



EXTRA

ISSUE # 12

THE CELLARS | Artist-Run Space | Brisbane Meeanjin/ SEQ | Artist-run Community 1975-1976 | by artist photographer Jude Morrell | October 2022



The Cellars

My introduction to The Cellars Gallery was through Michael O'Sullivan, a friend I had recently met in Brisbane in the mid-70's. Through Michael I met Gil Secombe who was a friend of his, and also involved in The Cellars.

With a passion and exuberance in all that he did, Michael single-handedly talked the owners of Naldham House, a beautiful Indian architectural-style building with colonnades located at 197 Mary St Brisbane, and persuaded them into letting him rent the whole of the lower level of the building, which wasn't being used at the time, as an art establishment for \$10 a week. Even in the 70's that was a bargain! (Naldham House has survived, it has been renovated in the last few years.)

The Cellars went on to be an artist-run space, a place that was truly unique, welcoming and special for its time. We had a noticeboard for photo-copied ephemera of the Cellar's program which included art exhibitions, art workshops, performance and music nights, both acoustic and electric. A young

acting troupe rehearsed and performed there and people would drop in just to hang out. A couple of young women offered to cook and sell food at our events. The Cellars also put on free film nights. We would hire 35mm art films that came in those big, archival metal containers and had to be threaded through a movie projector with care.

Growing up in Brisbane in the 60's and 70's had been so tediously dull for me that when I finished my 2-year QIT photography course at age 19, I gave myself two choices; go to Holland with my Dutch friends or go to Perth with a girlfriend on her 350cc Honda motorbike. I wanted to get as far away from Brisbane (in Australia or the world) as I could. I went to Perth. After traveling about 4000 kms without a hitch, on the first day in Perth we hit an oil slick on the causeway, came off the bike and almost ended up under the semi-trailer in front of us. But all was well and after a while I came back to Brisbane and unbelievably, Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the longest serving Premier in Queensland's history was... STILL IN POWER!

Joh was wreaking havoc - AND stirring up Brisbane's young people. There were many protests, street marches. We had plenty to protest about then - Vietnam, fighting for Women's Lib, Aboriginal land rights and lesbian/gay rights - *and* against Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Young people in particular weren't happy with their government. Dirty deals were struck and corruption abounded. Historic old buildings like the Bellevue Hotel in George Street were being demolished in the dead of night amid large groups of protesters.

Daniel Hurst wrote in the Brisbane Times; *"There was a cordon of police. They had thrown up a barbed... mesh wire fence. And then (demolishers) the Deen Bros arrived, rolling through like an armoured division, straight through the crowd. People were knocked sideways. Police were dragging people out of the way. Parking meters were knocked over. Traffic signs were bent and twisted on the road. It looked like Stalingrad"*.

I also heard that a shipment of yellowcake (a type of uranium concentrate powder) was being secretly transported through the city that night by train. I remember thinking at the time that you could always tell who were the unscrupulous ones, because they all had 'Sir' in front of their name.

Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, Sir Rus Hinze, Sir Terry Lewis (the State Police Commissioner who ended up serving over ten years in jail for various nefarious crimes). Years later, when Sir Joh was .. STILL IN POWER .. I, like many like many others, defected from Queensland to the south.

But although times were tricky then, in many ways it was fantastic and the difficult times created a very fertile and creative culture on the fringes and in the local art world. Difficult times can do that.

Art loves a problem to solve, ideas to unpack and to make sense of, having something to discuss and disseminate, and issues to work on, together. Brisbane in the 70's was rife with issues, so there was a lot to work on. Creativity and passion was the name of the game.

The Cellars was a terrific space. Big open areas, seagrass matting throughout (very 70's) beautiful sandstone walls and magnificent, massive dark timber pillars throughout the three large rooms. There was another smaller enclosed room at the end that had once been used to store armaments during WWII.

Someone donated a life size horse sculpture that lived in the first room to the right. To enter the Cellars, you went around the back of the building, through very large double wooden gates into the sprawling wharf area on the Brisbane River. It was a magic space and people who came there loved the feel and look of the building and being by the wharf. At night when the moon was out it was incredibly beautiful.

At one-point Michael went to Sydney to do a mime workshop with visiting mime artist Marcel Marceau. Michael fell in love with Sydney and had decided to move there permanently. He asked me if I would take over the coordinating role.

