

## 2008 NEWSLETTER

### George Petelin Gallery enters its second year of operation after a successful 2007 show calendar.



Artworks clockwise from top-left: Giles Ryder, audience shot, ProppaNOW, Matthew Johnson, Scott Johnson, Peter Alwast (courtesy of the artists and George Petelin Gallery)

George Petelin Gallery is pleased to announce its first exhibition for 2008 with a showcase by two of the most respected female painters in Australia **Jenny Watson** and **Lesley Dumbrell**. These unique textile-based artworks are available for viewing and purchase during February and March, and coincides with the gallery's new opening hours, which are **Thursdays - Sundays from 11.00am - 5.00pm**.

GPG wrapped up its first year as a commercial gallery with admirable success, while the gallery's stable of artists have also had an astounding 2007. Sydney artist **Giles Ryder** was recently awarded the prestigious *Anne and Gordon Samstag Award* enabling him to undertake further studies in Berlin. Brisbane painter and animator **Peter Alwast**, who was a previous Samstag recipient, was a finalist at last year's Wilson HTM National Art Prize. Alwast also won the *Artworkers Award* in November for his work 'Places that Don't Exist,' which had a successful run at GPG.

Both Alwast and Ryder were also selected for the Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Art Prize, which is currently exhibiting at the Gold Coast City Art Gallery until February.

Mid 2007 saw the first curated group show in Australia by Brisbane-based Indigenous art collective **ProppaNOW**. The show, which was held at GPG during the Gold Coast Bazaar, attracted huge public interest.

ProppaNOW members have had a successful year: **Laurie Nielsen** won the *Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial Award* in the *24th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, while **Tony Albert** took out the top prize at the *Sunshine Coast Art Prize*, enabling him to undertake a residency in Maleny as well as collect \$15,000 in prize money.

Recently, the Institute of Modern Art in Brisbane released a new publication surveying the works of **Richard Bell**. Titled *Richard Bell: Positivity*, the tome includes works from the artist, new discussions of Bell's works by Rex Butler and Gary Foley, and an 'archival' article written by George Petelin for the Australian Perspecta back in 1993. Petelin, who at that time worked as an art critic for *The Australian*, became one of the first to recognise the rise of urban Aboriginal art as a force to be reckoned with.

Canberra painter **Vivienne Binns**, has been named one of the *50 Most Collectible Australian Artists* in 'Australian Art Collector'. She was also part of the major exhibition *Cross Currents: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art* held at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. This exhibition is the last from the late Australian curator John Stringer, who has contributed greatly to the developments in Australian art this century.

Like fellow GPG artist **Robert Jacks**, Binns is also recipient of the prestigious *Order of Australia Medal*. Her new works were on display at GPG last month, alongside Gold Coast artist **Corinne Colbert**, who has just concluded a successful residency at *Tamworth Regional Art Gallery*.



Artworks clockwise from top-left: Kevin Mortensen, Vivienne Binns, Luke Roberts, Lesley Dumbrell, Robert Boynes public installation @ ARIA, Robert Boynes (courtesy of the artists and George Petelin Gallery)

Away from GPG gallery walls, the Gold Coast City Art Gallery and the Bodies Corporate of the ARIA Building at Broadbeach have awarded the *2007 Living Art Award* to Canberra Times' Artist of the Year **Robert Boynes**. As recipient of the *Living Art Award*, Boynes' work has been blown up on a gigantic 7x6 metre art billboard, and is currently on display in front of the ARIA building for twelve months. His new works, which were inspired by his experience at last year's Schoolies festival, were also exhibited at ARIA's Resident's Lounge to coincide with the launch.

The new GPG site, which makes its debut in a few months, will be a database for news and information concerning our stable of artists. The site will also keep you up to date with our calendar of exhibitions and events. We will keep you posted

GPG enters its second year of business with a fresh batch of exciting exhibitions showcasing works produced by twenty-three of the most talented emerging and mid-career Australian artists. The gallery resumes operation on February 9 with an exhibition by Jenny Watson and Lesley Dumbell.



Artworks clockwise from top-left: Sydney Ball, Bonita Ely, Robert Jacks, Corinne Colbert (courtesy of the artists and George Petelin Gallery)

We invite you to view new artworks exhibited at GPG each month, as well as works held in our stockroom. We hope you have a pleasant new year, and we look forward to seeing you at GPG in 2008!