

THE ERSKINE PLEDGE: a gift to Newcastle



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3 November 2018 - 28 January 2019

Foreword

THE ERSKINE PLEDGE: a gift to Newcastle celebrates the overwhelming generosity of Sydney based philanthropists James and Jacqui Erskine whose connection to Newcastle Art Gallery commenced as private lenders to the *JOHN OLSEN: The City's Son* exhibition in 2016.

Having first established a relationship through an exhibition, James and Jacqui continued their support of the Gallery by generously donating John Olsen's 1969 painting *Excitable Tree* in 2017. Further to this generous gift, the Erskines pledged to donate additional works of art to the value of \$250,000 to the Gallery - subject to the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation equaling the value through funds or works of art. In early 2018 the challenge was successfully met and this exhibition is testament to the generosity of all donors. It highlights how working together can further advance the significance of Newcastle Art Gallery and the city's collection.

THE ERSKINE PLEDGE: a gift to Newcastle showcases 12 works of art donated by James and Jacqui Erskine from artists Steven Harvey, Linde Ivimey, Chris Langlois, Brett McMahon, Peter Sharp, Dick Watkins and Karl Wiebke.

The exhibition also features 36 works of art donated from private collectors by artists Earle Backen, Hatton Beck, Yosl Bergner, Charles Blackman, David Boyd, Lucy Boyd Beck, Judy Cassab, Ray Crooke, Shay Docking, Donald Friend, Tom Gleghorn, Gali Yalkarriwuy Gurruwiwi, Nora Heysen, Louis James, Bernard Leach, Keith Looby, Elwyn Lynn, Margaret Olley, Hubert Pareroultja, William Peascod, Lloyd Rees, Rae Richards, David Rosetzky, Wendy Sharpe, Shigeo Shiga, Jack Carington Smith, Joshua Smith, Ken Unsworth, John Wolseley and Salvatore Zofrea. In addition, the exhibition provides the opportunity to unveil a major new acquisition gifted by the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation; Lindy Lee's exquisite sculpture *The First Immeasurable - Love (an unbounded heart)* 2017.

It has been an absolute honour to present *THE ERSKINE PLEDGE: a gift to Newcastle* and I extend my deepest gratitude to James and Jacqui Erskine for their ongoing enthusiasm, patronage and support of Newcastle Art Gallery. Sincere thanks also to the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation, Society, Guides and private donors. It is through their generosity that important works of art for the city's collection can be appreciated and enjoyed by future generations.

Lauretta Morton
Director





Why Newcastle? Well I don't have a finite answer. I just like Newcastle. Friends of mine Jackie and Jack Newton, the great Australian golfer, who I have known since the mid-seventies, live there. Having been brought up in the North of England, I sort of gravitate to hard working cities situated by the sea, cities that have struggled and reinvented themselves.

I've always thought starting out small and building on relationships is the way to go, rather than the "home run" approach that can often come undone. It started with the Newcastle Art Gallery very quietly, without expectation, asking for the loan of a few John Olsen works. I'm always happy to lend, as paintings in private hands should always be allowed a larger audience; for youngsters to be inspired and the more senior of us to reminisce.

Not only was I thanked profusely, but catalogues and invites came my way, I suddenly felt part of a new family. "People do things for people they like" is a line I have believed for 40 years. An invited address at the Gallery turned into a challenge and a challenge into a pledge. It just snowballed.

I learnt from my father, you under promise and over-deliver, that way excitement reigns and there is no disappointment.

Lauretta Morton and members of the Gallery's Foundation came to see a selection of works from my collection hung at our exhibition Gallery in Liverpool Street. They all seemed to like the choice of major paintings by a group of very talented Australian painters. Some of whom had close ties with Newcastle. What I found exciting was seeing the Newcastle group of works all up together, they played off each other. I hope all the patrons of the Gallery and the general public that visit feel the same.

You know works of art are not there for explanation in my view, they hang for your enjoyment. To heighten the senses, to make you feel just that little better in that moment of time. To relax with, and enjoy a gentler pace in a sometime frenetic world.

I hope the many thousands who visit Newcastle Art Gallery, leave just a little happier than when they went in. If that occurs to just a few I will feel a sense of achievement.

For those of us who have been fortunate enough to collect, a thought "The suit you die in has no pockets." It's a good feeling when many benefit from a few.

