

# FRANCES KEEVIL GALLERY

## DAVID BOYD

1924 – 2011

- 1924 David Boyd was born in Murrumbeena, Melbourne. Third and youngest son of artists Merric and Doris Boyd. Studied pottery and painting within the family circle and also the piano. Entered the Melba Memorial Conservatorium of Music at 17
- 1942 Joined Contemporary Art Society of Australia. Conscripted into Australian Army
- 1944–46 Studied at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and the National Gallery School on an ex-serviceman's grant. First exhibition of paintings with John Yule at the Rowden White Library, University of Melbourne  
In partnership with brother Guy Boyd founded Martin Boyd pottery in Sydney
- 1947 Painting expedition in New Caledonia with author Hugh Atkinson
- 1948–49 Married Hermia Lloyd-Jones, younger daughter of graphic artist Herman (Jonah) and Erica Lloyd-Jones.  
Began pottery career with Hermia  
First exhibition of pottery in Sydney
- 1950–55 Established pottery studios in London and in the South of France, joined for a time by ceramist and painter Stanislaw Halpern. Travelled widely throughout Spain. Returned to Australia
- 1956 David and Hermia Boyd became widely known as leading Australian potters. Introduced new techniques in glazing and the use of the potters wheel in shaping sculptural figures. Greatly influenced local potters, in particular Tom Sanders and John Perceval. Major exhibition of ceramic tiles and sculptures at the Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 1957–58 Commenced painting the Explorer series, exhibited at the Australian Galleries, Melbourne, and Clune Galleries, Sydney
- 1959 Started a series of paintings based upon the extinction of the full-blood Tasmanian Aboriginal in the nineteenth century. Took part in issuing the Antipodean Manifesto with Blackman, Arthur Boyd, Brack, Dickerson, Perceval, Pugh and B. Smith, defending the figurative image in contemporary painting in a joint exhibition in Melbourne. Exhibited Explorers and Tasmanians in Adelaide
- 1960 Commenced a series of paintings on the theme of Law and Justice, the Trial series.  
Elected President of the Contemporary Art Society (Victorian branch), Councillor of the Museum of Modern Art of Australia
- 1961 First prize Italian Art Scholarship for Australia. Chairman of the Federal Council of the Contemporary Art Society of Australia
- 1962 Lived in Rome, continuing the Trial series, before returning to England. Settled in London
- 1963 First one-man exhibitions in London and Paris of the Trial paintings
- 1964 Revisited Spain and painted Church and State series based upon this visit
- 1965 One-man exhibitions in London and in Australia of Church and State
- 1966 Discovered method of using candle flame to create images and named the technique Sfumato, a word used by Leonardo da Vinci to describe graduations of a misty tone in painting (although there is no evidence that Leonardo used a candle flame to achieve this effect)
- 1967–69 Exhibited Sfumato paintings in London and in Australia, including Newcastle, NSW. Revisited Australia. Exhibited late Sfumato and Limbo paintings in Adelaide, SA. War Games in Sydney, NSW.  
Visited Boyd Town at Twofold Bay, south coast of NSW  
Commenced a series of paintings, Wanderer, inspired by the life of Benjamin Boyd, an Australian adventurer of the 1840s  
Retrospective exhibition of loaned works from various collections in Australia and Britain at Commonwealth Institute Art Gallery, London, Edinburgh and Sheffield
- 1970 Settled in south of France. First exhibition of Wanderer series at Adelaide Festival of Arts, South Australia. Next at Von Bertouch Galleries, Newcastle, NSW
- 1971 Exhibited Wanderer series in separate sections in three concurrent London exhibitions.  
Started a series based on mythological Orchard of Heaven, first exhibited in Brisbane, Qld.  
Visited Australia

