

NEWSLETTER

WINTER
2023

TASMANIAN		&	FOUNDATION
MUSEUM			
ART	GALLERY		



CONTENTS

From the editor	3
'Twist' Exhibition	4
'Twist' Gala Dinner	6
New art at Government House	9

Published July 2023. All images are © TMAG Foundation 2023

Right: Harriett England at 'Twist' function. Photo by Linda Higginson/Solstice Digital. Cover art: Effie Pryer, Purgatory (detail), 2023. Purchased with funds provided by the TMAG Foundation, 2023.





From the editor

Romy Morgan

Welcome to the new look TMAG Foundation Newsletter which, like magic, has just landed directly into your inbox! We have decided to move with the times and take our content digital – we hope that you enjoy our new platform.

Have you seen the TMAG's new exhibition 'Twist'? The TMAG Foundation is delighted to report that our funds were used to purchase 5 works on display in the exhibition. While Pat Brassington's 'Lure' 2005 was purchased for the TMAG collection back in 2016, the three portraits by Effie Pryer were commissioned specifically and the etching by Raymold Arnold and Rodney Croome was purchased directly, to be included in the exhibition.

An article by Dr Mary Knights, Senior Curator of Art, TMAG about this intriguing exhibition is included here.

Maybe you joined us for our 'Twist' Gala Dinner' which the TMAG Foundation recently hosted to coincide with the opening night of Dark Mofo and the 'Twist' exhibition. Jo Marshall reports on what a wonderful evening it was! If you weren't able to come along, please make sure that you keep an eye out for future function invitations.

The TMAG Foundation is also very pleased to have welcomed Harriett England onto our Board. Harriett is originally from Sydney, yet a passion for architecture and the preservation of historic houses brought her and her husband to live in the central highlands of Tasmania, where they have restored a colonial Georgian

farmhouse. We are particularly glad that they did, as Harriett's wide ranging interest in art, especially in the art and culture of Australia's First Nations people, will be a valuable asset to the skillset of the TMAG Foundation Board. If you have yet to meet Harriett, please make sure that you introduce yourself next time you see her at one of our functions.

And finally, in news just to hand, at our last Board Meeting, the TMAG Foundation agreed to purchase a suite of significant works from the 'taypani milaythina-tu: Return to Country' exhibition by Tasmanian Aboriginal artists for the TMAG collection. This emphasises that the TMAG Foundation, on behalf of you, our members, is willing to support a wide range of acquisitions that enrich the TMAG in continuing to build their collections. We look forward to seeing where these important works will be displayed – we'll keep you posted!