James
Richard
McDonald
Erskine



5 & 6







9 & 10







11 & 12







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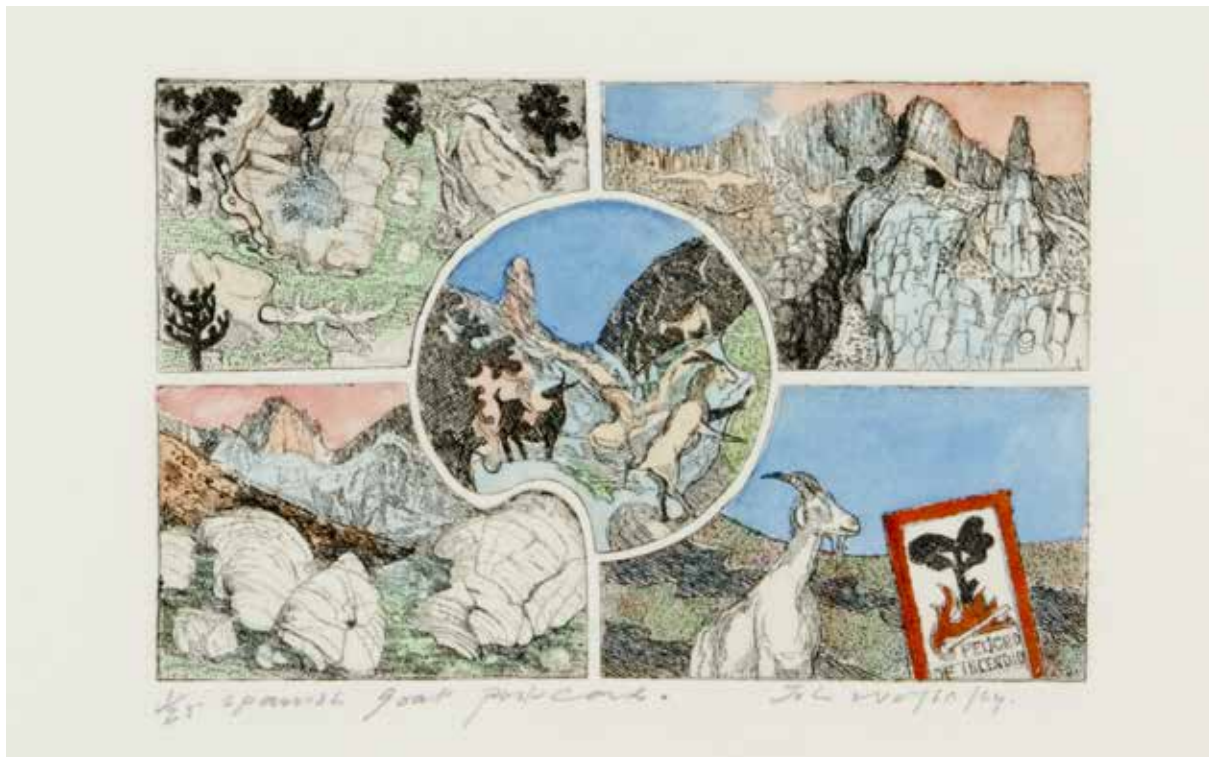
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List of Works

Front cover:

Karl WIEBKE

Feet 1996-97

enamel on wood

244.0 x 488.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

Inside front cover:

Chris LANGLOIS

Ocean (violet & grey) no.8 2000

oil on canvas

198.5 x 198.5cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

Foreword:

Dick WATKINS

Summit Ridge Drive (detail) 2017

acrylic on canvas

167.0 x 152.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

James Erskine:

Linde IVIMEY

Fabriano 2007

steel armature, wood, iron, earth, cast acrylic resin, dyed cotton, natural fibre, pig, turkey, chicken and snake bones, black pearl
dimensions variable

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney; Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane; Olsen Gruin, New York; Michael Reid, Berlin

5: Steven HARVEY

Audi, Vide, Tace - Zakopane 2013

ground chalk and acrylic on polyester canvas

198.0 x 228.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

6: Steven HARVEY

Field of Clay (the gathering of soul) 2017

acrylic on compressed cement

180.0 x 180.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

7: Chris LANGLOIS

Night (ultramarine blue & phthalo blue)

no.3 (detail) 2000

oil on canvas

137.0 x 198.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist

8: Chris LANGLOIS

Dawn (Blue & Grey) No.14 2000

oil on canvas

122.0 x 198.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist

9: Brett McMAHON

Night Tide 2009

mixed media on linen

240.0 x 120.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

10: Brett McMAHON

Float (detail) 2009

mixed media on linen

190.0 x 240.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

11: Peter SHARP

Night Trees (detail) 2017

oil and acrylic on canvas on linen

183.0 x 213.0cm

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

12: Peter SHARP

Whaling 1, Whaling 2, Whaling 3 2007

found timber

dimensions variable

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by James Erskine 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Liverpool Street Gallery

13: Lindy LEE

The First Immeasurable - Love (an unbounded heart) 2017

mirror polished stainless steel, LED lighting

155.0 x 55.0 x 55.0cm

Gift of the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation with the assistance of the Newcastle Art Gallery Society and public donations 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney

14: Earle BACKEN

Shadows (detail) 1961

etching on paper

23.5 x 14.5cm

Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy of the Estate of Earle Backen

15: Hatton BECK

Waterfall and Rocks (detail) n.d
ceramic painting
35.0 x 30.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist's estate

16: Lucy BOYD BECK

The Dream n.d
watercolour on paper
26.5 x 36.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist's estate

17: Lucy BOYD BECK

Protector 1 n.d
ceramic painting
34.0 x 39.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist's estate

18: Yosi BERGNER

Untitled n.d
silkscreen print
41.0 x 58.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Image unavailable due to copyright restrictions

