

Toyota Community Spirit Gallery presents



natural selection



an exhibition by Toyota Employees from Altona & Port Melbourne



Toyota Australia
155 Bertie Street Port Melbourne Victoria 3207

Gallery Hours Tu & Fri 1pm to 6pm or by appointment

8 December 2005 to February 2006

Inquiries phone Ken Wong 03 9690 0902

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Toyota Community Spirit Gallery

The Toyota Community Spirit Gallery is an initiative of Toyota Community Spirit, Toyota Australia's corporate citizenship program.

Toyota Community Spirit develops partnerships that share Toyota's skills, networks, expertise and other resources with the community.

The Toyota Community Spirit Gallery aims to provide space for artists, especially emerging artists to show their work. The space is provided free of charge to exhibiting artists, no commission is charged on sales and Toyota provides an exhibition launch and develops a catalogue for each exhibition. The Gallery has now shown works by more than 100 local artists.

Toyota has worked with Hobsons Bay City Council and the City of Port Phillip on this project.





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artists

Mary-Anne Doyle
Andy Dudok
Margaret Fenech
Paul Hunt
Nada Jovic
Gail McDaniel
Gerhard Metz
John Orchard
Gary Robinson
Michael Rowe
Selvan Selvanathan
Mario Sorgiovanni

curator

Ken Wong

thanks to

Katarina Persic, Hobsons Bay City Council
Sharyn Dawson, City of Port Phillip
Cath Templeton, Toyota Australia

invitation, catalogue design & editing

Watch Arts

*ken*WONG

curator

is the second Toyota Community Spirit Gallery exhibition featuring the art and craft works of Toyota employees from Altona and Port Melbourne. It follows on from the success of the 2004 exhibition which set a high standard and revealed a great deal of creativity and hidden talent.

natural Selection features the works of twelve employees and this year the quality and diversity of exhibits sets a new standard. is has been assisted by the fact that we have been able to include sculptural works in this year's show. It has been interesting to witness the effect that being involved with last year's exhibition has had on some of the participants. The boldness, inventiveness and depth of self expression in evidence in some of these artworks highlights what a great opportunity this exhibition provides to build the confidence and motivation that only comes from experience and achievement.

The title for this exhibition has several meanings. Firstly, it reflects how easy and natural the process of selecting works for this show turned out to be. Virtually all the works submitted seemed to fall together and follow a strong common theme. Secondly, the theme is strongly related to the natural environment from a variety of points of view. Some works celebrate our planet's natural beauty and the bounty of creatures and resources that flow from it. Others are more reflective and in a whimsical but thought provoking way explore more sobering issues about our use and abuse of the natural world.

These works give rise to a third meaning for the title, one that relates to Darwin's theory of Evolution which defines Natural Selection as an ongoing evolutionary process determined by 'survival of the fittest'. In the light of recent world weather events and climate change there seems little doubt that as a race we humans are having a significant effect on the environment that sustains us. This is an issue that could well threaten our very survival. If we are to prove ourselves fit to survive, it is incumbent on us all to think globally and act locally to address the situation.

Along with a range of policies designed to reduce impact on our environment, it is deeply encouraging that a company like Toyota is prepared to provide opportunities for employees to publicly express their feelings around these issues. It is even more deeply encouraging for our future that such a diverse cross section of Toyota employees displays such sensitivity, thoughtfulness and love for our natural environment.

Welcome to *natural Selection*.

BIOGRAPHY

Ken Wong is the Director of Watch Arts, a Melbourne based contemporary arts consultancy. He has worked in the fine arts industry since 1997 in both commercial and community arts, curating and managing a host of projects including gallery and outdoor sculpture exhibitions.

artists & **WORKS**

Gerhard Metz

Liqueur & Fruit	Oil on canvas	30 x 36cm	1990	NFS	page 12
Jars	Oil on canvas	41 x 53cm	1990	NFS	
Lonely Road	Oil on canvas	26 x 21cm	1990	NFS	

John Orchard

Reflections	Oil on canvas	42 x 57cm	2003	NFS	page 13
A Spring Dawn	Oil on canvas	48.5 x 67.5cm	2003	NFS	
Cub	Oil on canvas	42 x 32cm	2004	NFS	

Gary Robinson

Low Tide at Marengo	Photograph	58 x 45cm	2004	\$250	page 14
Tulips	Photograph	50 x 41cm	2004	\$150	
Sleepy Bay	Photograph	61 x 48cm	2004	\$250	

Michael Rowe

Man /Woman	Sandstone	60x60x10cm	2005	\$1000	page 15
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Selvan Selvanathan

Relaxation	Acrylic & pencil on board	90 x 60cm	2005	NFS	page 16
Sweet Home	Acrylic on board	59 x 42cm	2005	NFS	
Global Warming	Mixed media	30 x 36cm	2005	NFS	

Mario Sorgiovanni

Lampshade	Glasswork	30x15x15cm	2005	\$300	page 17
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artists & WORKS

