



## ART AND THE HUGHENDEN COLONIAL VICTORIAN ERA (1837-1901) TO TODAY

The Hughenden (c.1870s) was built during the Victorian Era, a time of British colonial expansion – “The empire on which the sun never sets”. With the Industrial Revolution and the rise of the middle class, it was a period when many artistic styles, literary schools, as well as social, political and religious movements flourished. Classicism, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, the emergence of photography melded into an eclectic mix that is reflected in the art you can see at The Hughenden today.

Etched in the glass above the entrance of The Hughenden are the initials of Dr Frederick Harrison Quaife, who built The Hughenden. Artworks in the foyer include a still-life by Sir Erik Langker (b.1898), a highly respected Australian still-life and landscape artist. The colonial *kalaga* with gold and silver thread, sequins and beading, weaving Buddhism's Jataka tales and the Hindu epic Ramaya into the tapestry, is at the foot of the historic staircase. At reception is Australian artist Jules Sevelson's controversial, satiric portrait of Barry Humphries and Dame Edna Everage.

In the Victorian lounge, Archibald Prize-winner Wendy Sharpe's small self-portrait, in a unique hand-made frame she created, hangs above a photo-portrait of Veronika Gervay, who played the violin for guests in the Victorian Lounge, accompanied by Sir Victor on the baby grand. There is an array of artwork including Laurent's 1930s classic *nouveau* women in water-colours, a portrait of a young Victorian girl (artist unknown c.1870s), a painted copy of Renoir's *Dance at Bougival* in an ornate gold Victorian frame, plus others from throughout the decades.

Stephen James' imposing oil portraits of renowned Australian author Amanda Lohrey and director of The Brandenburg Orchestra, Paul Dyer, hang on the walls leading up to the Manor Suite. In the Terraces hang indigenous artworks. A painting of *The Women's Ceremony* with the traditional dotted paths, celebrates women singing and dancing, painted by acclaimed outback NSW artist, Fay Clayton, whose totem is the goanna. In The Hughenden's historic display is the pen-and-ink drawing of The Hughenden by Peter Edgeley, who illustrated the heritage post office stamp series for Australia Post.

As the home of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Australia and New Zealand, works of renowned children's book illustrators are exhibited in The Reading Room and throughout The Hughenden. Artworks include Academy Award®-winner, artist and illustrator Shaun Tan's *Flashflood*, Pixie O'Hara's illustration of koala in the bush (1920s); award-winning illustrators Donna Rawlins, Sarah Davis, Nina Rycroft, Cathy Wilcox, Frane Lessac, Wayne Harris and many other artists.

Art is integral to life at The Hughenden which has hosted, exhibited and launched collections which include: aboriginal exhibitions; the peace-time works of Australia's First World War artist, Peter Pinson; the Slovenian Ministry of Culture's international tour of Slovenian artists Cvetka Bevc, Evald Flisar, Jana Bauer, Tatjana Kokalj, Slavko Pregl; award-winning landscape artist, Neil Taylor; Impressionist abstract artist Sue Meyer-Szeckly; as well as new and emerging Australian artists.

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