

PRINTS ON VIEW



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EXHIBITION CLOSES 15 MAY

EXTRA

ISSUE #27

Reflections of the Snakepit Gallery Launceston and Russell Street Studio

In October 1992 an Art Co-op was formed by nine artists. It was the brainchild of renowned artists, Bea Maddock and Rob Ikin, and was to provide a space for practising artists from the Launceston area.

A two story building was found in Launceston city, and the Snakepit Gallery began. Monthly meetings were held, with rotating monthly managers. The "Hiss Review" was printed every three months, with a calendar of upcoming exhibitions.

The first show was held in January 1993 and by the end of 1996 the gallery had showcased over 100 fortnightly exhibitions, which involved 111 artists. Plus six Snakepit group shows.

At the end of 1995 exhibitions were becoming more difficult to book, so the co-op was concluded and a new group was formed. The gallery became known as the Snakepit Art Space and started including more of the community, such as students and artists from outside the Launceston area.

The final exhibition was held April 1998, after it was decided to bring the co-op to an end. This was due to membership numbers dwindling and the building to be sold. Today there is a collection in the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, which was donated in 1998 and expanded on in 2008.

As a young emerging artist, straight out of university, I was like a child in a candy shop when I joined the Snakepit. Surrounded by so many well-known artists with years of experience I became like a sponge, soaking up as much knowledge as possible.

Many of these artists had previously been my lecturers and mentors, but suddenly became my peers, as we worked on numerous projects together.



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Prints on View Exhibition Invitation. Artists pictured above: Diana North, Dallas Richardson, Denise Campbell, John Hay, Gina Lehman, Helen Freitag, Lou Millen.

I was lucky enough to find myself in a situation, where I was already involved in another professional run artist workspace, called Russell Street Studio. These two spaces were to overlap with each other throughout the years. With many of the artists from Russell Street being involved with the Snakepit.

Russell Street, like the Snakepit, began with a plan by three artists, Barb Bullard, Rosemary Burke and Helen Flood. They envisaged a workspace that would bring together a supportive group of artists. Allowing them to work with each other rather than in isolation.

In 1986 a 1921 church hall was found and became the beginning of an establishment that ran for ten years. During that time, a total of twenty-four artists passed through its doors, which culminated in a final show, aptly named The Final Five held at the Snakepit in 1996. Those artists included Barb Bullard (an original founding member) Mandy Hunniford, Linda Bowen, Paul Bishop and myself Lou Millen. I was fortunate enough to also curate the exhibition.

For me, Russell Street was a saviour during a difficult period in my life. It gave me refuge, and allowed me to complete my degree, mostly off campus. The support and knowledge from the other artists provided me with confidence, which, as a young person can often be lacking.

During my time at Russell St I was involved in a total of fifteen group shows, three which were at the Snakepit and four solo shows, one which was also at the Snakepit and my graduate exhibition being at Russell St.

In conclusion, these two co-op's, which were vastly different from each other, gave me a sense of courage to be able to work as a practising artist, and the belief that I could do so. The knowledge that I gained from so many well-known established artists will always stay with me and has enabled me to continue to strive to be the artist I am today.

Lou Millen.



LOU MILLEN
INVITES YOU
TO A
SHOW OF PRINTS
AT RUSSELL
STREET STUDIO
RUSSELL STREET
INVERMAY
FROM 15 NOV
TO 22 NOV
OPENING
15 NOV. 7PM





ARTIST STATEMENT

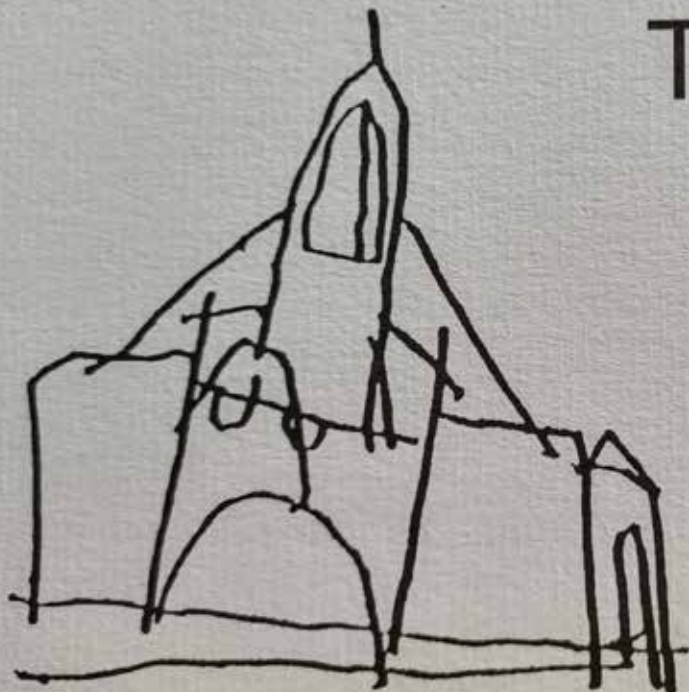
THE LANDSCAPE BECOMES A BASE, THE MARKS AND COLOURS BECOME THE EMOTIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE. THE STRUGGLE THE HARMONY, THE ANXIETY WITHIN THE LANDSCAPE BECOME PREVALENT WITHIN THE WOODBLOCKS. MY EMOTIONS BECOME INTERTWINED WITH THOSE I AM CREATING, THEREFORE, MY "EMOTIONAL LANDSCAPES" ARE A REFLECTION OF MY OWN FEELINGS AND IDEALS.

THE WORK IS HOW I FORSEE THE LANDSCAPE, AND HOW THE LANDSCAPE AFFECTS ME, WHICH IS TRANSFERRED THROUGH THE DIFFERING MARKS, TEXTURES AND COLOURS".

November 1991 *Lou Miller*



FOND MEMORIES: Past participants of the now defunct Russell Street Studio in Launceston. From left: Launceston artists Lou Millen, Barbara Bullard, Linda Bowen, Mandy Hunniford and Paul Bishop.



THE FINAL FIVE

An Exhibition By
BARB BULLARD
MANDY HUNNIFORD
LINDA BOWEN
PAUL BISHOP
LOU MILLEN

EXTRA Zine Issue #27

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ARI REMIX PRESENTS "SELF-MADE, ARTIST-RUN" A NEW ZINE-BASED ARCHIVAL ART INITIATIVE "THE EXTRA ZINE PROJECT" | feat. TEN ARTISTS, TEN ZINES [2022-2023]

EXTRA is a Queensland/ Australian networked zine collaboration building from past, present and future 'living' archival art initiatives Issue # 26 Online Launch 21 February 2023. This emerging zine and zine making projects builds out directly from the ARI Remix Project. It places an emphasis on the little stories, hidden histories, marginalised narratives and digitised art/ artists' ephemera safeguarded in the personal archives of artists who were directly involved in the expanded and expanding Queensland/ Australian artist-run ecology 1940 to Now.

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/EXTRA_ZINE](https://linktr.ee/extra_zine)

<https://remix.org.au>

https://www.instagram.com/ari_remix

https://www.instagram.com/extra_zine

The ARI Remix collective acknowledges and respects the traditional and ongoing custodians of the lands where we live, make and work.

We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded. We support the Uluru statement from the heart.

ARI REMIX | PROJECT TWO - Stage One of this project are supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and have been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.





**Reflections of the Snakepit Gallery Launceston and
Russell Street Studio - Lou Millen.**

*An Australian networked zine collaboration building from past,
present and future 'living' archival initiatives.*

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