/posts/972136614682974/> 3:53 min

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=455689161993487> 3:19 min

***Marionettes in Santiago 2015**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmDezJDsHS4> 2:25 min



From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant_puppet: Above L-R: Little Giant, Geneva, 2017; Grandmother, Geneva, 2017; Diver, Montreal, 2017; Xolo the dog, Montreal, 2017

Val Shooter

BLAST FROM THE PAST: the film *Lee* starring Kate Winslet...

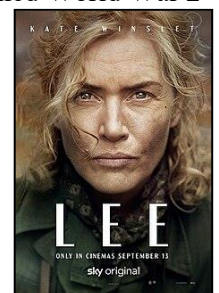
In 2012, one of ADFAS Gold Coast’s lecturers was Antony Penrose, only son of Vogue Model turned World War 2 journalist and photographer, Lee Miller and her husband Lord Penrose. Mostly raised by his grandmother during the Bohemian era, Antony Penrose inherited his mother’s collection of photographs, personal archives, diaries and unpublished works featured in the lecture.

The movie took eight years to make and, at one point, due to precarious funding, Kate Winslet (who also produced the movie) paid the entire cast and crew’s salaries for two weeks. The film made its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on 9 September 2023.

Image credit: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/d/d5/Lee_%282023_film_poster%29.jpg/220px-Lee_%282023_film_poster%29.jpg

More information: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_\(2023_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_(2023_film))

Barbara Corrigan



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Contributing Photographers: Helen O'Reilly; Jacqui Marchant; Val Shooter

PHOTO GALLERY

