

# It's hot property

A Kangaroo Valley gallery has pulled off a coup with an exhibition of works by the illustrious Boyd family who are synonymous with the region, writes EMMA SPILLETT.

**GALERIA ANIELA FINE ART GALLERY** owner Aniela Kos built her two-storey, mudhouse gallery with the vision of visitors being at one with the art on display.

The Kangaroo Valley gallery boasts large windows in each room that look out onto the 2ha property's sculpture park and a guest room that is surrounded with art.

"I wanted people to live with the art but not in an artificial environment," she says.

"It's the idea that they can have it in their house and they invest in it for their own

private enjoyment."

The gallery's current exhibition, *Best of Boyd*, is a coup for the area as it features works from three members of the Boyd family, who are considered "hot property" in the contemporary national art scene.

Kos hosted the inaugural display of the Boyd trifecta - Arthur, brother David and Arthur's son Jamie - in 1997.

She decided to revisit the *Best of Boyd* collection at Galeria Aniela this year as a tribute to Arthur's memory, following his death in 1999.

Jamie travelled from London with wife Helena for the exhibition's opening in March, while Tim Goodman, a representative from auction house Southeby's, officially opened the proceedings.

Showcasing a mix of more than 80 paintings, etchings and sculptures, the

exhibition has already proved popular with patrons - and there may be little left by the show's closure.

"All the works are available for acquisition and I've sold a lot already," Kos says.

"The exhibition is on for a while so people are getting impatient for their works and they're wanting to come and pick them up and get them into their homes."

During his life, Arthur was well-known for his love of the Shoalhaven and Bundanon.

Kos believes his passion for the area was bred from his love of landscapes and his regular visits to watch grandson Alexander perform in concerts held at the gallery.

"Australians love the bush - we find ourselves with the bush as it's a space that gives us peace," Kos says.

"Arthur often said he found that here and he wanted to share his love with people."

Art is not the only creative vein that runs through the Boyd family as music has also bound together generations.

David was a successful concert pianist during World War I but the need for money during the Depression led to the brothers opening a pottery and plate-making business that eventually became a career.

"As a concert pianist, David had to practice for long hours every day and it was too much for him so he went into pottery and painting instead," Kos says.

The brothers are also well-known for pioneering the national Antipodean art revolution of the late 1950s, which flew in the face of the push for abstract pieces at the time.

"Critics were coming out saying figurative art was dead and abstract work was the only work that mattered," Kos says.

"The Antipodeans wrote a manifesto and held an exhibition about figurative art and how it still had a place in the art world."

Although the three artists share a familial bond, Kos says they bring a distinct style to their individual artworks.

"All the styles are different," she says.

"I guess it's like children ... no-one is identical." ■



## MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART

**Monica Watt, Head of Senior School and Deputy Headmaster, The Illawarra Grammar School:**

"My favourite piece of art is this painting entitled *Solitude* completed in 1977 by Leanne Shead, a Year 12 student at the time. The work was much admired at the school in the year of its completion and it was then entered into an Acquisitive Art Competition for High Schools in the Illawarra Region organised by Wollongong City Gallery. It was awarded first place and was then purchased by the gallery and that was the last time I saw the work. About three years ago, Wollongong City Gallery contacted the school because they were 'rationalising their collection'. They wondered if we would like to have the painting. I was really happy to see it again and said we would love to have it back at the school for I remembered both the work and Leanne very fondly but I thought I'd better try and contact Leanne to ensure that her wishes were considered. Leanne confirmed that she was happy for us to hang the work here at school. For us it is a wonderful reminder of Leanne, her family and all the other stories associated with the work."



Aniela Kos' Galeria Aniela is hosting an exhibition of the Boyd family works.

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