2013

Wollongong in Posters: Art on a Telegraph Pole

[Catalogue]

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Abstract
Brief introduction to, and catalogue of works in the Wollongong in Posters: Art on a Telegraph Pole exhibition held at the Panizzi Room, University of Wollongong Library, 8 July - 9 August 2013.

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Presenting works from one of the most distinctive and creative periods in Wollongong’s art history, Wollongong in Posters: Art on a Telegraph Pole features 21 posters by some of the region’s nationally acclaimed print workshops, including Redback Graphix and Culla Graffix. Bright, bold colour, and thought provoking imagery, were utilised during the 1980s and 1990s to showcase local cultural events and issues of both a social and political nature. The posters, from the University of Wollongong Archives collections, were created to be seen, used, and to convey messages with impact. Produced for public display around Wollongong and surrounding suburbs, the posters have since earned a place in local historical memory, with many examples collected off telegraph poles and awnings and hung up with pride on the walls of local residences. The earliest works on display reflect a tumultuous period in Wollongong’s history, following on a global recession in the early 1980s and wholesale sackings from the Port Kembla steelworks. As the city strove to rebrand and revitalise itself under the ‘Leisure Coast’ banner, striking coal miners and unemployed youth worked with local artists to produce an expression of the issues facing them on a daily basis. The storming of Parliament House, Canberra, late in 1982 by local workers carrying banners and posters produced by Redback Graphix, is perhaps the most dramatic example of links between art and working life during that period. A range of posters promoting productions by local theatre company, Theatre South, also feature strongly in the exhibition.

Catalogue of Works

The Tempest
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1989. Screenprint, printed in colour from five stencils, 89 x 63 cm.

Powerhouse Regional Arts Centre
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1990. Screenprint, printed in colour from eight stencils, 89 x 52 cm.

Powerhouse Youth Theatre
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1991. Screenprint, printed in colour from eight stencils, 85 x 57 cm.

Wollongong City Gallery
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1991. Screenprint, printed in colour from eight stencils, 86 x 61 cm.

Kemira Diary of a Strike
Ray Young, Redback Graphix, 1984. Screenprint, printed in colour from four stencils, 51 x 76 cm.

Contaminated Heartland Politics
Gregor Cullen, Slag Graffix, 1997. Screenprint, printed in colour from four stencils, 52 x 42 cm.

Power to the People
Gregor Cullen, 2008. Photographic print, 78 x 56 cm.

Chile .... el pueblo unido jamas sera vencido ....
Gregor Cullen, South Coast Labour Council, 1986. Screenprint, printed in colour from five stencils, 64 x 98 cm.

Illawarra Artists Bicentennial Exhibition
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1988. Screenprint, printed in colour from six stencils, 91 x 53 cm.

Illawarra Community Broadcasters
Gregor Cullen, Redback Graphix, 1984. Screenprint, printed in colour from five stencils, 76 x 51 cm.

Greetings from Wollongong
Michael Callaghan and Nick Southall, Redback Graphix, 1982. Screenprint, printed in colour from five stencils. 59 x 87 cm.

By Popular Demand
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1988. Screenprint, printed in colour from eight stencils, 84 x 55 cm.

Connor Conference
Michael Callaghan and Gregor Cullen, Redback Graphix, 1982. Screenprint, printed in colour from seven stencils, 92 x 58 cm.

Tommy
Ray Young, Redback Graphix, 1984. Screenprint, printed in colour from four stencils and mounted on board, 100 x 75 cm.

A Change in the Weather
Yanni Stumbles, Seagull Posters and the Lucifoil Poster Collective, Tin Sheds, University of Sydney, 1982. Screenprint, printed in colour from four stencils, 48 x 76 cm.

Vocations
Michael Callaghan and Gregor Cullen, Redback Graphix, 1982. Screenprint, printed in colour from four stencils, 51 x 76 cm.

Slackly Flat
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1989. Screenprint, printed in colour from eight stencils, 77 x 52 cm.

Golden Valley
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1988. Screenprint, printed in colour from eight stencils, 76 x 48 cm.

Say Goodbye to the Past
Jim Muir, Theatre South, 1985. Screenprint, printed in colour from three stencils, 38 x 51 cm.

Mother Courage
Gregor Cullen, Culla Graffix, 1989. Screenprint, printed in colour from three stencils, 85 x 57 cm.

Windy Gully
Gregor Cullen, 1985. Screenprint, printed in colour from eight stencils, 65 x 93 cm.