Portraits

watercolours by
Christine Hiller

photo-prints by
Jim Marwood

8-25th March
Fine Arts Gallery - University of Tasmania
STOREY’S CREEK AND NICHOLAS - THE OTHER HALF

A group of photo-prints about people who grew with hard work and hard times, and who have lived with an independence and individuality that is rare in the 1980's.

These photographs are a result of time spent with elderly people, most of whom lived or worked in the vanished towns of Mount Nicholas and Storey’s Creek, in North-East Tasmania.

The Hard years of the 20's and 30's gave them lessons in survival: as young adults with children their only cash income may have been from sale of rabbits or skins of possum and wallaby. A woman in her eighties recalls the family hut in the foothills of Ben Lomond, with every flat surface occupied by drying skins, "even under the kitchen table."

For the lucky ones still in work, long hours earned little money. An underground miner at Storey’s Creek worked six days a week and enjoyed three days unpaid holiday each year. Without motor transport a man stayed in the isolated township as long as he kept his job.

Later generations are from different moulds: they (we) grew always in the expectation of better things, with pressure of advertising to possess that which we cannot ourselves produce. These prints are offered as a tribute to that older generation, who now meet the loneliness and increasing disability with the same courage and dignity that kept them going in earlier times.

Jim Marwood
March 1983

Acknowledgement to the Library staff at Mt. Nelson for their patience during preparation of this exhibition.
Christine Hiller
Born Hobart 1948

1954-65 Educated at The Friends' School
1966-69 Attended the Tasmanian School of Art
1970-72 Taught at Burnie High School with the late Alan Turner
1979 Winner of Tasmanian Resident Artist award in the Tasmanian Art Exhibition organised by the Coastal Art Group
1980 Exhibited painting of Mischa Slavensky in the Portia Geach prize for women artists in Sydney
1981 Exhibited portraits of Jean Stafford (country and western singer) and Barney Roberts (poet and author) in Portia Geach
1982 First exhibition in the Rialto Restaurant Gallery in Burnie
Self-portrait hung in the Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of N.S.W.

Christine left teaching to begin a family and now has three children and lives at Lower Mount Hicks.

"I began painting portraits about three years ago and prefer to paint people that I know. I use water colours because they are quick drying and I'm interested in the effects of placing layer upon layer of colour to achieve the depth of tone I require."

"Each portrait requires four evening sittings of about three hours. I begin by drawing in pencil then apply coloured washes to build up the form of the face. I dislike doing the hands, and usually leave them until last."

"Clothing is done fairly freely unless I am interested in a particular pattern, in which case it's a rather tedious process. The backgrounds are painted without the model and I have to take care that they do not overpower or distract from the figure."

LIST OF WORKS

1. Beth Roberts 78 x 98cm
2. Jean Stafford 78 x 98cm
3. Eric Hiller 75 x 90cm
4. David Chalk 75 x 90cm
5. Self Portrait 78 x 98cm
6. Self Portrait 78 x 98cm
7. Self Portrait 78 x 98cm
8. Self Portrait 78 x 98cm
9. Self Portrait 70 x 90cm
10. Jill Roberts 78 x 98cm
11. Barney Roberts 76 x 90cm
12. Richard Young 76 x 90cm
13. Jon Williams 70 x 90cm
14. Paul Szajna 78 x 98cm
15. Richard Ashby 78 x 98cm
16. Self Portrait 76 x 90cm
17. Self Portrait 100 x 130cm
18. David Powell 70 x 90cm
19. Claudio Polles 78 x 98cm
20. Joke Maree 78 x 98cm
21. Michael Walley 78 x 98cm
22. Jill Abell 70 x 90cm
23. Bridget Hiller 60 x 70cm
24. John Richardson 78 x 98cm
25. Annette Marr 78 x 98cm
26. Mischa Slavensky 80 x 100cm
27. Robyn Lamb 78 x 98cm
28. Self Portrait 78 x 98cm
29. Helen Jones 78 x 98cm
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Catalogue and cover design: Loris Button
Typesetting: Penny Hawson
Printing: Speciality Press
Published by The Fine Arts Gallery, University of Tasmania, March 1983