'Twist' Exhibition

Dr Mary Knights, Senior Curator of Art, TMAG

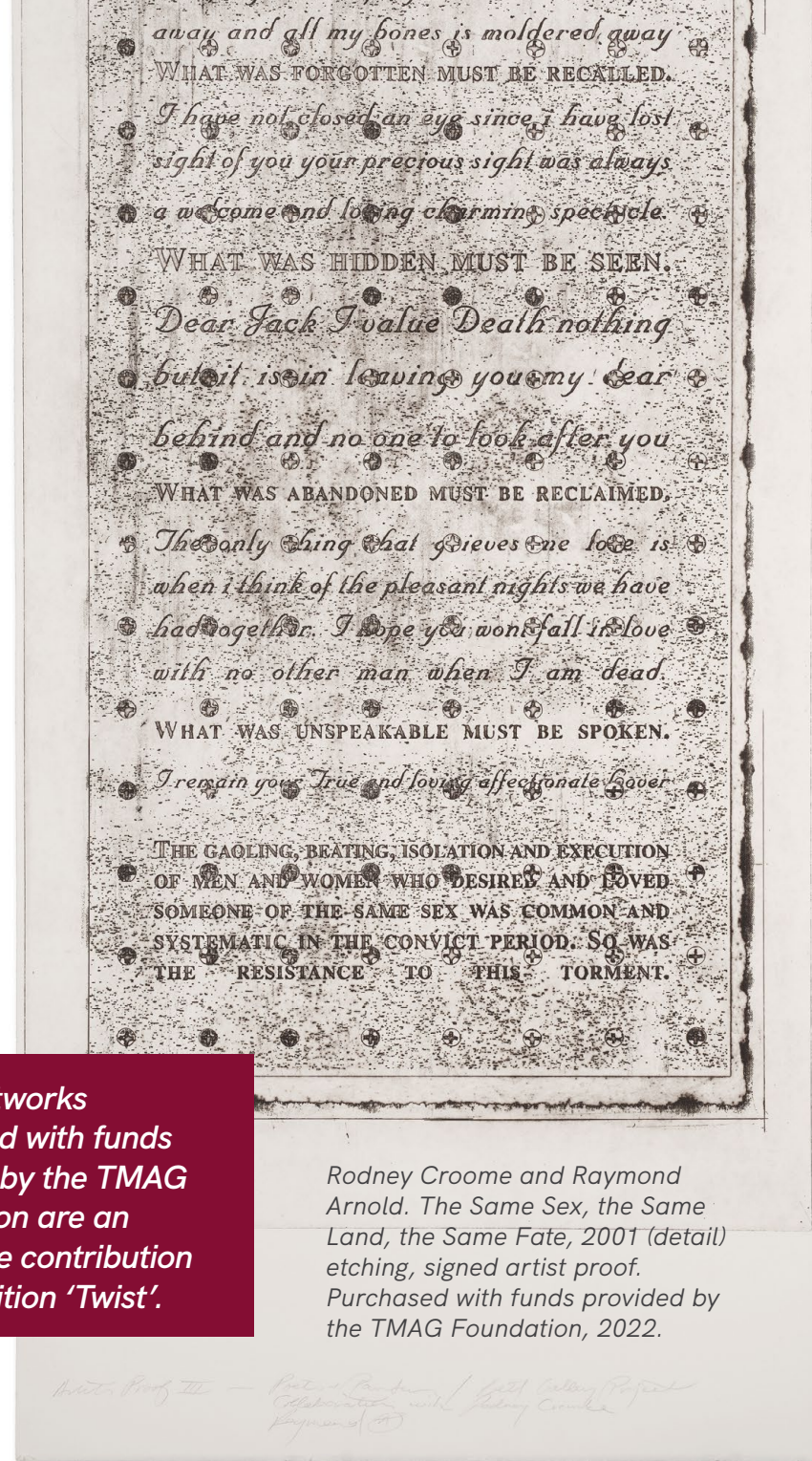
'Twist' is a new Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) exhibition curated by Mary Knights that engages with Dickensian themes - with a quirky and contemporary 'Twist'. Artwork by 24 exceptional Australian and Irish contemporary artists, 13 of whom were commissioned to research and develop artwork specifically for this exhibition, have been installed in eight of the museum's galleries alongside evocative art, artefacts and specimens from TMAG's Art, Decorative Art, Cultural Heritage and Zoology collections. In addition, iconic material including books and documents have been lent to TMAG for display in this exhibition from other collection institutions.

Four artworks were acquired with the generous support of the TMAG Foundation specifically for this exhibition - three paintings by Effie Pryer, and an etching created by Raymond Arnold and Rodney Croome.

Effie Pryer, an exceptional emerging Tasmanian artist, was commissioned to create three paintings that related to Dickensian themes. The paintings titled *Baptism, 2023*; *Purgatory, 2023*; and *Penance, 2023*, each realistically depict a young woman with great attention to detail and evoke emotion and human drama.

These artworks purchased with funds provided by the TMAG Foundation are an invaluable contribution the exhibition 'Twist'.

Rodney Croome and Raymond Arnold. *The Same Sex, the Same Land, the Same Fate, 2001* (detail) etching, signed artist proof. Purchased with funds provided by the TMAG Foundation, 2022.





Effie Pryer, Baptism, 2023.
Purchased with funds provided
by the TMAG Foundation, 2023.

In *Baptism*, a wave of water breaks over a young bride dressed in white holding a bouquet of flowers. Perhaps, like Miss Havisham, she has just been jilted and is swamped with tumultuous emotions. In *Penance*, Effie engaged with the Dickensian theme of the impact of poverty on women. She has depicted a woman wrapped in blankets, alluding to poverty and homelessness experienced by many in Hobart today.



Effie Pryer, Penance, 2023.
Purchased with funds provided
by the TMAG Foundation, 2023.

The etching titled *The Same Sex, the Same Land, the Same Fate*, 2001, created by Tasmanian printmaker Raymond Arnold and LGBTQIA+ advocate Rodney Croome, was originally commissioned by the Bett Gallery in 2001 for the Poets and Painters exhibition in the inaugural Ten Days on the Island Festival. It is inspired by a convict love letter written by Denis Prendergast to his lover Jack the day before he was hung for participating in the 'Cooking Pot Riots' on Norfolk Island in 1846. The etching has the gravitas of a gravestone.

