

Ellen Mileo Contemporary Art Prize 2006



Ellen Mileo Contemporary Art Prize 2006 winners Aneta Bozic (left), Claire Best (centre), and Grace McQuilten (right).

A very warm welcome to *six 9ine's* 17th issue, a particularly convivial one with the successful running of the EM Prize 2006 on the afternoon of Saturday December 2, not to mention Christmas just around the bend!

This will also be the first issue of *six 9ine* to be available online, and as mentioned in previous issues we are henceforth doing the bulk of our mail-outs electronically. If any members are yet to let us know their email address we would appreciate a

heads-up as soon as possible.

On a more sombre note this will be Carolyn Cardinet's last newsletter – she will be taking off her slippers and passing them on to Philip Ingman, 69's very own editor. He welcomes comments or suggestions about the new newsletter, so if you have anything to say don't hesitate to contact him at editor@69smithstreet.com.au. You can also read all about him on page 8!

2007 exhibitions

Our exhibition calendar for 2007 is looking very interesting indeed, and there are still some dates available. Any emerging artists, art schools or community groups keen to make use of our space should contact our exhibition coordinator Ulrika Holmlund at info@69smithstreet.com.au.

We want you!

Volunteers are the backbone of 69 Smith Street. We are constantly on the lookout for kind souls to assist with day to day gallery running, as well as more meaty roles. We have vacancies opening up very soon for a media/PR coordinator and for a treasurer (see page 3) – so if you would like to become part of our friendly group and lend a hand, email your details to info@69smithstreet.com.au. Now!

We also welcome anyone interested in playing a part in 69 Smith Street to attend our committee meetings. They are usually held every three weeks on Sundays at 6:00 pm, with the next one being December 17, then again on January 21 just before the gallery opens its doors for 2007.

Help refresh the garden and gallery

69 Smith Street will be holding a work bee on Saturday January 20 to get the place painted, plastered, refreshed and repaired for the busy year ahead. Come and help out, or just bring some food and supplies as we will also need refreshment! It will be a fun afternoon and worthwhile to see the gallery and garden looking sparkling and new.

Our garden is taking shape with the addition of three ceramic sculptures of female forms by artist Helen Clancy, and three of Merle Parker's colourful wooden sculptures. Two drought resistant plants have also been kindly donated by Carolyn Cardinet to compliment the sculpture garden.

If you happen to have some succulents or sculptures that would suit our garden, come by and introduce them to the family. They will be loved and cared for!

New Year break

The gallery will be closed from December 17, so if you haven't been in to see the EM Prize entrants yet, now is the time! We will reopen on January 24 with an exhibition by Ian Holmes and Martina Penning.



Two of Helen Clancy's sculptures.



Merle Parker's work.

Artist talk: Joanna Weir

It was with great enthusiasm that Joanna Weir talked on September 6 about her latest work in her *Remnants* exhibition which was held upstairs at 69 Smith Street Gallery from September 6 to 24.

Thirty students from the VUT visual art department, together with their teachers Julie Patey and Paul Borg, turned up for Joanna's lecture which she delivered with ease, answering students' questions as well.

Joanna talked about her background in graphic art, which she studied prior to going back to TAFE for a Visual Art Diploma at the same South Melbourne campus as the students attending the talk. After her diploma Joanna completed a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment which enabled her to teach.

The influence of graphics is present in her bold and strongly coloured work. Joanna uses Impasto medium and graphite to replicate the bark of the Moonah tree together with Latin words in her paintings.

Her research for this body of work was mainly on the Moonah trees of the Portsea region which she detailed with maps, drawings, pictures and collages – not to forget the installation of live Moonah trees presented at the show to complement her paintings.

Since the show at 69, Joanna has been asked to do a commission for Melbourne Girls Grammar private school library. Congratulations Joanna!

And all the best for the future, although it seems that you are well on your way...

—Carolyn Cardinet

Calling all members



Julie admiring Aneta's work at EMAP.

Due to an increase in work commitments our current treasurer Julie Harmsworth is regretfully stepping down and we urgently need someone to take on this roll in January 2007. Julie will be on hand in the initial stages of the changeover and you would be working with support from the committee.

The main day-to-day responsibilities involve the paying of bills, issuing receipts, banking, tracking exhibition and bond payments and refunds.

Some understanding of bookkeeping and basic computer skills would be ideal as all bookkeeping is electronic, using MYOB. The gallery would be willing to sponsor some basic training in MYOB if necessary although the system is finely tuned and all set up. It is a great way to become involved in the gallery, especially as 69 Smith Street moves into its next exciting phase.

Please email us at info@69smithstreet.com.au or phone 9347 2713 to express interest or discuss any questions you may have about this position.



Joanna Weir at VUT.

