An enduring, endearing medium, Watercolour is once again en vogue
Remarks on colour: Australian watercolours, 23 August–23 October 2011

Remarks on colour: Australian watercolours presents an impressive selection watercolour artworks showcasing the vitality and vibrancy of an often overlooked medium.

The exhibition is drawn largely from the QUT Art Collection’s excellent holding of Australian watercolours from the 1940s to now, and is supplemented by works on loan from local public and private collections.

Many genres are represented, such as still life, figuration, landscape and abstraction by artists including Joy Roggenkamp (QLD), Ricky Swallow (VIC), Cherry Hood (NSW), Kenneth Macqueen (QLD) and Eugene Carchesio (QLD).

According to curator Megan Williams, watercolour tends to hold only a marginal rank in the hierarchy of many public institutions, but is enjoying something of a resurgence.

“Historically there have been artists, such as Kenneth Macqueen, who have chosen to work exclusively in watercolour,” Ms Williams said.

“But there’s a whole generation of younger artists, such as Brisbane’s own Kirsty Bruce, who see watercolour as a fertile playground.”

Ms Williams notes the medium is tricky to exhibit, due to the fragility and stability of the work over time.

“Watercolour is a fragile medium as the pigment sits exposed on the surface of the paper, making it highly sensitive to light and therefore not suitable for displaying long term,” Ms Williams said.

The medium can often loose vibrancy as works age; however works on display by Vida Lahey and William Bustard which date back to the 1940s prove this isn’t always the case.

“They are truly luminous, as if they were painted only yesterday,” Ms Williams said, noting their careful preservation in an archival box in an environmentally-controlled room keeps them safe.

Remarks on colour: Australian watercolours is on display now until 23 October 2011. The exhibition was opened by Prof. Adrian Franklin of ABC1’s Collectors.

Remarks on colour: Australian watercolours
23 August to 23 October 2011
QUT Art Museum, 2 George Street, Brisbane
Tues-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat-Sun 12pm-4pm | Admission Free
www.artmuseum.qut.edu.au | (07) 3138 5370

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