Mary-Anne Doyle

Grey Glacier, Patagonia	Photograph	30 x 42cm	2004	\$250	page 6
Nesting Adelies, Antarctica	Photograph	30 x 42cm	2004	\$250	
Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula	Photograph	42 x 30cm	2004	\$250	

Andy Dudok

Southern Rock Lobster	Fabricated steel	20x36x47cm	2003	\$4600	page 7
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Margaret Fenech

Look at me 1	Photograph	34 x 44cm	1998	\$150	page 8
Look at me 2	Photograph	34 x 44cm	1998	\$150	
Pinu's Church - Malta	Photograph	34 x 44cm	1981	\$250	

Paul Hunt

Sunset on Victorian High Country	Photograph	28 x 35cm	2005	NFS	page 9
Stark Tree - Victorian High Country	Photograph	28 x 35cm	2005	NFS	
Pelion Plain - Cradle Mountain - Lake St. Clair National Park, Tasmania	Photograph	30 x 42cm	2005	NFS	

Nada Jovic

Warratah	Oil on canvas	61 x 76cm	2003	\$850	page 10
Bottlescape	Oil on canvas	68 x 78cm	2003	\$750	
Nude Study	Pastel on paper	55 x 75cm	2005	\$350	

Gail McDaniel

Golden Dredge	Photograph	32 x 41cm	2005	\$150	page 11
Morning Dew	Mixed media	80x40x30cm	2005	\$350	
Sucked In	Mixed media	42 x 42cm	2005	\$250	



mary- anne DOYLE



Grey Glacier, Patagonia
Photograph, 2004
30 x 42cm

Mary-Anne has worked with Toyota for many years in Public Affairs and Human Resources but has this year transferred to the Strategy and Knowledge Management Department to take up the role of Intranet Manager. Her interest in photography began when she joined Toyota in 1991 as editor of the employee magazine Toyota Today. She has always had a keen interest in diverse countries and cultures as evidenced by her travels through the Middle East, Africa, Europe and most recently, Antarctica. Capturing the true spirit of the places she visits and the never-ending challenge of discovering a better angle or more creative composition is what motivates her to express herself through photography. She is primarily self-taught but has acquired a great deal of knowledge and skill from professional photographers she has worked alongside and also from photographic magazines. Her works were first exhibited at Toyota Community Spirit Gallery in 2004.

Artist Statement

This image was taken during a 2004 trip to the Antarctic Peninsula and Patagonia. Camera equipment used was a Canon EOS 300D Digital SLR with 18-55mm and 55-200mm lens.

andy DUDOK



Southern Rock Lobster
Fabricated steel, 2003
20 x 36 x 47cm

Andy has worked in Body Shop as a welder and then in Rectification since 1997. He first became interested in sculpture as a high school student and won second prize for a wood carving at the 1975 Royal Melbourne Show. He has been creating works like this since 2003, drawing heavily on his obviously excellent technical trade skills. His art practice is self-taught and inspired by his love of working with steel.

Artist Statement

The Southern Rock Lobster is very fascinating to me. I have been an ocean diver over the past 15 years and have observed them many times in their natural habitat. I decided to use scrap metal from a Toyota Camry to create this accurate replica sculpture of a southern rock lobster.

margaret FENECH



Pini's Church - Malta
Photograph, 1981
34 x 44cm

Margaret began working with Toyota in 1982 as a clerk/typist and is currently an Employee Parts Co-ordinator with Human Resources based in Altona. She has always been interested in photography and bought her first camera at age sixteen. Margaret enjoys both landscape and portrait photography which has provided a hobby and enjoyable pastime for her over many years.

Artist Statement

Pini's Church - Malta. The story goes: If you desperately want a wish granted, you make a promise to St. Pini (Patron Saint of this Church in Malta) that if he grants you your wish, you will in return, give something to his Church which is important or valuable to you only. If your wish is granted, you can send your story to this church and they will display the letter in the beautiful church hall. I went to see this church and the very first letter I saw was from a person I had known in Australia who had beaten cancer. I was completely blown away by this experience and I continued to read the experiences of people who had also sent in their stories. When it was time to board the bus, I realised I had not taken a photo of this famous church. I quickly took the photo with no time to make adjustments to my manual camera, taking it from inside a moving bus and knowing that it would probably just be a blur. I couldn't believe the result. I call it my "Miracle Photo."

*paul*HUNT



Pelion Plain - Cradle Mountain - Lake St. Clair National Park, Tasmania
Photograph, 2005
30 x 42cm

Paul has worked with Toyota since 1999 and has followed his interest in photography as a hobby for the past 10 years. Paul practice is self-taught and his strong interest in bushwalking has led a desire to capture the beauty of the natural environment. This is the first public showing of his works.

Artist Statement

My motivation for photography is to attempt to capture the sense of awe and wonder one feels when on a trip outside the confines of the city. To truly experience these beautiful, natural places, you need to go there and experience them yourself.

