

1956 ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Galleries established by Anne & Tam Purves, 31 & 45 Derby St, Collingwood & 15 Royston St, Paddington. • <i>Orcades</i> exhibition organised by National Gallery Society of NSW and Orient Line of Steamers.² • <i>Italian Art of the Twentieth Century</i>, Art Gallery of New South Wales (Oct)³ • Albert Namatjira reported to be 'nearly destitute'.⁴ Aboriginal art booming.⁵ • Elwyn Lynn essay: '<i>The Motif in Painting</i>' in Contemporary Art Society Bulletin⁶ DOCUMENT: Lynn/57 • Contemporary Art Society Exhibition at Macquarie Galleries⁷ • <i>Direction 1</i> Exhibition⁸: • Libertarian Society's weekly paper presentations begin at Sydney University, Thursday lunchtimes⁹. • Eccentric Kings Cross artist Rosaleen Norton on sex charges, accused of witchcraft¹⁰ • <i>Observer</i> magazine started by Frank Packer.¹¹ • <i>Quadrant</i> founded¹² • Jackson Pollock killed in car accident. • Sydney Sparkes Orr sacked by University of Tasmania for having an affair with a student. (March)¹³ • Customs officers charge Eugene Goosens, conductor of Sydney Symphony Orchestra with importing obscene pictures. (March 9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Television age begins in Australia (TCN-9 Sydney - Sept 16) • Olympic Games in Melbourne¹⁴ • Formation of Democratic Labor Party • Khrushchev denounces Stalin at Twentieth Party Congress. Soviet troops march into Hungary (February) • 'Hundred Flowers' period of criticism and free expression begins in China. (May) • <i>Que Sera Sera</i> is top of the pops • Australian troops fire shots against communist guerrillas in Kedah state, Malaya. (January 1) • First commercial contract for sale of uranium signed between Mary Kathleen Mining Ltd & British Atomic Energy Authority. (March 1) British testing of atomic weapons begins at Maralinga, S.A. (September) • Suez Crisis (Nasser elected; closes Suez Canal)
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¹ **DOCUMENT: Reviews/56**

² Also known as Pacific Loan Exhibition. Paintings by Boyd, French, Kemp, Miller, Olsen, Passmore were toured to Auckland, Honolulu, Vancouver and San Francisco on the S.S. *Orcades*, accompanied by James Gleeson who gave lectures in ports of call. Referred to in Haefliger's 'New Art Movement "Arrives" in Australia' (1957) See **Documents.**

³ Organised by Hal Missingham, director of Art Gallery of New South Wales & Daryl Lindsay, director of National Gallery of Victoria. Show included Futurists (including Giacomo Balla, Umberto Boccioni, Gino Severini, Mario Sironi, Prampelini & sculptors, Marino Marini, Arturo Martini, Pericle Fazzini)

⁴ '*Namatjira Exploited, Nearly Destitute* (Sydney Morning Herald, April 13th, 1956) 'Namatjira was seriously in debt & being exploited by white dealers... (He) was being paid £20 for paintings which were later sold for £100... The situation of native artists was so tragic that the Arunta Arts Council had asked for legislation to stop their exploitation.'

⁵ *Aboriginal Art Booming* (SMH, June 30th, 1956)

⁶ First appearance of term 'abstract expressionism' in local art. See Peter Pinson, *Abstract Expressionism in Sydney 1956-1964* (Art Network, No 3/4 July 1981, p42) The Contemporary Art Society (CAS) was formed in 1938 in response to the establishment of the conservative Australian Academy of Art, set up by Menzies & others. On this period see Richard Haese: *Rebels & Precursors: The Revolutionary Years of Australian Art* (Allen Lane/Penguin books, 1981) See also Charles Merewether *Art and Social Commitment: An end to the city of dreams 1931-1948* (Art Gallery of New South Wales, 1984)

⁷ Margo Lewers, Carl Plate, Tom Gleghorn, Elwyn Lynn. First show of 'abstract expressionism' in Sydney – although the work of local artists looked as much to the European *tachistes* as to American abstract expressionism.

⁸ John Passmore, John Olsen, Bill Rose, Eric Smith, Robert Klippel

⁹ Irregular meetings began in 1952, in the Oriental History Room, moving to the Philosophy Room in 1958 after the retirement of John Anderson. The Libertarian Society formed out of the earlier Freethought Society.

¹⁰ *Witchcraft denial - Norton: Police Tell of Cult* (**Sun**, May 31st, 1956) 'Kings Cross artist Rosaleen Norton had denied that 'filthy & obscene' pictures were associated with witchcraft, a detective told Central Court today. Norton had told him the ritual was part of a cult known as Pantheism (heathen worship of the ancient Greek gods) the detective said.' See also 'Artist faces trial on sex charge' (**Daily Telegraph**, June 1st, 1956)

¹¹ a fortnightly liberal secular magazine, with Donald Horne as editor. Later merged with *The Bulletin*

¹² Anti-modernist literary & opinion journal, funded by Australian Association for Cultural Freedom, its professional anti-communism a counter to Meanjin (est 1940) & Overland (est 1954, formerly the Realist Writer). Founding editor, James McAuley; other editors include Donald Horne, Peter Coleman, Elwynn Lynn (1978-1981 - and Associate Editor 1966-78); Robert Manne. Current editor P.P. McGuinness. For more detail on this period, see Lynne Strachan: *Just City and the Mirrors: Meanjin Quarterly and the Intellectual Front 1940-1965* (Oxford University Press, 1984) & Peter Coleman: *The Heart of James Macauley* (Wildcat Press, Sydney 1980). See also Tim Rowse: *Australian Liberalism and National Character* (Kibble Books, Melbourne 1978); Peter Coleman: *The Liberal Conspiracy* (Free Press/Macmillan, 1989); Judith Armstrong: *The Christesen Romance* (Melbourne University Press, 1996.) & Cassandra Pybus *The Devil and James McAuley* (University Of Queensland Press 1999)

¹³ The case was fought as a test of academic freedom in Australian universities & a system of tenure established to protect it. For a critical account see Cassandra Pybus: *Seduction and Consent: A Case of Gross Moral Turpitude* (William Heinemann, 1993)

¹⁴ Opened by Duke of Edinburgh, November 22nd