

# S.H. Ervin Gallery - Exhibitions

## Nora Heysen: Light And Life

14 November – 20 December 2009

*Nora Heysen: Light and Life* explores a notable career spanning seven decades, during which the artist painted some of Australia's most outstanding self-portraits and still life, became the country's first female war artist, and was the first woman to win the prestigious Archibald Prize. The daughter of artist Hans Heysen, Nora was the only one of the eight Heysen children to become an artist. In this first exhibition, since her death in 2003 at age 92, Nora Heysen's key subjects – the figure, portraiture and still-life – are shown in depth, allowing for re-assessment of this important artist's career. *A Carrick Hill travelling exhibition.* Colour catalogue available for sale \$39.95 (members discount available).



Nora Heysen, *Still-life with cheese and bread 1931 (detail)*, Oil on canvas, Courtesy Kensington Galleries, Adelaide  
© Lou Klepac

## Nicholas Harding: Drawn to Paint

16 January – 14 March 2010

*Drawn to Paint* is an exhibition that spans twenty five years of Nicholas Harding's practice, from 1984 to 2009. The exhibition portrays the artists' life in Sydney, from the streets around his home and studio, to beach life in the coastal Yuraygir region of NSW. The show includes urban works of Erskineville, Central Station, Eddy Avenue, and coastal scenes from his beloved Woolli, featuring caravan parks and landscapes. Along with early works, portraits of the people in his life, Sydney interiors and still life, these paintings speak of his lusciously viscous painting style. Harding is well known for his paint application, creating shapes and forms with abundantly drawn paint. Equally important are the artist's ink drawings where he draws, erases and gouges into the paper, taking away and putting back in a constant process. Both techniques create richly tactile surfaces that contribute to the development and vitality of his work. *Drawn to Paint*, curated by Steven Alderton, also features for the first time, working drawings and sketches that elucidate Harding's process of creating images. Presented with the generous assistance of Rex Irwin Art Dealer and Philip Bacon Galleries.

## S.H. Ervin Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Sunday 11am – 5pm

Closed on Mondays, public holidays and for exhibitions changeover. The Gallery will be closed from 21 December 2009 – 15 January 2010.

Cost: \$7, \$5 seniors & concession, \$4 members P: (02) 9258 0173.

E: shervingallery@nationaltrust.com.au. A: Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, Sydney. Limited parking and Trust Café on site.

# Political parties respond to the proposed Ku-ring-gai redevelopment

**The National Trust invited the three major political parties to respond to the proposed redevelopment of Ku-ring-gai. Unfortunately Peter Garret, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts was unable to submit an article due to existing commitments.**

The charm of the Ku-ring-gai area is its bush atmosphere. Ecologically it is a marvel so close to the inner city and a haven for many bird species. The desirability of the northern suburbs of Sydney has attracted developers that want to exploit it. This should not be at the expense of built heritage or the last vestiges of Blue Gum High Forest and Turpentine-Ironbark Forest now limited to a handful of northern suburbs. The Blue Gum High Forest of Sydney will soon be extinct without our acting strongly to protect it.

Even back in 1930, Ku-ring-gai Council made saving the trees – the 'Spires that Speak to the Soul' – a priority. In a time of supposed greater ecological awareness, why does this ethos no longer prevail for Ku-ring-gai – or indeed most of Sydney?

I have worked to retain and conserve the ecology of the Sydney Basin including the Blue Gum High Forest in Ku-ring-gai. Over some years I worked with the campaign to stop a large development on Rosedale Road, St Ives, which would have resulted in fragmentation of the Blue Gum High Forest.

The Ku-ring-gai development plan is an assault on environmental and social living conditions. Tall unimaginative apartment blocks that intrude into the landscape are replacing beautiful early twentieth century homes that rest in the understorey of the forests.

New development can and should be innovative, sensitive to heritage and environment. A protective circle must be drawn around the remaining Blue Gum High Forest and Turpentine-Ironbark Forest. They must be excluded from any Local Environment Plan until the future of this last remaining 5% of critically endangered bushland can be guaranteed. The entire Ku-ring-gai area, so rich in beautiful bushland and architectural history, must be saved from ill-conceived planning and urban consolidation.

**Ian Cohen MLC**  
Greens NSW Spokesperson on the Environment.

Mark Twain famously quipped: "reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated". If only the same could be said for reports of the imminent death of Ku-ring-gai.

For those of us who value our natural and built heritage, who feel there is more to be gained by preserving our historic homes and green neighbourhoods than by concreting them over, these are sad days indeed.

The National Trust has estimated that almost 700 family homes of heritage significance – some of the finest examples of early twentieth century housing we have – are under direct threat from the NSW Government-backed draft Kur-ring-gai Town Centres Plan.

Also under threat are the remnant Blue Gum High Forest and Ironbark-Turpentine Forest – both listed as critically endangered under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

It is little wonder then that the hundreds of angry residents who have packed community meetings throughout the municipality have branded this issue the "death of democracy".

There can be few in the community – other than those who stand to make a direct financial gain from the plan – who would look upon this issue as anything other than a looming heritage disaster.

Over and above the contribution it makes to the aesthetic of our everyday lives, our built heritage serves as a potent reminder of our cultural history and as a cherished point of permanence in an otherwise ceaselessly changing world.

As we mark the 100th anniversary this year of the Royal Commission for the Improvement of the City of Sydney and its Suburbs, we should be re-doubling our efforts to protect our priceless heritage assets, not contemplating their destruction.

**The Hon Greg Hunt**  
Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Water