19: Charles BLACKMAN

Dancing children 1989
etching on paper
19.0 x 14.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
© Charles Blackman/Copyright Agency, 2018

20: David BOYD

Sympathy 1967
oil and sfumato
39.5 x 29.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
© David Boyd/Copyright Agency, 2018

21: Judy CASSAB

Figures in a room 1982
mixed media
26.0 x 35.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
© Judy Cassab/Copyright Agency, 2018

22: Shay DOCKING

Burnt out tree (detail) 1961
pastel on paper
62.0 x 42.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist's estate

23: Shay DOCKING

Colossus VI 1980
pencil on paper
20.5 x 26.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist's estate

24: Donald FRIEND

Insects and sleepers n.d
ink, tempera and gouache
56.0 x 75.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
© Donald S Friend/Copyright Agency, 2018

25: Tom GLEGHORN

Trawler Wharf (detail) 1959
acrylic on board
25.5 x 81.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist

26: Tom GLEGHORN

Yellow waters suite number 5 n.d
acrylic on paper
56.0 x 75.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist

27: Louis JAMES

Centennial Park I 1990
pastel on paper
49.0 x 74.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
© Louis James/Copyright Agency, 2018

28: Nora HEYSEN

New Guinea Girl n.d
conte on paper
32.0 x 24.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist's estate

29: Chris LANGLOIS

Untitled 1990
oil on canvas
58.0 x 66.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist

30: Keith LOOBY

4th class 1977
etching on paper
40.0 x 50.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist

31: Elwyn LYNN

Brown Descent 1963
mixed media
45.0 x 60.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist's estate

32: Margaret OLLEY

Pont Neuf, Paris 1971
ink wash
35.5 x 45.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy Margaret Olley Art Trust

33: William PEASCOD

Brown land 1977
acrylic on board
31.5 x 26.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family

34: Lloyd REES

The sun at Sandy Bay - A day on the Derwent n.d
lithograph on paper
35.0 x 50.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
© Lloyd F Rees Estate/Copyright Agency, 2018

35: Rae RICHARDS

Siesta (detail) 1963
oil wash
35.0 x 44.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist

List of Works

36: Wendy SHARPE

Circe in the ceramic studio (detail) 2000
monoprint on paper
37.0 x 46.5cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist

37: Joshua SMITH

Still life - green and red n.d
oil on canvas
49.0 x 59.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy Yve Close

38: John WOLSELEY

Spanish goat postcard n.d
coloured etching
9.0 x 14.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist

39: Salvatore ZOFREA

Snake Bird c1978
pen and wash
52.5 x 76.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy the artist

40: Jack CARINGTON SMITH

Landscape 1952
watercolour on paper
27.5 x 28.0cm
Future gift of the Tapp family
Courtesy of the Trustees of the
Artist's Estate

41: Gali YALKARRIWUY GURRUWIWI

Banumbirr - Morning Star Pole c2008
natural earth pigments, feathers and bush
string on wood
180.5 x 21.5 x 22.0cm
Gift of Ron Ramsey in memory of
Ann Lewis AO 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Vivien Anderson Gallery,
Melbourne

42: Hubert PAREROULTJA

Lukaria near Pareroultja 2017
watercolour on paper
40.0 x 40.0cm
Donated through the Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program by Ron Ramsey in
memory of L. Gordon Darling AC, CMG 2017
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Vivien Anderson Gallery,
Melbourne

43: Ken UNSWORTH

Untitled n.d
grey wash on paper
74.0 x 101.0cm
Gift of Anna Farrelly in memory of
Alan Farrelly 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist

44: Ken UNSWORTH

Suspended stone series 1974-78
river stones and steel
60.0 x 40.0 x 40.0cm
Gift of Anna Farrelly in memory of
Alan Farrelly 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist

45: Ken UNSWORTH

Free Fall Series II - Stone Cube 1976
river stones, steel and wood
50.0 x 48.0 x 48.0cm
Gift of Anna Farrelly in memory of
Alan Farrelly 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist

46: David ROSETZKY

Without You (detail) 2003-04
(production still) single channel digital video, colour,
sound, 6:00 minutes (ed. 6/6)
dimensions variable
Donated through the Australian Government's
Cultural Gifts Program by Ian Andrews and
Jane Hall 2017
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist and Sutton Gallery
Melbourne

47: Ray CROOKE

Untitled n.d
ink on watercolour paper
40.0 x 30.0cm
Donated by Elizabeth Thwaites 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
© Ray Crooke/Copyright Agency 2018

48: Bernard LEACH

Jug and lid n.d
stoneware with glaze
20.0 x 15.0 x 15.0cm
Donated by Elizabeth Thwaites 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection

49: Shigeo SHIGA

Ginger jar n.d
stoneware with iron glaze
20.0 x 15.0 x 15.0cm
Donated by Elizabeth Thwaites 2018
Newcastle Art Gallery collection
Courtesy the artist's estate

NEWCASTLE
ART GALLERY



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acknowledges the support of



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