

JAN BROWN AM (1922 – 2022)

Jan Brown was a most distinguished Canberra artist who was always inspired by living creatures. Jan explored animal and bird forms creating both sculptural and two dimensional works which convey a great affection for her subjects, these very often being magpies, currawongs and ravens. Her artistic process began with sketches, often drawing inspiration from wildlife seen from her kitchen window through to animals in zoos around the world. Jan had an ability to imbue her subject with its own unique personality while stamping it with her strong aesthetic identity. Her work is "incidental to a lifetime journey: seeing, learning, knowing, making." Jan Brown has two important bronze public art installations in Canberra: the kangaroos situated by the Nerang pool, Commonwealth Park (1981), and the 'Icarus' group of sculptures in Petrie Plaza, Civic (2009).

Jan Brown was born in Sydney in 1922. In 1949, she received her National Diploma in Design (Sculpture) from the Chelsea Polytechnic School of Art in London, where she studied under Henry Moore. From 1957 to 2001 she was a lecturer at the Canberra School of Art and, since 1997, a Visiting Fellow at the ANU Institute of the Arts. Jan's work is exhibited both nationally and internationally, and over the years she has been an inspirational teacher and mentor to countless professional and amateur artists. Jan was also an arts activist and served on numerous major arts advisory councils and arts boards in Canberra. She received the Visual Arts Emeritus Award from the Australian Council and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1992. Her work is represented in the collections of National Gallery of Australia; Australian National University, Artbank, Parliament House, Canberra Museum & Gallery and the National Library of Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

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| 1922 | Born, Sydney |
| 1949 | National Diploma in Design (Sculpture), Chelsea Polytechnic School of Art, Great Britain |
| 1957-2001 | Lecturer, Canberra School of Art |
| 1986-91 | Member, ACT Arts Development Board |
| 1991-92 | Artist assessor, Vietnam War Memorial Competition |
| 1989-93 | Deputy Chair, Australian National Capital Artists Steering Committee (ANCA) |
| 1992-94 | Chair, Visual Arts sub-committee, ACT Cultural Council |
| 1992-95 | Member, Organising Committee, National Sculpture Forum |
| 1997 - | Visiting Fellow, ANU Institute of the Arts |
| 2022 | Died, January |

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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| 2015 | "Observations", Beaver Galleries, Canberra |
| 2008 | Beaver Galleries, Canberra Survey exhibition, Canberra Museum and Gallery |
| 2001 | Chapman Gallery, Canberra |
| 1998 | Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra |
| 1995 | Criterion Gallery, Braidwood, NSW |
| 1993 | Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, VIC |
| 1992 | Dubbo Regional Gallery, NSW Orange Regional Gallery, NSW |
| 1991 | Retrospective, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra |
| 1989 | Giles Street Gallery, Canberra |
| 1985 | Gallery Huntley, Canberra |
| 1980 | Gallery Huntley, Canberra |
| 1978 | Macquarie Galleries, Canberra |
| 1976 | Macquarie Galleries, Sydney |
| 1974 | Macquarie Galleries, Canberra |
| 1968 | Australian Sculpture Gallery, Canberra |
| 1966 | Nundah Gallery, Canberra |
| 1964 | Nundah Gallery, Canberra |

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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| 2007 | "How I entered there, I cannot truly say", Collaborative works from the ANU Edition + Artists Book Studio, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, and Horsham Regional Gallery, VIC |
| 2006 | '6"x6" ', Defiance Gallery, Sydney "How I entered there, I cannot truly say", Collaborative works from the ANU Edition + Artists Book Studio, |

