

Artist - Mary Bessant – BIO DATA

DATES & PLACES MARY HAS LIVED AND WORKED:

- 1956 – 1982 New Zealand (born in 1956 at Palmerston North, New Zealand).
- 1983 Sydney, Australia
- 1984 Brisbane, Australia
- 1985 Adelaide, Australia
- 1986 –1991 Perth, Australia
- 1989 Bangkok, Thailand (6 months)
- 1992 –1996 Singapore
- 1997 – 1999 Perth, Australia
- 2000 – Now residing in New Zealand

PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS:

- 1988 Solo exhibition for 'Spring in the Valley' at Jane Brooke Estate Winery, Perth, Western Australia.
- 1990 Group exhibition for Hospice Foundation Fund, Perth, Western Australia.
- 1995 Group exhibition 'Culture, Colour, Connection' at Takashimaya Gallery, Singapore. (*Culture, Colour, Connection was an International Art Group, based in Singapore. Mary was one of the group's founding members. Artists were from countries such as USA, Malaysia, Australia, Singapore and Germany*).
- 1996 Group exhibition 'Fresh Five For Fun' at the Sub-Station Gallery, Singapore.
Exhibited for the National 'Mandorla' Exhibition, Perth, W.A.
Group exhibition 'The Figure' at the Earl Lu Gallery, Singapore.
- 1998 Exhibited for East Fremantle Art Awards, Perth, W.A.
Finalist in The Atwell Portrait Prize, Perth, W.A.
Entry in the Doug Moran National Portrait Exhibition, Australia.
Group Exhibition with 'Culture, Colour, Connection' at the Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth, Western Australia.
Group Exhibition with 'Culture, Colour, Connection', commemorating the 1998 Commonwealth Games, at the Art Case Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2000 Group exhibition at the Grace Gallery in Brisbane, Australia.

- 2005 Group exhibition – WAI (Waikuku Artists Inc.) Art Exhibition, New Zealand.
 2006 Group exhibition – WAI Art Exhibition, New Zealand.
 2007 Group exhibition – WAI Art Exhibition, New Zealand.
 2008 “ Insight” – a Group Exhibition at LOOK Gallery, New Zealand.

A BRIEF LIST OF SOME COLLECTIONS:

Hilton Hotel, Singapore.

Mr & Mrs Choo Yong Fee (President of the Singapore Furniture Industries Council and CEO of Cheng Meng Furniture, Singapore).

Shangri-La Hotel, Penang

Mrs Laura Hwang (Memories of the East; Art Consulting and Art Dealers), Singapore.

Duxton Hotel, Perth, Australia.

Regency Park Apartments, Singapore.

President of Philippe Charriol, Singapore.

Secretary to the German Ambassador, Singapore.

Also Private Collections in New Zealand, Malaysia, Germany, Hong Kong, Australia, Mexico, U.S.A. United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden, India, Thailand and Holland.

Some of Mary’s commissioned artworks were for the following Private and Public Corporations:

- Takashimaya: 12 mural paintings on ceilings and walls throughout Ngee Ann Shopping Centre, (one mural was 6 storeys high) commissioned by Japanese Department Store Giant; Takashimaya. Along with her husband Stephen, they employed 8 Assistant Artists from Australia to work under their guidance on this project in Singapore. The whole project took one year to complete.
- 4 storey mural at Charn Issara Tower, Bangkok, Thailand
- Hilton Hotel, Singapore (paintings in the main restaurant)
- Shangri-La Hotel, Penang (paintings in the main restaurant)
- Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore (paintings in one of the restaurants)
- Intercontinental Hotel, Bugis Junction, Singapore (stencilled – hand-painted designs on all the 16 recessed ceilings in the Main Foyer and Reception area)
- Duxton Hotel, Perth, Australia (paintings for all the rooms, including the Presidential Suite and the Main Restaurant in the Hotel)
- Regency Park Apartments, Singapore (gold leaf ceilings)
- President of the Singapore Industries Furniture Council (paintings)

- President of Philippe Charriol, Singapore (painting)
- Secretary to the German Ambassador, Singapore (paintings)
- Memories of the East, Singapore (numerous commissioned work for private clients and corporate buildings, golf clubs etc).
- Su Yeang Design, Singapore (Now called Citigate Singapore), (Trompe l'oeil mural in offices)
- Andersens Consulting, Singapore (9 trompe l'oeil murals throughout a theatrette in their offices designed to promote computer software for oil companies).
- Great World City, Main Lobby, Singapore (6 commissioned works, 1 being 8 metres x 2 metres).
- National University of Singapore Social Club Library, (2 Commissioned pieces)
- Sun Tec City (silver leaf applied to ceilings in main foyers)
- Rasa Sentosa Hotel (2 Commissioned pieces)
- Renewal Day Spa, Tong Building, Singapore (commissioned paintings and mural)
- Ponggol Marina Resort, Singapore (3 trompe l'oeil paintings on ceilings in Banquet Room, and paintings also on canvas attached straight to wall in main dining areas downstairs)
- Travel Lodge, Perth, Australia, (paintings and also a fresco mural)
- King Street Apartments, West Perth, Australia, (fresco mural by indoor swimming pool).
- Roman Court Office Complex, Perth, Australia (8 life-size paintings of Roman Soldiers in lift lobbies on both of the 2 storeys).
- Les Amis Restaurant, Singapore (soft painted abstract mural drift along main wall).

Mary has had extensive media coverage in magazines and newspapers, a few of them are:

- 'Orient Express Magazine' produced by the London Illustrated News (Stephen and Mary were interviewed and included in an article about International Mural Artists).
- 'Singapore Tatler' Magazine
- 'Straits Times', newspaper, Singapore
- 'The West Australian' newspaper, Perth
- 'Bangkok Post', newspaper, Thailand
- American Chamber of Commerce Magazine (A portrait painting by Mary of her husband was put on the front cover of an issue)

- Urbis Magazine (a New Zealand design magazine for architects and designers). The article was about the 'Zenn Collection' of wood block paintings that Mary and her husband Stephen painted and exported throughout Australasia).
- 'She' Magazine
- 'Women's Weekly Magazine' (both NZ and Australian)
- 'NZ House & Garden' Magazine
- 'Trends' interior design Magazine
- 'The Press', Christchurch newspaper
- 'Inside Out' interior design magazine (Mary's paintings in the home of Kieren Perkins the Australian Olympic Swimmer)
- 'ID' magazine, Singapore (article about the international art group called 'Culture, Colour, Connection' which Mary was part of).