

**Southern Cross UNIVERSITY**

## Acquisitive Artists' Book Award 2008

**next art gallery**  
Southern Cross University

The Southern Cross University Acquisitive Artists' Book Award is coordinated by the SCU nextart Gallery. Now in its 4th year this annual award provides Southern Cross University with an opportunity to continue to develop an artists' book collection of national significance and in so doing also contribute to the development and awareness of artists' books as an art form.

**Works to the value of \$3000.00** will be selected by the judge at their catalogue price for inclusion in the Southern Cross University Artists' Book Collection. The judges selection will be announced at the opening of the SCU artists' book award 5pm Friday August 8th 2008.

**The collection includes work by:**  
Bee Haddock, Ron McBurnie, Stanae Mianthic, Debra Phillips, Michael Schiltz, Jonathan Tse, Noel McKenna, Dieder Broilko, Normana Wight, Patrick Jones, Lyn Ashbey, Andrew Williams, Victoria Cooper, Codex Event 4, Henning Eichinger, Noreen Grahame, Peta Hansen, Martin Johnson, Cerise Ward, Doug Spewart, Corneliu Delaney.

**SCU nextart Gallery is going to be nomadic** this year and conduct its 2008 program from a number of established exhibition venues in the Northern Rivers Region. This years artists' book award will be held at barratt galleries, Alstonville, NSW.

**Important Dates**  
Closing date for entries 5pm Friday July 18th 2008  
Exhibition dates August 8 - September 18th 2008  
Work to be collected by 5pm Wednesday 24th September

**CG-op**

Southern Cross University nextart Gallery @ barratt galleries, 5 Bugden Avenue, Alstonville, NSW, 2477.  
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## BARRATT GALLERIES, ALSTONVILLE

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## 2008 SCU Acquisitive Artists Book Award



SEE CATALOGUE: [www.scu.edu.au/schools/sass/visarts/next](http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/sass/visarts/next)



Judge: Robert Heather

This year's Southern Cross University Acquisitive Artists' Book Award and exhibition was held in Barratt Galleries, Alstonville, Northern New South Wales. When visiting this part of the country one is struck by the warmth, freshness and life of the region and its people. It is green with a sense of growth and potential. The air is warm, wet and alive – far from the dry parched inland plains. It is in this atmosphere that artists' books have found a home in which the medium can grow in variety and stature.

Each year this award has produced a selection of books that provide an insight into the contemporary environment of the artists' book. This year's selector **Robert Heather**, *Manager of Events and Exhibitions*, State Library of Victoria, acknowledged the diversity contained within the show. He said, "visitors will engage with the craft, skill and vision from a broad range of practicing artists."

As a preliminary to the judging Robert Heather viewed the SCU collection. He recognised the value of the collection as a teaching and research resource. With this in mind, he selected books that would compliment the SCU's growing and important collection of Australian artists' books.

Heather selected a range of books, from the political work of renowned book artist **Peter Lyssiotis** using insightful montage and text in, *7 Disrupted Interviews With History*, to the complex layered and deeply symbolic work in **Dianne Longley's**, *Remember to die, Remember to live*. Other conceptual works were included: **Clyde McGill's** inspired moments of metaphor and performance in *Inside/outside (ii)*, **Monica Oppen's** *Botanikos* is an entire package: the box, the binding, the design, the text and image, the little red book of text – all brought together by a deep passion for the concepts contained within the book. *Laundromatic*, by **Michele Vandermeer**, refers to the narrative of the laundromat by the use of images and text printed onto textile and is both whimsical and deeply poetical. **Lyn Ashby's** *Lost and Found*, is a finely constructed concertina book with slipcase that contains personal reflections on the sentimentality of our material existence. **Spowart and Cooper** produced a small hand-stamped book, *#2 Artists survey – A Regional Arts Business*, which is the second in the series of Artists' Survey books that investigate through humour and irony the concerns of a regionally based artist.

Sculptural and unusually structured books were also considered as part of the selection. This included the playful construct of the narrative in **Gail Stiffe's** *Sand Stories* and a different perspective of engaging with the page by added dimension of reading the shadows created by **Sara Bowen's** delicate book, *Gossamer Bridge*.

Heather also made special mention of the following works: **John & Alison Brebner's** *At The Edge*, **Martin King's** *Book of flight*, **Nadja Poljski's** *Poke Me*, **Sherilyn Piccone's** *Chapters* and **Steve Monk's** *Bohemian Rhapsody*

The exhibition of the works in **Barratt Galleries** created a departure from the humble but thoughtfully presented space of the university's *Nextart Gallery*. This new venue brings the award closer to a larger and more diverse audience. Barratt Galleries is a warm and inviting place to sit and spend time with books. Its intimate rooms provide ample space for the books to be shown without the austerity of a white walled traditional gallery.

This acquisitive exhibition is always worth the journey to see. This year 30% of the books were purchased by the award as well by institutional and private collectors on opening night and represents a growing interest in the medium. On show were books that could be unfolded and spread out across a large space, others entice the reader into a puzzle of reading space and perspective, many were about idiosyncratic experience and some utilized visual symbolism or presented a view on personal politics. Also on show were altered books, sculptural books, simple hand bindings to the beautifully crafted bound productions most of which were available to be held and "read". There were handmade papers, printmaking, digital output, painted, drawn, laser copied images, on quite a variety of surfaces and materials.

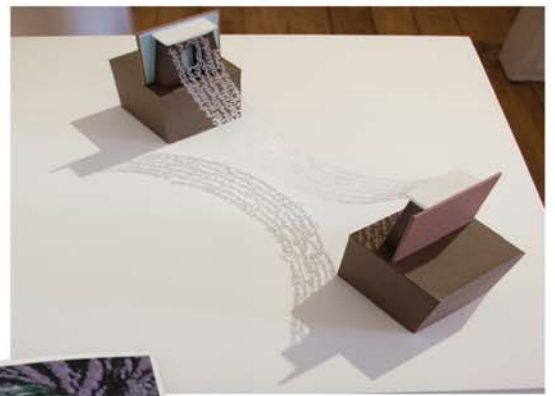
The SCU Artists' Book Award brings together a community of creative thinkers, designers and makers of ideas and objects – a community that is passionate about communicating their ideas and beliefs through their artists' books.







Julie Barratt: Director Barratt Galleries



Sara Bowen: Gossamer Bridge



Dianne Longley: Remember to die, Remember to live



Michele Vandermeer: Laundromatic



Gail Stiffe: Sand Stories



Clyde McGill: Inside/outside(ii)



Peter Lyssiotis: 7 Disrupted Interviews with History



Monica Oppen: Botanikos



Monica Oppen: Botanikos (little red book detail)



Spowart+Cooper: #2 Artists survey - A regional arts business



Lyn Ashby: Lost and Found