- 2005 Fountain Gallery, Port Augusta, SA; Bunbury Regional Gallery, WA; and Bathurst Regional Gallery, NSW
Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Visions", Canberra Museum and Gallery
"Flock", Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
'6"x6" ', Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"How I entered there, I cannot truly say", Collaborative works from the ANU Edition + Artists Book Studio, Artspace Mackay, QLD
- 2004 "Selected works from CMAG Collection", Canberra Museum and Gallery
"Ruth Prowse Collection", ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
"Spring Gallery Artists", Michael Carr Gallery, Sydney
'6"x6" ', Defiance Gallery, Sydney
"Acquisitions 1995 - 2004", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
- 2003 "Artists Books", National Library of Australia, Canberra
"Reflecting Canberra", Canberra Museum and Gallery
Michael Carr Gallery, Sydney
'6"x6" ', Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 "Edition & Artists Book Survey", Canberra Museum and Gallery
'6"x6" ', Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 "Art in Public Spaces", Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 2000 '6"x6" ', Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"Collective Wisdom", Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 1997 ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"Powerful Animals", Lake Macquarie Regional Gallery, NSW
Australian Embassy, Washington, USA
AGOG, Canberra
"First Canberra Drawing Biennale", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
- 1996 ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"First Canberra Drawing Biennale", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
- 1995 Albury Regional Gallery, NSW
"Canberra National Sculpture Forum Exhibition", Solander Galleries, Canberra
Brindabella Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1994 ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"20th Anniversary Exhibition", Solander Galleries, Canberra
- 1993 Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
"10 Years of Acquisitions - a selection from the ANU Collection", Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
- 1992 Cuppacumbalong Craft Centre, ACT
"Drawing, '92", Canberra School of Art, Canberra
- 1991 Cuppacumbalong Craft Centre, ACT
Graeme Sturgeon Memorial Exhibition, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
- 1990 Second Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne
- 1989 Sculpture in a Garden, Huntley Gallery, Canberra
Giles Street Gallery, Canberra
- 1988 Mildura Sculpture Triennial Exhibition, NSW
Canberra School of Art Staff Exhibition, Canberra
- 1987 Huntley Gallery, Canberra
- 1986 Canberra School of Art Staff Exhibition
- 1985 Mildura Sculpture Triennial Exhibition, NSW
- 1983 Canberra School of Art Staff Exhibition, Canberra
- 1982 Mildura Sculpture Triennial Exhibition, NSW
- 1981 Craft Council Galleries, Brisbane
- 1979 Murray Crescent Galleries, Canberra
Canberra School of Art Staff Exhibition
- 1977 Susan Gillespie Galleries, Canberra
- 1976 Macquarie Galleries, Canberra
Canberra School of Art Staff Exhibition, Canberra
- 1975 Anna Simons Gallery, Canberra

- Women Artists International Exhibition, New Delhi
1974 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1973 Macquarie Galleries, Sydney
1967 Mildura Sculpture Exhibition, NSW
1966 "Opening exhibition", Australian Sculpture Gallery, Canberra
1949-64 various exhibitions in London, Glasgow, and Canberra

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2009 'Icarus' series of four bronze sculptures, Petrie Plaza, Canberra
1993 Advance Australia Foundation Award
1992 Member, Order of Australia
Emeritus Artist Award, Australia Council
ACT Critics Award for visual art
1981 'Kangaroos', bronze sculptures, Nerang Pool, Commonwealth Park, Canberra

PUBLICATIONS

- 2009 "Bronze series inspired by legendary fall of Icarus", Diana Streak, *Canberra Times*, 17 October
2008 "When humans and animals combine", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 5 March
"An Australian icon in bronze", Philip O'Brien, *Canberra Times*, 20 June
"60 years of art high distinctions", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 8 July
2004 *Icarus/ A Father Recollects*, (artist book), Brown, Templeman & Fogwell, ANU
2001 *Conversations*, RSPAS, ANU
2000 *A particular raven*, (artist book), Brown, Templeman & Fogwell, ANU
1998 Catalogue *Voluspa*, Nancy Sever, ANU
1997 *The Australian National University Art Collection - Selected Works*, Sasha Grishin and Myra McIntyre, ANU
1996 Catalogue *First Canberra Drawing Biennale*, Sasha Grishin and Nancy Sever, ANU
1995 "A Personal View - Meeting Jan Brown", Marion Anthony, *National Library of Australia News*, Biennial Review Supplement
Who's Who of Australian Visual Artists, Thorpe, NAVA
Jan Brown, Cassie Proudfoot (thesis), ANU
1994 *The Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, Alan McCulloch, Allen & Unwin
1991 *Jan Brown - A Survey Exhibition*, Dr Sasha Grishin, ANU
A Dictionary of Women Artists of Australia, Max Germaine, Craftsman House
Who's Who of Australian Visual Artists, Thorpe, NAVA
1990 *Artists & Galleries of Australia*, Max Germaine, Boolarong Press
1987 "Public Sculpture", Graeme Sturgeon, *Art and Australia*, Vol. 25 No. 2
1986 *Drawing in Australia*, Janet McKenzie, Macmillan
1984 *Artists & Galleries of Australia*, Max Germaine, Boolarong Press
1980 *Australian Sculptors*, Ken Scarlett, Nelson

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Library of Australia, Canberra; Parliament House, Canberra; Artbank, Sydney; Canberra Museum & Gallery; ACT Public Art Collection, Canberra; Commonwealth Art Advisory Board; University House, Australian National University, ACT; Canberra Institute of the Arts; Canberra School of Art, ANU; University of Canberra; Government House, Canberra; Dubbo Regional Gallery, NSW; Brisbane Public Library, Qld; Canberra College of TAFE; Canberra College of Advanced Education; Captain Cook Memorial, Bowring, NSW; Commonwealth Gardens, Canberra; Daramalan College Chapel and Residence Chapel, Canberra; Joint Staff College Emblem, Canberra; Kingsgrove Secondary College, NSW; Red Hill Infants School, Canberra; Yass Wool Trophy Award, NSW; Hertford County Council, UK.