

MAD ABOUT YOU

40 YEARS OF FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE

APRIL 13—JUNE 2



503D



- FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE, C 1970

FOREWORD



- JIM CATHCART, DIRECTOR FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE

Mad About You is a big-hearted, public-led exhibition that celebrates Fremantle Arts Centre's role as a creative and community hub and reflects on the influence it has played in many people's lives.

As June Moorhouse observes in her accompanying piece, FAC enjoys extraordinary public good will. There is an alchemy that combines a powerful sense of place, with a mix of programming and clear sense of purpose that has underpinned FAC's development. Forty years ago FAC had the good fortune to begin its life with this sense of purpose, primarily articulated by founding Director Ian Templeman, which has endured to this day.

Mad About You focuses on this sense of place largely through representations of the compelling buildings and grounds of the old Fremantle Lunatics Asylum and Old Womens Home, and by inviting people to share their memorable experiences of FAC. Frank Wilkinson, a former tutor, offered up paintings from FAC's first children's exhibition in 1973 that have been in his safekeeping since then. Other people recount FAC experiences they had decades ago, while others talk about events from last week. On her *Mad About You* blog posting Pippa Hurst reflects that over 30 years after her own formative experience of art classes as a child, she now brings her own children to these classes at FAC. During the course of the exhibition everyone is invited to keep sharing such experiences and recollections by adding to the pinup board in the gallery or to the *Mad About You* blog - FAC.ORG.AU/BLOG

The exhibition also comprises images of the building drawn from the City of Fremantle Art Collection and others by well-known artists that reinforces FAC's long-standing appeal as a subject matter and place for the arts and artists. The vitality of the contemporary music program at FAC has been represented in a video mash up by Roly Skender, mainly using iPhone footage of gigs uploaded by fans.



Mad About You is not intended to explore the whole gamut of FAC's purpose and achievement of the last 40 years including; the FAC Print Award, now Australia's pre-eminent print-making award, Arts Access, which was WA's first regional arts program, the years of the Perth Writers Festival, the publication of Fremantle Arts Review or even the establishment of Fremantle Arts Centre Press. In addition to all this, FAC has supported countless WA artists as well as those from interstate and overseas through exhibitions, projects and the Artist in Residency program. The Learning Program, a key founding and defining FAC activity, now enrolls 1000 children and adults per term. FAC has presented a free Sunday summer music series from its earliest days and has always supported WA makers of fine craft and objects through its shop and the annual Christmas Bazaar. As an active multi-arts organisation FAC has been very busy indeed – the list goes on and on.

At its heart *Mad About You* celebrates FAC's belief that no matter a person's age, background or aptitude, their experience of the arts as patron, participant, audience member, or student in the Learning Program is as important as anything else FAC sets out to achieve. A commitment to community, to audience, to artists and to place - it's all important, it's part of the alchemy, it's what FAC is.

There are many people to recognise and acknowledge as part of the 40 year journey, in particular former and current staff, FAC Members, community advocates and champions and also partnering arts organisations, tertiary institutions, past patrons, sponsors, funding agencies and philanthropic entities – and of course the cavalcade of artists and public who have come to be part of FAC over the decades.

Special acknowledgment must be given to the State Government of WA whose longstanding and substantial support, currently via the Department of Culture and the Arts, has been fundamental to FAC's longevity. But primarily it is, of course, the City of Fremantle itself that has chosen to provide the essential resources to keep FAC going and continues to value its place in the community.

Thank you to *Mad About You* co-curator Andre Lipscombe, Curator of the City's Art Collection, whose professional insight and commitment to FAC and the arts ecology of Fremantle has been essential.

In *Mad About You* we invite everyone to pause and celebrate the achievement of 40 years. Please enjoy!







ONCE UPON A TIME

- JUNE MOORHOUSE, FORMER FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE DIRECTOR

Once upon a time, as all good tales begin, there was a building on the edge of a pretty port town that played on the imagination of the people who lived there. It was a tumbling down stone edifice that had a dark and gloomy past – a place where people had suffered deprivation, death and derangement; a place where lives had been derailed. It goes without saying that it was haunted.

Despite parental warnings, wild kids in town would sneak through the wire enclosure surrounding the site and roam about the halls, picking their way through wobbling timbers and clods of fallen plaster, shooing out the nesting birds and rattling resident spirits from their haunts.

The day came when the town leaders decided to ‘tidy up’ this place, turn the stones to rubble and tumble the last of the plaster and glass. But just as the moment came to bowl the building over, so the story goes, something got in the way. Some say the bulldozer driver refused to turn on his demolishing machine, some that a feisty band fought long and hard to protect it, others that a single vote in Council saved the day.

Stories have their versions - many and magical – and the magic in this story is that the building that once played upon the town’s imagination was not only saved but became a place to unlock imaginations. People came from far and wide to visit the beautifully restored building with walls that now stood up straight, windows that shone and big leafy trees shading its garden.