Artist Mirka Mora came up from Melbourne to do her doll making workshops as a *Festival of Brisbane 1976* event at the gallery. Mirka was gorgeous and would walk from her hotel to The Cellars in her flowing gypsy skirts and black boots, carrying her dolls in a little cane basket. I had an art book she was in. She was very sweet and in it she drew a picture of an angel on the front page. She signed it and wrote that I was her guardian angel, because I was looking after her while she was in Brisbane. She later told me that The Cellars had been the first art workshop she had given. I wish I still had that book. Unfortunately, it got lost along the way many years later.

I remember we also had a fantastic exhibition of prints by Jean-Pierre Paolasso and his daughter. They were from the Pacific (Tahiti) both very talented and incredibly good looking. There was a very island feel to the show and being young, broke and industrious, a couple of the Cellars artists made a trip to a pineapple farm just out of Brisbane to help out with the exhibition opening. In the dead of night on a warm October evening they brought back some delicious pineapples which I hope the farmer didn't miss.

In some ways The Cellars was a victim of its own success. And in other ways, the pressures of the state were too much, young people simply left the state. We had a lot of people coming along, particularly to the live music nights where bands would play. The owners had asked us not to let people walk along the wharf by the river, but this became increasingly harder to control. Security guards noticed and eventually The Cellars' days were numbered. But it was such a great time and place, and I consider myself very lucky to have been a part of it.

Jude Morrell

Dubbo, October 2022

Photo Above:

Artists Mirka Mora with a basket of dolls and Gil Secombe with artists' ephemera at The Cellars, a community-based artist-run space located at Naldham House, May 1976, Brisbane Meeanjin/SEQ. Photo by Jude Morrell.





CELAYS GALLERY

Polasso

17.9.76
30.9.76

TAHITI. INDONESIA

Brisbane



Tahiti Art Maohi

Jean Pierre Paolasso présente un coupon exclusif d'inspiration Mélanésienne.

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Tahiti Art Maohi

Jean Yves Froment et Jean Pierre Paolasso à droite.

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Tahiti Art Maohi

Gravure sur bois de l'époque Par Yves Froment et Jean Pierre Paolasso.

Procédé que l'on retrouve 65 ans plus tard dans notre atelier de Arue, une ville où il fait bon vivre.

Mobile uploads · 23 Nov 2017 · 🌐



QUEENSLAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS SOCIETY

FESTIVAL

97/8

May 1
to May 15



EXHIBITIONS

INTERNATIONAL CHILDRENS ART EXHIBITION

Sat. 1 to Fri. 28 Qld. Art Gallery Mon — Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A fascinating exhibition from UNICEF's five continent children's drawings competition plus circus posters.

TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL CRAFTS DISPLAY

Sat. 1 to Sat. 15 Queensland Museum Mon. — Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Fascinating examples of aboriginal crafts from Edward River, Cape York.

WORLD OF CRAFTS

Sat. 1 to Sat. 15 State Library of Queensland Mon. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. Sun. 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Space Age Childrens exhibition

AERODYNAMICS

Sat. 1 to Sat. 15 Victor Mace Fine Art Gallery Tue. to Sat. 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

An exciting exhibition of flying colour field geometric constructions by Peter Travis.

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ARTIST JOHN COBURN'S ONE-MAN EXHIBITION.

Tue. April 27 to Sat. May 15 The Verlie Just Town Gallery: Inner Suite & balcony

Mon. to Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PAINTINGS AND TAPESTRIES.

A retrospective exhibition by John Olsen Opening Thurs. April 29 7.30 p.m. until May 15 St. John's Cathedral.

PAINTINGS AND TAPESTRIES.

With kites by Peter Travis. (An illustrated lecture by John Olsen will be given in the cathedral on Fri. April 30 at 8 p.m.)

BRISBANE PRIMITIVES

Tue. May 4 to Sat. June 5 Institute of Modern Art Tue. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Charles Collins and James Fardoulys

EMBROIDERY EXHIBITION

Sat. 1 to Sat. 15 Bank of N.S.W. 260 Queen Street

An exhibition by the Embroiderer's Guild Queensland

MUSIC



NATIONAL YOUTH CONCERTO RECITALS

Tue. 4 to Fri. 7 City Hall Foyer 5.30 p.m.

A truly historic event. A National Youth Concerto competition for String Players who have not yet reached tertiary education level. The recitalists will play their works in the City Hall Foyer. (Sponsored by Cobb Farm with the Qld. Youth Orchestra)

FINAL CONCERT

Sat. 8 Mayne Hall University 8 p.m.

The winning concerto. Finalists will play with the Qld. Youth Orchestra. Ending w. presentation of awards.