The 2006 Ellen Mileo Contemporary Art Prize

The Secret Life of the Shoe

The Secret Life of the Shoe is a world of pain, pleasure, joy, poetry, rebellion, anger, fashion, fairytales and laughter. It is a proposition that has generated works from the obsessions, fetishes, opinions and practices of 39 artists – in a spectacular variety of media. It is an exhibition about shoes, in a gallery that was once a shoe-repair shop. It is art; breathing life into history; history breathing life into art.

In practical terms, the Ellen Mileo Contemporary Art Prize has become an extension of the professional practice experience provided by 69 Smith Street Gallery. It has offered artists the chance to find out what it is like to compete in a professional, public art competition. Stringent guidelines including thematic and size restrictions, delivering art work to deadline, signing contracts, writing an artist statement and payment of entry fees were followed.

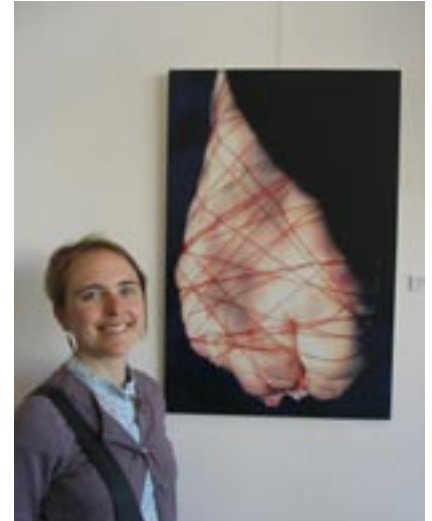
The call for entries went out in mid September. Artists were given only 6 weeks to produce their work. 39 entries were received. The show was mounted in less than two days. The catalogue was produced in just 36 hours. The winners were decided by hip Melbourne shoe designer Marlene Kranz, and the fine artist and illustrator Jim Pavlidis. All of it has been administered, designed, promoted, curated and gallery-minded by a group of dedicated artists who make up the management committee.

Congratulations to the winners: Aneta Bozic – first prize for her

astonishing piece of sculpture entitled *Ossifraga*, *Andrea Versalius Collection*; Claire Best – second prize for the playful *Untitled Animation*; Grace McQuilten – third prize for her (self-described) creepy C-type photo *Sole, Tongue, Lace*. Thank you to everyone who has been involved, from the artists and judges to the committee and friends of the gallery who consistently show up to lend us their time and expertise.

All the works looked great in the gallery and every artist in the show deserves a pat on the back. *The Secret Life of the Shoe* is not just a competition, it is a celebration of this diverse community of artists who are interested in producing art for reasons beyond making a buck. They can't help it. It is their life; a secret one that awakens in the old shoe repair shop with each new exhibition.

— Gabrielle Bates



Grace McQuilten with *Sole, Tongue, Lace*.



Claire Best and *Untitled Animation*.



Aneta Bozic with *Ossifraga, Andrea Versalius Collection*.

A word from Merle Parker

I would just like to say what a brilliant job Gabrielle, Ulrika and everyone did to ensure the EMAP was such a success. Was a grand day; worthy winners well judged, great wine, wonderful dips, good music, short speeches, lots of happy people. Congratulations. Well done.



Julian Di Martino and Gabrielle Bates looking glamorous.



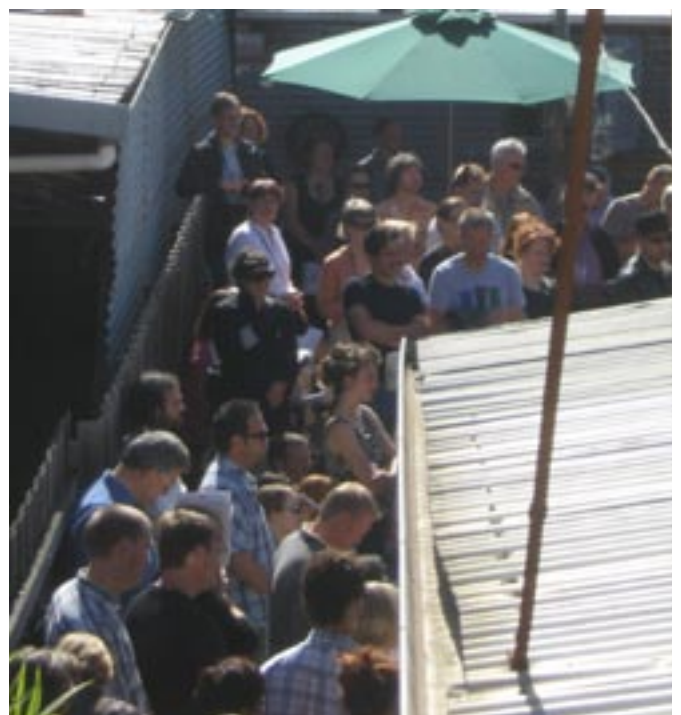
Michael Mileo.



Ulrika Holmlund, Cecilia Fogelberg and Carolyn Cardinet.



Jim Pavlidis takes the stage.



The garden packed for EMAP 2006.