Curator:

Dr Mary Knights, Senior Curator of Art, TMAG

Contemporary Artists:

Raymond Arnold and Rodney Croome, Christl Berg, Pat Brassington, Michelle Browne, Nicholas Folland, Keith Giles, Julie Gough, Fiona Hall, Ursula Halpin, Sandra Johnston, Sue Kneebone, Ricky Maynard, Mish Meijers and Tricky Walsh, Milan Milojevic, Brigita Ozolins, Effie Pryer, Yhonnie Scarce, Mary Scott, Tom Sloane, Heather B. Swann, Dominic Thorpe and Paul Zika.

These artworks acquired with the support of the TMAG Foundation are an invaluable contribution to the TMAG exhibition 'Twist'. They bring to light aspects of Dickensian themes that are very relevant to contemporary Tasmanian audiences. They are also a significant addition to the TMAG Art Collection, and I have no doubt that they will be valued by curators, researchers and audiences well into the future.

'Twist' Gala Dinner

Jo Marshall

Foundation supporters and their guests marked the first night of Dark Mofo 2023 with a special event celebrating art and philanthropy.

The preview at the TMAG was a fine start to the 'Twist' exhibition and we can all be proud of the five Foundation supported works included in the show.

Guests then made their way through the glowing red streets to The Dining Room at the Tasman Hotel where the Joan Ross video backdrops, one purchased by the TMAG Foundation for the TMAG collection, and one kindly lent by the Bett Gallery, provided the inspiration for the florals by Eliza Rogers of This Natural World, setting a colourful scene for our celebration. The Tasman was a new venue for us and we were impressed by their delicious menu and good service.



Above: Joan Ross, LET'S PARTY LIKE IT'S 1815 (animation), 2022, courtesy of the Bett Gallery. Photo by Linda Higginson/Solstice Digital.



Dr. Hamish Maxwell-Stewart's informative and entertaining talk gave us a fascinating insight into his celebrated academic research on Tasmanian history and set the background scene of Tasmania in the time of Dickens, the inspiration for the 'Twist' Exhibition at the TMAG.

Thanks to the skills of our auctioneer, Kim Morgan, not to mention the quality of the auction items - thank you to our generous donors Jason Minty Of Becker Minty Dining Room, Lachlan Colwill and Sophie Pope of Omotenashi, Bob Annells and Tania Price, for the Saffire experience, spirited bidding ensured very healthy profits on all items. Congratulations and many thanks to winners John Upcher and Tom and Anna Wilcox.

Above: guests enjoying the evening. Left: florals by Eliza Rogers of this Natural World. Photos by Linda Higginson/Solstice Digital.



As usual at our events a highlight of the evening was the selection of stunning wines from the incredibly generous Jreissati Family of Levantine Hill Estate and Bensons. A number of guests commented that the Blanc de Blanc is drinking exceptionally well, and the Syrah was particularly special. The TMAG Foundation is so fortunate to have their continuing support. We look forward to welcoming members of the family at a future event. Please remember, that it's thanks to the generosity of our guests that the TMAG Foundation is able to provide funds to acquire items of art and artefacts important to the history and cultural future of Tasmania.



Above: Joan Ross, *LET'S PARTY LIKE IT'S 1815* (animation), 2022, courtesy of the Bett Gallery.
Left: guests enjoying the dinner, accompanied by wine provided by our generous sponsor Levantine Hills Estate. Photos by Linda Higginson/Solstice Digital.

Planning is underway for future events but we suggest you note the following for your diary:

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22 2023 Evening Party

Celebrate the end of year in style at an extraordinary private Hobart colonial mansion.

