

GUY WARREN OAM AM (1921-)

An active artist to the present day, Guy Warren has given wonderful support to the Lane Cove Art Society throughout its fifty year history. He has been committed to promoting art throughout his life and he was officially recognised for his endeavours in 1999 with an OAM. An AM followed in 2014. He is kindly sponsoring a prize in the 50th anniversary exhibition. In the past he has generously donated raffle prizes, judged exhibitions and given presentations. He shared personal anecdotes about his friend and colleague, Lloyd Rees at a Lane Cove Art Society function at Carisbrook some years ago. The genteel qualities of a bygone era were apparent – humility, a selflessness and a generosity of spirit towards his fellow man.

Guy was born in Goulburn in 1921. He attended East Sydney Technical College as part of a post-war retraining scheme after his war experience in northern Australia and New Guinea. The lushness of the tropical rainforest, the influence of Cezanne and an ever present curiosity about the relationship between Man and Nature as espoused in the Gaia philosophy where interconnectedness resonates between all things organic and inorganic, have all informed his art. Moreover, an experimental approach to materials and concepts has resulted in artworks that “woo” the viewer by their extraordinary power to challenge the senses. In 1985, he won the Archibald prize.

Guy’s inventive way of looking at the world was perhaps best exemplified in 1994 when he used the blue Sydney skies as a canvas and a Cessna 182 as a drawing tool! The *Icarus* myth was certainly alive and well in Guy’s art where the concept and the actualisation materialised so harmoniously and imaginatively.

Never one to churn out “sameness”, Guy responds in an immediate way through materials used and marks made to the environment surrounding him. From the recent trip to central Australia with a dozen artists, to his watercolours of Mungo Brush to the rainforest “wingman” environments at Jamberoo from some years ago, nature has provided an infinite source of inspiration for his art making. Add memories, myths and a constant sense of wonder about the world and what results are artworks that continue to inspire, uplift and imbue a sense of curiosity in the viewer.

By Margaret Vickers