

1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First issue of Melbourne-based WOPOP (Working Papers on Photography)¹ • Publication of <i>The Great Divide</i>² (Melbourne) (DOCUMENTS GreatDivideTOC/77; IMAGES AU164/165) • Media Action Group formed in Sydney³ • "Manifestoes, Statements and Other Follies" published by Sculpture Centre, Contemporary Art Society (NSW), Institute of Contemporary Art⁴ (early 77) • First student intake at Sydney College of the Arts⁵ (March) • Biennale Forum held, Sculpture Centre⁶. Decision made to hold series of meetings & negotiations with Biennale Committee⁷ (May 4) • <i>Marxist-feminist conference</i>, Sydney University. (IMAGE AU252) Lean Sisters⁸ performance, Tin Sheds, satirises academic feminism. (June 11-12) (IMAGE AU216) • <i>The Women's Show</i> - first national exhibition of contemporary women's art, Adelaide⁹ (Aug 4-28) • <i>Walls Sometime Speak</i>: Poster show, Watters Gallery¹⁰ (Sept) • Women's Art Exhibition, Bondi Pavilion, Lean Sisters show in Pavilion Theatre (Oct 1-2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anti-uranium campaigns, Women Against Nuclear Energy • ALP agrees on indefinite moratorium on mining of uranium.¹¹ • Federal government poll shows that 40% of Australians prefer 'Advance Australia Fair' as national anthem, while on 20% prefer 'God Save the Queen',¹² • Sir John Kerr resigns as Governor-General (8 Dec) • Pol Pot becomes Secretary General of Cambodian Communist Party. • Elvis Presley dies. • US tests neutron bomb.
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¹ Editors: Matthew Nickson, Euan McGillivray

² Editors: Charles Merewether, Ann Stephen

³ Ian Burn, Nigel Lendon, Ian Milliss, Terry Smith, Michiel Dolk. Later became Union Media Services. Other members at different stages: Lesley Pearson, Kieran Finnane, Mary Kinney, Anne Sutherland, Dale Keeling, David Carey. Media Action & then Union Media Services provided design & layout services for the union movement and through it, the 'aesthetic' of conceptual art entered union & labour movement publications in Australia.

⁴ in it, Betty Kelly & Ken Unsworth announced forum on 3rd Biennale.

⁵ Later in the year, the artist John Coburn lamented: "Conceptual art has taken over at Sydney College to the point where students do practically no painting and drawing and all they need is a typewriter." (*National Times* Nov 14-19, 1977)

⁶ attended by 'rather diverse group of artists'; variety of proposals from:

1)- 'in depth survey of limited no of artists' - proposed by so-called 'quality control' group (John Lethbridge, Richard Dunn)

2) - survey of community arts.

⁷ Belgiorino-Nettis, Elwyn Lynn, Leon Paroissien, Peter Laverty, Tony Winterbotham. A **second meeting** was held at Watters Gallery on May 19th, attended by a more organised feminist group; the 'quality control' group did not attend; the meeting called for more democratic structure of Biennale & less elitist concepts of 'art' & a

subcommittee formed (Vivienne Binns, Betty Kelly, Ian Milliss, Annie Minchin, Terry Reid) to meet with Leon Paroissien. A **3rd Biennale Meeting** was held in Carslaw Building, Sydney Uni (June 26), advertised with Annie Minchin's '*idea goody bags, handwritten by the Quality Art Bag co, Bad Taste Division*'; Minchin introduced more light-hearted approach to meetings -> performances, slide shows etc Statements read by Kinetic Energy dance group, Women's Art Group (suggesting research committees Australia-wide to investigate current activities in arts, esp. by women) A **4th Biennale Meeting** was held in Paddington Town Hall (July 21) 'more a party than a meeting'; large number of people including 4 people in running for Biennale job, two of whom presented proposals on Biennale: Nick Waterlow "*The role of the Biennale co-ordinator and back-up staff should be to work very closely with a liaison group representing the various interests, including artists, performers, gallery people, industry, state etc government, community groups, students and sponsors...Unlike Venice or Sao Paulo, this could then make for a Creative Peoples Biennale...*" A **5th Biennale Meeting**, (Aug 19) at the Sculpture Centre was addressed by Leon Paroissien. There was general consensus that group's ideas had only been given token recognition by appointment of Marlene Creaser to selection committee. Creaser had been an artist in 2nd Biennale, but hadn't been involved in group. In November, Nick Waterlow was appointed Biennale Director. Waterlow had been Senior Recreation Officer, Milton Keynes, UK; had initiated community arts programmes there. At time of appointment he was teaching at Alexander Mackie College & also member, steering committee, NSW Branch of National Community Arts' Co-operative. His appointment was considered to be a victory because of his community arts background. Biennale meetings by group were then suspended to see how Waterlow went on the job

⁸ The Lean Sisters was an ad hoc group of anarchist/libertarian women, working in 1977 who specialised in satire of the women's movement and the political left, though they were all political activists. They performed at conferences and benefits and members included Julie McCrossin, Wendy Bacon, Pamela Brown, Joanne Burns, Jenny Coupes, Virginia Bell.

⁹ Brown Karilyn, Flashtig Maris (eds.) The Women's Show, Adelaide 1977. Documentation (Experimental Art Foundation 1978)

¹⁰ Sept 14th- Oct 9th. Artists Toni Robertson, Chips Mackinolty, Mary Callaghan, Michael Callaghan, Pam Harris, Andrew Hill, Colin Little, Jan McKay, Marie McMahon, Mandy Martin, Peter Mumford, Jude Munro, Annie Newmarch, Anne Roberts, Paul Worstead. Exhibition toured to Victoria & South Australia.

¹¹ In 1979, ACTU rejects proposal to block mining & export of uranium (30 November).

¹² which remained national anthem for regal & vice-regal occasions.