

Ivan Doherty Gallery Artist Included:

Derwent Lees (1885-1931). London-based for most of his career, Lees exhibited alongside his friend Augustus John, taught at the Slade School, and was described in *Apollo* as the Australian Van Gogh.

John Perceval (1923-2000). Perceval was hospitalised for ten years with the illness. His affinity with Van Gogh is most evident in his series of homage to the Dutch master's iconic *SunFlowers*. Work from this series will be borrowed from private collections.

On exhibition were works, contained in major Australian public and private collections, by significant Australian artists drawn to schizophrenia as a subject including:-

Simon Champ, the key curatorium member, describes Ivor Francis' painting *Schizophrenia* (1942) (Art Gallery of South Australia) as a rendering of the illness in the 'pre-medication era'. This surrealist painting is answered by Gareth Sansom's painting of the same title, made in 1993.

Joy Hester's *Mad Girl* (1941-43) (Cruthers Collection, Perth) and Albert Tucker's *Psycho* (1942) (National Gallery) reflect the trauma of war.

Glenn Morgan's *Mad Man Attempting Suicide* (1988) (National Gallery of Australia) is starkly emotive, while at the philosophical end of the spectrum.

Mike Parr's *The Now Schizophrenic* (2000) relates to his longstanding interest in (French thinker) Antonin Artaud.

Contemporary artists include:-

Public muralist, digital artist and painter **Pierre Cormarmond** was represented by a painting of a stay in nearby Saint Vincent's Hospital.

Lismore-based **James de Blaas** masterful series *The Golden Grass Hopper* was an inspiring sixteen part parable featuring a creature at first rejected then celebrated for his unique abilities.

Renowned Outsider **Anthony Mannix's** tome *Erotomania* (National Gallery of Australia) is both fiercely imaginative and technically dazzling.

Social Histories

Matthew Dysart: was diagnosed with schizophrenia when he was 19 years of age. He lived with schizophrenia for 15 years until it became too much for him and he took his own life. For several years he was an arts student, including a year spent at the National Art School. He was fiercely independent supporting himself by driving a taxi between his numerous hospital admissions. Matthew cared passionately about the environment and worked as a volunteer for the Wilderness Society and other environmental organisations.

Christian Narsamma paints, draws and builds models of boats and airplanes from craft kits. He has been living at the hostel for a number of years. Christian spends hours building models

Olive Hughes was fifteen when her brother Rowland was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1929. Rowland lived the remainder of his life in an asylum. Now ninety years of age Olive has strong memories of visiting her brother in Kenmore Asylum and to this day doesn't like the sound of keys on a chain.

Penny Fitzgerald

Penny Fitzgerald is thirty-nine, married and lives in Perth. She was diagnosed with schizophrenia in her early twenties when she was studying fashion design. Currently she is studying occupational health and safety nursing and wants to combine her fashion design with her nursing to make orthopaedic shoes.

Major Barbara Munro has headed the Family Tracing Unit of the Salvation Army for many years. The unit aims to reunite families many of whom have been affected by mental illness.

Professor Alan Fels is the former Chairman of the ACCC. Professor Fels retired in 2003 to assist with the day to day care of his daughter Isabella Fels, a well known author who writes under the pseudonym Lisa Fenton.