CANBERRA MUSIC THEATRE TROUPE IN CONCERT

Sun. 9, 2 p.m. & 8.30 p.m. Wed. 12, 8 p.m. John's Cathedral

Jazz/Rock/Contemporary Classical music and Poetry/Movement/Drama concert.

THE CONCERT TO END ALL

Fri. 14 City Hall 8 p.m.

JAZZ/FOLK/ROCK.

It's all in the one fantastic concert featuring Moonlight, Canberra New Music Group, and Mileham Hayes' incredible Dixielanders. (You'll hear a sample of what's in store for the 31st Australian Jazz Convention in Brisbane December 1976)

ATTRACTIONS AT FESTIVAL TIME

THE MERRY WIDOW Her Majesty's Theatre, SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD & THE ISLAND & WE FIND THE BUNYIP Twelfth Night Theatre, THE FLOATING WORLD & PASSPORTS PLEASE La Boite, THE LION IN WINTER Brisbane Arts, MATERIAL CULTURE — KIMBERLEYS Anthropological Museum Uni. of Qld., HIROE SWEN Qld. Potters Assoc., HELGE LARSEN AND DARANI LEWERS & CERAMICS Craft Assoc. Gallery, THE 1930's MOVING PICTURE SHOW Schonell Theatre, AUSTRALIA THEATRE WEEK AND ARTS FESTIVAL Gattori Mercury Theatre, DISNEY ON PARADE Victoria Park, CONCERT BY STUTTGART CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Mayne Hall.

All Enquiries
229 3805



 **QUEENSLAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS SOCIETY**

The Queensland Festival of the Arts Society has been assisted by the Queensland State Government, the Australia Council and the Brisbane City Council.



THE QUEENSLAND FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS SOCIETY

In association with the

QUEENSLAND ARTS COUNCIL

PRESENTS: **Festival '76 Workshops**



KITE MAKING AND FLYING FOR FAMILIES

Make a Work of Art—
Construct and fly your own kite under the expert guidance of

PETER TRAVIS

WHAT: Series of four 3-day workshops

WHEN: May 1st to 3rd
8th to 8th
9th to 11th
14th to 16th
9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

WHERE: Making—Centenary Hall, Brisbane
Grammar School, Gregory Terrace
Flying—Riverside Park
Stanley Street, South Brisbane

WHO: Family groups—
(children over 10 years)

FEE: \$20 per group for the three days

INFORMATION & BOOKINGS:
LEN DAVENPORT ON 221 5900

PRACTICAL PUPPETRY SEMINARS

A two-day workshop/seminar in the making and manipulation of puppets, conducted by six teachers from **QUEENSLAND THEATRE OF PUPPETRY**

WHAT: One 2-day seminar

WHEN: May 7th and 10th
10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

WHERE: St. Luke's Church Hall,
Charlotte Street, City.
(By invitation of St. John's
Cathedral Chapter)

WHO: People 8 years and over.
Adults welcome.

FEE: \$5 per student
for the two days.

INFORMATION & BOOKINGS:
LEN DAVENPORT ON 221 5900

MAGIC WITH MIRKA MORA

Melbourne's Mirka Mora conducts — workshops for all ages in the making and painting of imaginative 3D images/'dolls'.

WHAT: For children 4 to 7 years and 8 to 12 years, a series of 2 hour workshops.

May 1st: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
May 3rd to 15th: 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

For adults 12 years and over.
Four 3-day workshops.
May 3rd to 15th: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE: Cellars Gallery 193-207 Mary Street, City, and Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education.

FEE: \$2.00 for 4-12 years.
\$6.00 for 12 years and over.

INFORMATION & BOOKINGS:
LEN DAVENPORT ON 221 5900

AT TWELFTH NIGHT THEATRE

PUPPETRY WORKSHOP

Puppet making and manipulation conducted by Joanne Grabek, Lloyd Nickson and Design Staff of Twelfth Night Theatre.
May 4th to 7th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
AGES: 8-14 years.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES— MASKS MAGIC AND MIME

A workshop involving—mask construction — together with mime and magic — tutored by: Greg Katahanus, Jennifer Muir-Smith, Lloyd Nickson and Design Staff.

MAY 10th to 14th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
AGES: 8 to 14 years.

DETAILS MARGARET HICKEY 52 7559



The Queensland Festival of the Arts Society is assisted by the **QUEENSLAND STATE GOVERNMENT** and the **AUSTRALIA COUNCIL**



The Cellars 1975-1976
by artist **Jude Morrell**

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

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