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- 1972 Developed theme of the Orchard and exhibited series entitled Garden in the Wilderness in Newcastle, NSW  
Returned to France. Commenced the Exiles series. Developed the theme Exiles
- 1973 Exhibited Exiles series in London and in Melbourne, Vic
- 1974 Retrospective exhibition at Skinner Galleries, Perth, Festival of Arts
- 1975 Returned to Australia. Retrospective exhibition at Von Bertouch Galleries, Newcastle, NSW
- 1976 Retrospective exhibition at Bonython Gallery, Sydney
- 1977 Commenced series Private View
- 1978 Developed theme of Private View
- 1979–82 Major retrospective exhibition, Albert Hall, Canberra. Painted a series of works entitled Day of the Picnic
- 1983 Retrospective Exhibition 1957-82, a series of seven exhibitions, Wagner Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1985 Exhibition Four Seasons, Wagner Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1986 Exhibited A Judge in the Landscape series, Hong Kong; Wagner Art Gallery, Sydney;  
Von Bertouch Galleries, Newcastle
- 1987 Exhibition Requiem for the Birth of a Nation, Wagner Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1988 Exhibition Antipodean Second Chapter, Lauraine Diggins Fine Arts, Melbourne; Lanyon Gallery, Canberra
- 1989 S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, Antipodean Second Chapter
- 1990 Dedicated to Merric and Doris Boyd, Wagner Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1991–92 Clown in the Tree series
- 1992 Survey retrospective exhibitions Wagner Gallery, Sydney; Caulfield Art Complex, Melbourne;  
Macquarie University, Sydney; Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 1993–94 Metaphors of Trial series, Von Bertouch Galleries, Newcastle
- 1995 The Legend of Europa and the Cockatoos, Eva Breuer Art Dealer, Sydney
- 1996 Europa in Australia, Von Bertouch Galleries, Newcastle
- 1996–97 Driftwood and the Hierarchy series, Von Bertouch Galleries; Wagner Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 Music and the Angels, Galeria Aniela, Kangaroo Valley
- 1999 Survey retrospective, Von Bertouch Galleries, Newcastle
- 2001 Reconciliation, Eva Breuer Art Dealer, Sydney, NSW

#### APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS

- 1960 President of the Contemporary Art Society (Victorian branch)
- 1960 Elected Councillor of the Museum of Modern Art of Australia
- 1961 First Prize Italian Art Scholarship for Australian Chairman of the Federal Council of the  
Contemporary Art Society of Australia.
- 1993–96 Artist-in-residence School of Law, Macquarie University, NSW
- 1998 MEMBRO ALBO DORO DEL SENATO ACCADEMICO - International Academy of Modern Art, Rome, Italy
- 2008 Awarded an OAM for his services to art as a painter and innovator of design and techniques in  
pottery and ceramic sculpture

#### COLLECTIONS

##### *PAINTINGS:*

- Australian War Memorial, Canberra
- Queensland University, Brisbane
- Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- Ballarat Art Gallery, Ballarat, Vic
- Sydney University (Law Faculty), Sydney
- Harold Mertz Collection of Australian Paintings, USA
- Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
- Lincolnshire and South Humberside Arts, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, England
- Fine Arts Department, University of Melbourne
- National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- Adelaide Art Teachers College, Adelaide, SA
- Monash University, Melbourne
- Law School, University of Melbourne

Newcastle Regional Art Gallery  
University of New South Wales, Sydney  
Sydney University Power Collection  
Bendigo Art Gallery  
Graylands College, Perth, Western Australia  
National Gallery of Victoria  
The University of Adelaide, South Australia  
Macquarie University, Sydney, New South Wales  
Bundanon Trust, Nowra, New South Wales  
Macquarie University, New South Wales

*DRAWINGS:*

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

*CERAMIC SCULPTURE:*

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
Art Gallery Of Western Australia, Perth

*POTTERY:*

Department of External Affairs, Canberra  
Museum of Applied Arts and Science, Sydney  
The Power House; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo  
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth  
Staffordshire Museum, Stoke-on-Trent  
Museum of Modern Art of Australia, Melbourne  
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
University of Western Australia, Perth  
University of Queensland, Brisbane