New art at Government House

Jane Stewart, Principal Curator (Art), TMAG

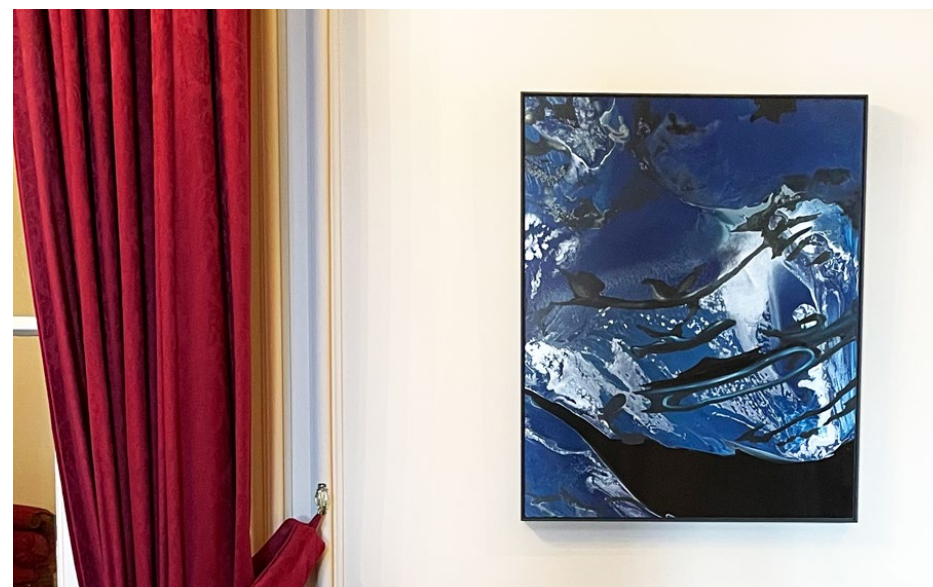
If you're visiting Government House, you may notice that the main entrance and hallways now celebrate the wonderful work of Tasmanian contemporary artists.

Central to the new hang are Richard Wastell's *The Pilgrim*, 2022, and Michaye Boulter's *Falling Light* and *Winter's Beach*, 2017. These beautiful paintings, which were purchased with funds provided by the TMAG Foundation, reflect the artists' deep connection to remote Tasmanian places - Wastell to the Central Plateau Lake Country and Boulter to Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour.

In the Portico Entrance is *caradi (friendship)*, 2010, a collaboration between designer Natalie Holtsbaum and palawa artist Lola Greeno, who have worked with several other makers to create an exquisite collection of necklaces about two cultures living side-by-side in Tasmania.

Megan Walch's stormy, semi-abstract *Satellite: Low Pressure and Satellite: High Pressure*, 2019, reference the diabolical storm which ripped through southern Tasmania in May 2017; while the veinous,

Below: Megan Walch, *Satellite: Low Pressure and Satellite: High Pressure*, 2019. **Right:** Michaye Boulter, *Falling Light and Winter's Beach*, 2017. Purchased with funds provided by the TMAG Foundation, 2019.



blood-red structure of Anne Morrison's *Camouflage*, 2010, sits boldly within the plush interior. David Keeling's *Gate*, 1995, hangs high in the Main Staircase where his image of an imposing, ornate gate screens the dry Midlands landscape, while it also mirrors the iron lace of the Government House banister beneath. Stephen Lees's *Dawn across the Derwent*, 2004, reflects the view of the River through the nearby window.

Views of other out-of-way Tasmania places are the focus of two paintings on loan directly from the artists. Philip Wolfhagen's *Study for Augusta Drift*, 2002, captures the strange scene of snow on a sand dune in the Central Highlands; and Luke Wagner's atmospheric *Lake Pedder*.

Among the works by established artists is the first artwork purchased by Government House for its fledgling collection of contemporary art. Painted by emerging palawa artist Belinda Casey, *Relipianna melaythenner relipianna timmarerer*, 2023 – which means 'strong place, strong baskets' in the Tebrakunna language — speaks meaningfully of her connection to the timeless tradition of basket making while paying homage to her ancestral grandmother, Fanny Smith.



Above: Natalie Holtsbaum and Lola Greeno, *caradi (friendship)*, 2010.

Right: Anne Morrison, *Camouflage*, 2010. **Below:** Richard Wastell, *The Pilgrim*, 2022. Purchased with funds provided by the TMAG Foundation, 2022. **Far right:** Belinda Casey, *Relipianna melaythenner relipianna timmarerer*, 2023.





TMAG Foundation Board Members:

Colin Thomas (Chair)
John Upcher (Vice Chair)
Peter Black (Treasurer)
Bob Annells
Harriett England

Nerilie Gilson
Jo Marshall
Romy Morgan
Ian Stewart

Editor Romy Morgan romy@tmagfoundation.org.au

SUPPORTED BY:

Bensons



We thank the following for their support of this magazine.



HATTIE WALLIS DESIGN