

Chris Gentle

Bio

2005 - Artist in Residence at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
2000 - Three months working in Europe: painting and drawing in France, Spain and Portugal
1990-94 - Senior Lecturer, College of Fine Arts, UNSW
1983 - Three months drawing, painting and photography in Central Australia
1977-86 - Founding director of the Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
1975 - Appointed Senior Lecturer, Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education, Sydney
1969 - Appointed Teacher of Art, National Art School, Sydney
1968 - Exhibited at the "Young Contemporaries Exhibition: Sydney
1967 - Exhibited at the "Young Contemporaries Exhibition: Sydney
1965-67 - Travelled through the West Indies, USA, Canada and New Zealand before settling in Australia
1958-61 - Studied painting, drawing, sculpture and lithography at the West Sussex College of Art, UK (NDD, ATD)
1939 - Born, UK

"Christopher Gentle's art evokes the beauty and form of a mica specimen – layers of shimmering mirrors reflecting light, angular planes that confound the eyes with line upon electric line and solemn dark recesses that compliment and contrast the final image. Gentle's meditative process inwardly digests the decay and renewal of nature and months later makes his marks having stripped away literal detail. These works are a result of spending last year as Artist in residence at Sydney's Royal Botanical Gardens where he consolidated his interest in plant forms – especially water lilies and pond life. Paradoxically using pressed flowers from their research library he renewed some water lilies in oils, pastel and charcoal. Full circle. These haunting, mysterious images with their ebb and flow of mark making frees him 'from the tyranny of realism'". Excerpt taken from "In Good Company" by Margaret Wright, June 2006.

Originally from the UK, the 66 year-old artist has five paintings in the show of 24. He has two oil paintings and three pastel drawings in the show and is disappointed that he cannot attend the Darwin exhibition. Gentle's paintings are an amalgamation of experiences from Kakadu National Park, the Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney and his own back yard which features an inspirational pond. He describes his work as "free from the tyranny of realism". For almost 20 years he worked as a senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales in the College of Fine Arts (formerly the National Arts School in Sydney) but is now retired. "Most artists teach because we have to earn a buck somehow," the father of a 23 year-old son said. There is wealth of experience between the artists and they share the love of line, the instinctive response to colour. "We all deal with nature in one way or another," Gentle said. He said he believes the Australian art scene is very vibrant and healthy. "Visiting artists always remark on how lively our culture is," he said. "Being so isolated is a positive and a negative – positive because we just get on with it and negative because we may be artistically better if we had other influences," he said. Excerpt taken from "Gentle nature of good company", Northern Territory News, June 23, 2006.

Solo Exhibitions

2005 - "Paper + Plants" – The Red Box Gallery, Sydney
2001 - Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney
1999 - "Instinct and the Responsive Mark" – Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney

Group Exhibitions

2005
"Works on Paper", Rex Irwin Gallery, Sydney

2004

"Still Life Still Lives", Rex Irwin Gallery, Sydney

2000

"The Drawn Image", Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney

"Illawarra Visions" – Wollongong City Gallery, Wollongong

1999

"Sydney Figurative Painters", Hill-Smith Fine Art, Adelaide

"Silver" – Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney

"Shifting Currents" – Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney

1996

"Three Landscape Artists", Lake Russell Gallery, Coffs Harbour

Kadumbah Invitation Drawing Award Exhibition- Leura

1995

Group exhibition, "Rocks and Water", Gallery Savah, Sydney

Kadumbah Invitation Drawing Award Exhibition, Leura

"Three Painters" – Gallery Petimento, Bathurst

1994

"Lost Valley of the Springs", Blaxland Gallery, Sydney

"Words Are Not Enough" – Solander Gallery, Canberra

1992

"Manu et Mente", Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney

1988

"Horizons", BMG Fine Art, Sydney

1987

"Opening Exhibition Sydney", Bonython Meadmore Gallery, Sydney

1986

"5th Birthday Exhibition", Gallery 460, Gosford

1985

"Lord Howe Island Art Project", Stadia Graphics Gallery, Sydney

1973

Arts Council Gallery, Sydney

Awards

Winner, Wyong Shire Festival of Arts, Works on Paper Award.

Commissions

Regent Hotel, Sydney

Lord Howe Island Art Project

Collections

Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Australian National Gallery, Canberra.

Australian National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.

Art Gallery of Queensland.

Artbank.

New York Times Collection, New York.

IBM Australia.

College of Fine Arts, UNSW.

University of Wollongong.

University of New South Wales.

Corporate and private collections in UK, North America, Europe and Australia.