They came to paint and print, mould clay, sew, hammer, weave. They came to experience and learn about art from living artists. They came to dance and sway to live music, read or write poetry and prose, hear authors speak, learn about their land's ancient culture, lunch with friends, play with their children, celebrate new and old love, recall memories of times gone by. All these things they did in the protection of its once-scary walls and the place brought great joy to the town....

Surely a little flight of fancy is acceptable on the occasion of a 40th? And the essence of the transformation wrought at Fremantle Arts Centre is true. From a formidable past, which should never be forgotten or diminished, we now have a creative cultural powerhouse in our midst. It is magic - both the place itself and the transformation, which from this vantage point feels like it's happened in the blink of an eye.

For years people have been telling me how much they love the place and all for their own, personal reasons. Others will no doubt be revealed through this exhibition and celebration. Even the sharing of these stories, it strikes me, is unusual. Admittedly, I'm a willing receptacle of people's tales, but I'm amazed at how often a polite exchange at FAC has segued into an intimate moment of sharing with strangers or friends alike, as if the spirit of the place demands deeper connection and 'humanness'.

Perhaps it's that others, like me, experience the telescoping of time as they enter through the gates, unknowingly shirking off the hurry of the outside world. And in the ease that time allows, reflection, connection and feeling bubble to the surface. Is it a phenomenon of our times that magic occurs through the simple act of taking time? That finding a moment to feel in our busy days is a unique and special gift?

It's not so surprising that we are affected by our surroundings but this place is definitely more than the sum of its parts - the architecture, art, music, food, learning, gardens and heritage come together in a welcoming spirit that encourages each of us to lose ourselves in the moment. It has become a place that not only provides a program of activities but also, for many, meets that profound human need for a sense of place.

So what a rare and precious thing we have to celebrate. 40 years of creativity, connections, ups and downs, brainwaves, fiascos, first steps...all this and more in a setting that, rather than playing on our imaginations, now calls our imaginations to play with it.

Here's to FAC and all who've loved it through the last 40 years.

June Moorhouse has lived in Fremantle since the 1970s. She was Director of FAC, 1990-1996 and Manager of Culture & Recreation for the City of Fremantle, 2004 - 2007







LIST OF WORKS

ADAMSON, NEIL

FREMANTLE MARITIME MUSEUM BUILT IN 1861 1975
COPPER FOIL ON BOARD
91 X 183 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE CIVIC COLLECTION

BAKER, TRUDY & ANDREW

RED BIKE 2013
DIGITAL PRINT
38 X 28 CM
COURTESY OF MOKOH DESIGN

BURKE, EVIE

A SENSE OF PLACE: FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 2011
MDF BOX, PENCIL, ARTIST BOOK
12 X 12 X 11 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

CARSON, DAVID

FREMANTLE ART CENTRE BAZAAR 2011
TIMELAPSE VIDEO FISHEYE LENS
DURATION 84 SECS CONTINUOUS LOOP
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

CININAS, JAZMINA

THE ASYLUM IS NO PLACE FOR A WEREWOLF 2005
REDUCTION LINOCUT ED.6/20
65 X 48 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.1254

COATES, ERIN & SPEERS, JUSTIN

BON SCOTT OPENING NIGHT POLAROID 2008
29 POLAROID PHOTOGRAPHS, CARDBOARD
11 X 9 CM EACH
COURTESY OF JASMIN STEPHENS

CROPPER, MARTIN

REAR VIEW FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 1982
WATERCOLOUR
45 X 59 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.603

DAVEY, KAREN

FINNERTY STREET ANNEXE 1986
WATERCOLOUR
43 X 35 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

DOHERTY, MICHAEL

FREMANTLE LUNATIC ASYLUM 1900 (FROM THE
LEGEND OF MOONDYNE JO SERIES) 2013
OIL PAINT ON LINEN
46 X 46 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

DOLEY, KELLY

FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 2011
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
30 X 25 CM
COURTESY OF ANDREW PITTAWAY

DORTCH, MARY

SOMETHING PRESERVED 1982
ETCHING AND AQUATINT ED.1/50
59 X 75 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.873

FARRINGTON, DOROTHY

FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 2010
SUGAR ICING, WAFER, TOOTHPICK, BOARD
16 X 33 X 19 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE CIVIC COLLECTION

FOEKEN, WILLEMINA

FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 2008
LINOCUT ED. 2/4
25 X 20
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

GIBBONS, TOM

FREMANTLE GLIMPSE: FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE
1985
OIL PASTEL
40 X 49 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.42

GREER, GINA

FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE UNDATED
PEN
12 X 19 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

HAYNES, GEORGE

LOONY BIN LL 2011
CHARCOAL
81 X 101 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

HILL, CHRIS

A REAR VIEW, FAC 1981
PEN AND INK
33 X 27 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.58

JAMES, SHANA

*MIXED MEDIA DRAWINGS OF THE FREMANTLE ARTS
CENTRE* 2013
CHARCOAL, INK, GESSO, CONTÉ
40 X 180 CM (11 DRAWINGS)
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