Recently: Rebecca Beris

In Reach of Shadows

Oct 21–Nov 5

In Reach of Shadows was the result of emerging artist Rebecca Beris' exploration into rhythm, feeling and emotion.

The show offered a unique and somewhat quirky look at how sensation can be communicated to a viewer via a work of art. As an extension of this enquiry, Beris is writing a thesis on artist Wassily Kandinsky as a part of her candidature for Master of Creative Arts at Melbourne University.

The exhibition included oil paintings, drawings, sculptures and collages. Together, these works enriched one another and formed a comprehensive and cohesive body of work.

Explaining her desire to explore how form, colour and subject matter evoke specific sensations in the viewer, Beris says, 'I want to create rhythm, feeling and emotion within my artwork in a controlled manner'.



(Above and below) Rebecca Beris' opening on October 21.



Upcoming shows for 2007

There are some great events and shows lined up for 2007 – here is a brief selection:

Feb 14–Mar 4: Oshik Harari, *Conflict*

Mar 7–25: Michael Cuthbert, *Recent Works*

May 9–27: Artist run initiative event

Jul 11–29: Peter Milne, *Brief Shining Moments*

Aug 1–19: Out of the Box, *Voyages*

Recently: Brian Carter

Holding the Fuse

Nov 7–26



After spending the first 12 years of his life following the footprints of little creatures through the sands of the Mallee, Brian went on to study entomology.

All those years of chasing small footprints show in his paintings. Brian creates bold, vivid, thought-provoking and highly topical art works for today's new environmental awareness, describing them as 'semi-surreal with a contemporary message'.

Brian has also been a successful poet for over 30 years. His books can be found for sale through official internet outlets. Nearly all of the paintings are accompanied by prose and holistically jumbled words.

Recently: Photographic Imaging College show

Passage

Aug 15–Sept 3



Passage

The far-flung

The disappearing road

The gaze into the distance

The familiar and the foreign

The intimate and the crowded

The restless shifting and the still meditation.

This certainly describes the opening night of this exhibition. Current students, ex-students, friends and visitors experienced their own journey while viewing the work of sixteen emerging photo based artists.

A variety of processes were used, from gelatin-silver to the most contemporary digital. The diversity of work created a highly successful and vibrant exhibition.

69 Smith Street Gallery

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Exhibition coordinator: Ulrika Holmlund

Secretary: Michael Cuthbert

Treasurer: Julie Harmsworth

Committee members:

Irene Amorosi

Owen Bomford

Marianne Little

Andrew Maes

Archive coordinator: Julian Di Martino

Newsletter coordinator: Carolyn Cardinet

Editor: Philip Ingman

Media coordinator: Gabrielle Bates

Social secretary: Carolyn Straford

six 9ine is 69 Smith Street Gallery's newsletter and is published quarterly. It can be found online at www.69smithstreet.com.au.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of 69 Smith Street Gallery.

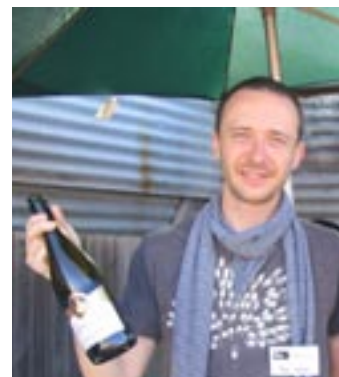
This edition of *six 9ine* was created by the contributions of Gabrielle Bates, Carolyn Cardinet, Merle Parker and Philip Ingman.

Profile: Philip Ingman

Editor, 69 Smith Street

When did you start volunteering for 69 Smith Street?

I've only been part of the team for a month or so, but I'm so impressed by the way in which I've been welcomed. It's great to be around people who are so passionate and enthusiastic about what they do.



Philip doing what he loves best.

What will you be doing at 69 Smith Street?

I will be taking over the newsletter after Carolyn Cardinet leaves, and assisting artists by sending out media releases for their shows at the gallery. I also hope to be involved in other ways and generally help out when I can. You may have seen me dealing out drinks at the EM Prize on Saturday. That was fun.

What drove you to donate your services to the gallery?

I just finished a Graduate Diploma in Publishing and Editing but realised I still have a lot to learn. I guessed the best way to do that would be to let someone have me for free! The great thing about volunteer work is there is always something to be done, which means I have the chance to try a variety of different things as well as practice editing.

What would you like to achieve?

Well, a paid job would be nice! I'm also mulling over a few projects of my own. I would really love to eventually work on art books and art catalogues, but I think it may be some time before I can attempt that kind of work.

What kind of art do you make?

I have been asked this question a few times since starting at 69 Smith Street! I am not an artist, but have a great appreciation for what artists do. I also believe that making art is in many ways similar to making a book – at the end of the process you have something of which you can feel very proud because (one would hope) it is a complete, beautiful object that will last forever. So I suppose you could say I aspire to being an artist in that I am attracted to the idea of producing cultural artefacts that will provoke thought and interest.