

LINDSAY WATERCOLOUR ACQUIRED BY CITY GALLERY

After being pressured by myself and Michael Organ, The Wollongong City Gallery has purchased a watercolour depicting Bass & Flinders and some aboriginal figures.

It's basically good plain old 'Bad Art - not only banal, but probably racist as well. Nevertheless, the Gallery's unlikely to get another opportunity to purchase an early twentieth century work depicting Bass and Flinders.

See it and weep!

Readers should I feel be also made aware that Michael Organ has alerted the gallery on a number of occasions about the availability of paintings with Illawarra content and recognition should also be given to the gallery staff for having the sense to take Michael's suggestions about items to purchase very seriously. Without Michael, the gallery would be much more than simply a Conrad Martens or two short of local content.

I was also absolutely delighted, having a much greater interest in early twentieth century (as opposed to colonial) Australian art than Michael, that the Deputy Director, John Walsh, took up my suggestion to purchase Adelaide Perry's 'Beach Scene', painted while she was staying at 'Merrydays' in Austinmer.

In my opinion it is the finest local work held by the Gallery. I am willing to defend this opinion at some length in a later Bulletin, if necessary, but I would also very much appreciate it we could receive some contributions from readers about their favourite Australian work of art - particularly if that work either has local content or was produced locally.

But the point to remember is that if you know of any works of art with local content that are or may about to become available for sale, please tell the gallery and try to give them reasonable notice so that they at least get the chance to knock back something on offer.