KELLY, MARGARET

OLD FREMANTLE 'SON ET LUMIERE' (SUN AND LIGHT)
GLASS MOSAIC ON METAL
98 X 68 CM
COURTESY OF KATE KELLY

KOTAI, EVELINE

COUNCIL WORKERS 1990
CHARCOAL, GRAPHITE
125 X 175 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.593

KUPARINEN, RAIMO

BACKYARD IN FREQ 2013
PASTEL
41 X 66 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

LANDER, CYRIL

OLD WOMEN'S HOME, FREMANTLE C.1965
WATERCOLOUR, INK, PENCIL
35 X 50 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.80

LENNARD, TORI

A SENSE OF PLACE: FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 2011
MDF BOX, PENCIL, ARTIST BOOK
12 X 12 X 11 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

MCLEAN, BETTY

THE COFFEE SHOP 1991
WATERCOLOUR
45 X 35 CM
COURTESY OF MARIE FRITZ



MARTIN, JANE
THE LADIES LIVED HERE 2011
OIL PAINT ON BOARD TRIPTYCH
62 X 152 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

MUIR, SHIRLEY
SHADOWS C1975
OIL ON BOARD
59 X 49 CM
COURTESY OF MICHEAL HILL

OLDHAM, TISH
FREMANTLE MUSEUM AND ARTS CENTRE 1980
PEN AND INK
36 X 41 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

PARKS, BARBARA
GHOSTS 2013
ACRYLIC PAINT
58 X 29 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

PITTENDRIGH, JULIAN
FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 2010-13
GRAPHITE TRIPTYCH
59 X 42 CM EACH
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

SCUTT, CECILY
FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 1973
ACRYLIC PAINT
38 X 56 CM
COURTESY OF FRANK WILKINSON

SCUTT, CECILY
FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE AND ANIMAL FARM 1973
ACRYLIC PAINT, PENCIL
38 X 56 CM
COURTESY OF FRANK WILKINSON

SCUTT, CECILY
FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE AND GARDEN 1973
ACRYLIC PAINT, PENCIL
38 X 28 CM
COURTESY OF FRANK WILKINSON

SCUTT, RICHARD
MAN PAINTING 1973
ACRYLIC PAINT, PENCIL
65 X 38 CM
COURTESY OF FRANK WILKINSON

SKENDER, ROLY
MAD ABOUT YOU VIDEO 2013
VIDEO MASHUP ANONYMOUS SOURCES
DURATION 6 MINUTES
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

SMITH, EMILY
A SENSE OF PLACE: FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 2011
MDF BOX, PENCIL, ARTIST BOOK
12 X 12 X 11 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

STORY, HOLLY (ASSISTED BY CORAL LOWRY)
LOOKING AND SEEING 1994
WOOD, PERSPEX, EYEPIECE
20 X 15 X 11 CM EACH SEVEN ELEMENTS
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.1251.1-7

STORY, HOLLY
SAMPLERS FOR JL 1994
LINEN, HUMAN HAIR, COTTON THREAD
46 X 40.5 CM DIPTYCH
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

STUART, ANA
THE GARDEN FROM MY STUDIO – FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE 1975
OIL ON CANVAS
64 X 63 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

TEMPLEMAN, ROMOLA
FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE C2000
WATERCOLOUR
36 X 50 CM
COURTESY OF JACQUIE SPROGEO

UNKNOWN
(CHILD'S PAINTING OF FAC ARCHITECTURE)
1973
ACRYLIC PAINT
51 X 76 CM
COURTESY OF FRANK WILKINSON

VERHEGGEN, RACHEL
ARTS CENTRE VIEWS 2013
INK, ACRYLIC PAINT ON CANVAS
55 X 135 CM TRIPTYCH
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

WALES, PETER
MEDICINE BUDDHA LEAVING AT CLOSING OF MANDALA
OIL ON CANVAS
40 X 50 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

WROTH, IAN
SKETCH OF ARTS CENTRE 1974
CHARCOAL
38 X 56 CM
COURTESY OF VIVIENNE VISSIC

WROTH, IAN
SKETCH OF ARTS CENTRE 1974
WATERCOLOUR
41 X 64 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.71

WROTH, IAN
SKETCH OF ARTS CENTRE 1974
WATERCOLOUR, PENCIL AND INK ON PAPER ON CARD
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.175

WROTH, IAN
SKETCH OF ARTS CENTRE 1974
WATERCOLOUR, INK
30 X 37 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.177

WROTH, IAN
SKETCH OF ARTS CENTRE (MORNING SUN) 1974
WATERCOLOUR
26 X 55 CM
CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION NO.844

YATES, BEN
FREMANTLE ARTS CENTRE ROOFTOPS 2006
PASTEL
59 X 42 CM
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST





**FREMANTLE
ARTS CENTRE**



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Culture and the Arts**

