Tracing the trajectory of artistic talent

Portland artist Carmel Wallace with her three-dimensional work, Bloom, which is part of the *Trajectories* exhibition.

[dropcap style="color: #a02f2f;"] S [/dropcap]ix sensational visual artists who share much in common have combined for a new exhibition at Warrnambool' SCOPE Galleries that opened today (Sept 7).

The *Trajectories* exhibition features the work of artists **Victoria Dunn**, **Annette Iggulden**, **Marion Manifold**, **Liza McCosh**, **Noela Stratford** and **Carmel Wallace** who, between them, cover almost the full trajectory of art mediums, from painting to printmaking, drawing, photography and installations.

All six women have deep connections to regional Australia, with most living in south-west Victoria, and were among the first to complete a doctorate in visual arts at Deakin

University in Warrnambool through what was then considered a bold experiment to combine artistic output (producing a gallery standard exhibition), with research and theory (a 20-000-30,000 word exegesis explaining their work).

The exhibition not only captures how far the artists have come (their “trajectory”) since their pioneering days as PhD students, but also reflects the immense value of having the opportunity to study for such a high-level qualification at a regional campus. That opportunity has since been removed, following the closure of the Visual Arts school at the Warrnambool campus.

SCOPE director and artist Dr Liza McCosh with Professor Emeritus Barbara van Ernst AM at the exhibition opening. The work of Annette Iggulden features in the background.

[dropcap style=”color: #a02f2f;”] I[/dropcap]t was a point not lost on Melbourne philanthropist and **Professor Emeritus Barbara van Ernst AM**, who was a former head of school for visual, performing and media arts at Deakin University and who

opened the exhibition.

“Their (the artists’) location within regional Victoria is important,” Professor van Ernst said.

“It is work that could stand up anywhere – there is no sense of isolation or disadvantage because of their regional location.”

Professor van Ernst also highlighted the importance of women supporting women in the arts. The exhibition not only features all women artists, but was curated by a woman (Dr Liza McCosh) in a female-owned gallery (SCOPE) and was opened by a woman. Professor van Ernst said such support was reminiscent of the Heidelberg School, and others, where male artists worked collectively to produce, exhibit and promote their work.

Artist Noela Stratford (left), Jenny Altmann and Marion Manifold. Both Noela and Marion are among the six artists included in the exhibition. Noela’s charcoal work features in the background.

David Straford, Grant Wallace and James Wallace (in front of intricate works by Marion Manifold).

Retired Deakin lecturer and artist Dr Bruce Vinall, with Victoria Dunn and Annette Iggulden who’s work features in

the exhibition. (The artwork is a charcoal by Noela Stratford.)

[box] **Trajectories, a travelling exhibition, will be at SCOPE Galleries until October 12. SCOPE, 38 Kelp St, Warrnambool, is open noon-5pm Thurs-Sunday**.[/box]

[button link="http://the-terrier.com.au/subscribe-2/" type="icon" icon="heart" newwindow="yes"] Did you enjoy this story? Please subscribe here to help Bluestone thrive.[/button]

You might also enjoy…

Illustrating the point in Port Fairy

Unravelling a tale of love in Port Fairy

Putting women front and centre in new festival

Night to celebrate legendary Capricorn Records

Art environment award delivers a message

Albumen, by Collingwood artist Julia de Ville, took out the $5000 first prize in the 2014 SCOPE Galleries Art Award Exhibition.

[dropcap style="color: #dc943c;"] A [/dropcap] "seductive" art work with a powerful message has taken out the 2014 SCOPE Galleries Art Award for works based on an environmental theme.

Collingwood artist **Julia De Ville** won the $5000 first prize for her work, *Albumen*, which features three taxidermy chicks with eyes of black diamond, sitting in a highly-polished, engraved silver goblet.

And while the piece is immediately visually appealing, if not even humorous, it contains a sobering message about battery hen farming and the many ways – beyond a dozen eggs – that battery hen products slip into the food stream.

The SCOPE Galleries Art Award: Art Concerning Environment is a biennial, non-acquisitive award that is fast becoming one of the most prestigious and lucrative awards in South-West Victoria since it was first held in 2012.

This year the award attracted a range of first-class entries from around the south-west and every state of Australia, making it a difficult task for guest judge **Marita Smith**, director of Gallerysmith, North Melbourne, to select just one winner. Eventually, however, she settled on *Albumen*.

“Julia’s piece is really intoxicating and seductive in its presentation,” Marita said.

“You are seduced by the work and, because of this seduction, you are drawn to look at the work in greater detail – and that’s when it delivers its punch.”

SCOPE Galleries director Dr Liza McCosh, left, with guest judge for the award, Marita Smith, director of Gallerysmith North Melbourne.

[dropcap style=”color: #dc943c;”]S [/dropcap]COPE Galleries director **Dr Liza McCosh** established the award to encourage the exploration of environmental issues through art and provide a forum to provoke discussion around the environmental challenges of today.

The environmental focus also complements SCOPE’s location in

Warrnambool, which sits between some of Victoria's most dramatic coastline and its most beautiful hinterland: a combination that continues to inspire both local artists and those from further afield.

"Personally, my own work has always been influenced by the natural environment around me and its various elements – the sky, the landscape – so I am aware of its impact," Liza said.

[box type="bio"] **The Art Concerning Environment Award exhibition will run until July 20. SCOPE Galleries, at 38 Kelp St, is open Thur-Sun 12-5pm.**[/box]

[button link="http://the-terrier.com.au/subscribe-2/" type="icon" icon="heart" newwindow="yes"] Did you enjoy this story? Please subscribe here to help Bluestone thrive.[/button]

You might also enjoy…

Oriel casting a light of her own

Creating a cosy existence: Heather Armstrong

The sculptor who helped save the snipe: Don Stewart

Capturing lives from behind the lens: Colleen Hughson