

Gifted Works

Ruth Faerber

In 2007 the Burnie Regional Art Gallery received a generous donation of 36 works by Sydney printmaker and paper artist Ruth Faerber. She had decided to donate 160 artworks to Australian art galleries. After Roger Butler, Senior Curator Australian Prints selected 60 works for the National Gallery of Australia, the Burnie Regional Art Gallery together with the Mosman Art Gallery were to have first choice. Many of the works date from the eighties and the nineties, with the earliest from the sixties.

In March 2009, the Burnie Regional Art Gallery selected 18 works from her gift and mounted a solo exhibition as part of Ten Days on the Island. The exhibition was a timely and significant project. In 1980, as an established printmaker she participated in the first handmade paper workshop held at the Jabberwocky Mill at the Hobart School of Art. As the artist recalls: "This and subsequent papermaking trips to Hobart fired my enthusiasm for the creation of my hand coloured cast paperworks, which were at the time quite innovative. First exhibited in a solo exhibition in Sydney in 1982, and later internationally, I have continued to make, and exhibit them until a few years ago... "

The pieces selected for this special exhibition were, as observed by Sasha Grishin, all from her remarkable bas-relief handmade paper cast work – the earliest made in 1982 and the latest in 1998. Her return to Tasmania for the IAPMA Congress in Burnie coincides with the opening of her exhibition at the Burnie Regional Art Gallery and the Burnie Print Prize.