*nada*JOVIC



Bottlescape
Oil on canvas, 2003
68 x 78cm

Nada became a Toyota employee this year but has worked as a contractor in Human Resources for some time and more recently Manufacturing. Painting has been a passionate pursuit for her for twenty years. She has studied with a variety of well known artists and also completed one year of a Fine Arts Degree that she hopes to return to one day. Her works have been exhibited at various exhibitions at the Victorian Artists Society. She is currently painting with the Gryphon painters and will be part of a group exhibition at the Incinerator Art Complex in March 2006.

Artist Statement

I paint from life and I am inspired by the interplay of light on objects. In 2005, I have been concentrating on figurative work. I was fortunate to have attended classes in tonal painting with the late Graham Moore and have also attended workshops with Yvonne Audette and Maxwell Wilks.

gail MCDANIEL



Morning Dew (detail)
Mixed media, 2005
80 x 40 x 30cm

Gail began working for Toyota in 1996 on the assembly line and is currently a fitter and turner with Press Shop Maintenance in Altona. Her interest in art and craft began at an early age and was inspired by her mother who was very talented. Over the years she has done a variety of textile and wood craft work as well as photography. More recently she has been creating more sculptural art pieces from a variety of mixed media and found objects and was greatly inspired and encouraged by her participation in the 2004 Toyota Community Spirit Gallery employee exhibition. She creates these works to have something beautiful and interesting to hang on her walls and occasionally gives them as gifts to very special people in her life.

Artist Statement

The challenge of actually creating the artwork is what inspires me and keeps me moving on to the next project. I start with an idea and let the artwork find its own form. I can sometimes become completely involved, spending the day in my garage creating only to realize that it's dinner time and I haven't eaten all day!

gerhard METZ



Lonely Road
Oil on canvas, 1990
26 x 21cm

Gerhard began his employment with Toyota in 1985 as a tooling and unit cost estimator and currently works in Purchasing as a Production Preparation Co-ordinator based in Port Melbourne. Art was always one of his best and favourite subjects at school and he has maintained an interest in drawing all his life. In the mid 1970s he met an artist who inspired him to pursue an interest in oil painting and he took some classes, eventually studying H.S.C. art at night school. His works were exhibited in the 2004 Toyota Community Spirit Gallery employee exhibition.

Artist Statement

I have been interested in art for all of my life using mainly pencil and ink and didn't try oils until much later in life. These works were created during my early stages of trying oils and allowed me to experiment with different styles.

*john*ORCHARD



A Spring Dawn
Oil on canvas, 2003
48.5 x 67.5cm

John started with Toyota in 1998 on the finishing line and is currently with the Materials Handling Body Shop based in Altona. He has always been interested in drawing and has been pursuing painting over the past five years. He has attended art classes locally and generally his works are created from photographs he collects from magazines. John has exhibited works in the Bacchus Marsh Art Show in 2001-2002 and at the Toyota Community Spirit Gallery in 2004.

Artist Statement

I have always been interested in drawing and have said many times I would one day take up oil painting. I started painting in oils in 2000 and have attended two terms at a local art class. If I see a photo or picture I like, I put it away and someday it may end up on my canvas.

gary **ROBINSON**



Tulips
Photograph, 2004
50 x 41cm



Low Tide at Marengo
Photograph, 2004
58 x 45cm

Gary commenced employment with Toyota in 1998 working in Material Control in steel order planning and is currently a Project Coordinator with the Project Control department based in Altona. He originally became interested in photography while studying art and design in Geelong. In more recent years he has taken up bush walking which has increased his appreciation for the outdoors and the natural forms and shapes that occur in nature, which has in turn rekindled his interest in photography. His works were first exhibited at the Toyota Community Spirit Gallery last year and that experience encouraged him to enter the 2005 Qenos Art Show in Altona where he won a first prize in the photography section. He is self-taught but recently enrolled in part time photography studies to further his practice.

Artist Statement

On my travels I am always fascinated with the newness of my surroundings when first visited. I think the first time experience gives you a brief window of opportunity to try to capture some of the emotion that you feel at the time before the fog of familiarity creeps in and the innocence disappears. I am never sure if others see in my images what I see but for me they will always take me back to that moment in time, the image links me with the emotion.

mario SORGIOVANNI



Lampshade
Glass, 2005
30 x 15 x 15cm

Mario has worked with Toyota since 1996 as a spot-welder, mig-welder and brazing and metal finisher but now spends his time in an office instead of the shop floor. He has only recently begun to pursue a lifelong interest in the craft of lead lighting and this is the first time his work has been shown in public.

Artist Statement

As a boy, I would go to the local lead lighter and sit there and watch what he did, sometimes for hours at a time. I am self-taught and this is one of my first completed projects. The design is by Corson's Lampshades and was taken from a book. I am motivated to see the end effect of my labours.