



ELEMENTAL

A survey of work from the University Art Collection and private collectors which explores water as a primary elemental source.

EXHIBITION DATES 6 - 30 November 2013



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA





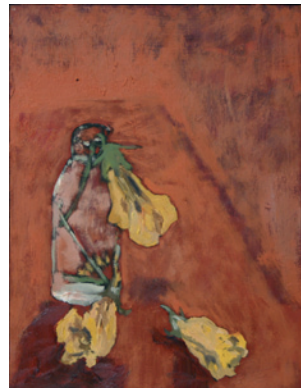
Universities across Australia, and indeed internationally, are the custodians of fine art collections. These collections represent more than the collective works of art - they highlight reciprocal relationships between alumni, the university and the community, as well as the generous benefaction and astute acquisitions by successive collection champions.

Since the inception of the University in the 1960s, many local identities have supported its art collection. The late Anne von Bertouch, renowned for her passion for the arts and for her von Bertouch Galleries on Laman Street, played a significant role in the development of the University of Newcastle collection. Trawling through the artist files it is evident von Bertouch supported the building of an art collection at the University of Newcastle. There are several examples of von Bertouch's generosity from personal donations, facilitating others to donate work, and even waving commission so the University would be able to purchase art work for itself. In recognition for her life work and generosity von Bertouch received the Newton John award in 1987 from what was then the University of Newcastle's convocation and in 2002 she received Doctor of Letters honoris causa.



The genesis of *Elemental* came from noting a sizable volume of work in the University of Newcastle collection that explores, either consciously or subconsciously, water as elemental to life or the pleasure. This exhibition offers an opportunity to view works of art from the University of Newcastle collection not usually on public display and through my research to investigate how they came to be in the collection and what narrative, if any, may emerge from linking these works of art within the broader context of Australian art.

This exhibition will also have on public view for the first time its most recent donation, *Manta Ray* 1996 by the Australian painter John Peart (1945-2013) who died unexpectedly earlier this year, just weeks after the donation was received from its previous owner. *Manta Ray* is a large scale triptych and a very significant addition to the University of Newcastle collection, particularly as this work dates from the time in Peart's career when he was awarded the prestigious Wynne Art Prize in 1997, awarded for the best landscape painting



of Australian scenery. Peart complemented this win in 2000 when he won the Sir John Sulman Prize.

In recent years the University of Newcastle collection has benefitted from the Australian Government Cultural Gifts Program. Through this program the collection has been able to accept works directly from artists on exhibition such as Judy Cassab and other private collectors.

Elemental has drawn upon the ongoing support from the local community with several works of art on loan from private collections. The loan of these works is testament to local art lovers and supporters who value the contribution of the University of Newcastle collection and gallery and recognise its value to the cultural fabric of Newcastle and the region.

- Benjamin Bourke
Master of Philosophy candidate, University of Newcastle



OPPOSITE, TOP TO BOTTOM

Michael Cusack
Lume
2005
oil on canvas
The University of Newcastle Art Collection.

Greg Weatherby
Fish Hole Dreaming
1989
acrylic on canvas
122 x 91 cm
The University of Newcastle Art Collection.

Una Rey
After Angus
2013
oil on board
30 x 23 cm
Private collection.

Liam Power
Bulk Park
2010
oil on canvas
35 x 39 cm
The University of Newcastle Art Collection.

BELOW LEFT

Lance Hennessy
Living Waves
ceramic
The University of Newcastle Art Collection.

FRONT COVER

Chris Capper
View from inside the tent
2010-2012
oil on canvas
50 x 60 cm
On loan from the artist.
Chris Capper is represented by
Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney.

BACK COVER

David Middlebrook
Chain of Ponds
oil on canvas
189 x 157 cm
The University of Newcastle Art
Collection. David Middlebrook is
represented by Art Equity.