

# AUSTRALIAN LECTURES

## **a. CONRAD MARTENS ON THE *BEAGLE* AND IN SYDNEY**

Based on the author's book we tour South America with Martens, arrive in Sydney in the 1830s and examine on of his masterworks in the Art Gallery of New South Wales and those in private collections. The illustrated book on this topic is available from Booktopia on line.

## **b. THE FOUNDING OF SYDNEY – SEEN BY CONVICT ARTISTS AND IN THE SYDNEY PAINTINGS OF CONDER AND STREETON**

From the founding of the city to Federation, we watch the city of Sydney unfold from a huddle of convict huts into a magnificent harbourside city. This is based on the illustrations and text in Susanna de Vries' popular book of the same name which has gone into three editions and is one of the most popular books in the Museum of Sydney bookshop.

## **c. ETHEL CARRICK and EMANUEL PHILLIPS FOX – AUSSIE IMPRESSIONISTS IN PARIS AND THEIR LOVE STORY**

Carrick Fox and her husband Emanuel have an international reputation having exhibited in London, Paris and Australia. We follow their lives from their first meeting at an artist's colony in Cornwall, their move to Montparnasse, their family visits to Melbourne and Sydney, the Mosman house belonging to the Theosophists where Carrick took up residence. We follow their love story through to its tragic conclusion and learn what were the forces that took Carrick from Impressionism to becoming one of the most innovative Post-Impressionists of her day given the honour of being made a judge of the Salon d'Automne and exhibiting with Matisse and Derain. The book is available from Booktopia on line.

#### **d. THE HEIDELBERG SCHOOL AND AUSTRALIAN IMPRESSIONISTS IN FRANCE**

These artists were held together by the extraordinary personality of Tom Roberts who had glimpsed impressionist painting on a walking tour of France and returned to Australia to tell his younger colleagues Conder and Streeton and the Prof' Fred McCubbin about it. We look at the artists' camps where they developed the new idea of painting with light to specifically Australian conditions, we see how these artists cultivated the idea of the nobility of labour, a nationalist iconography for a new nation excited by the prospects of Federation. They portrayed the resilient pioneers of a new land and their equally resilient wives and their determination to settle a harsh landscape with its horrors of drought and flood. The artists echoed in print the sentiments of Henry Lawson and helped the growth of national self confidence. We examine the work of talented Australian Impressionists who were lured away to paint in France.

#### **e. GREAT AUSTRALIAN WOMEN**

From pioneers of the land like Elizabeth Macarthur, Georgiana Molloy and Georgiana McCrea, pioneer writer and artist, feisty authors like Miles Franklin, pioneers in law studies, Joan Rosanove and Dame Roma Mitchell, our first women barrister and first female governor of any Australian state, these are heroic women whose lives we should all celebrate. The paperback book on which the lecture is based is published by HarperCollins, Sydney and widely available.

#### **f. HEROIC AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN WAR**

Based on the book by Susanna de Vries the slide lecture tells the stories of unbelievable courage from women nurses, doctors and ambulance drivers in two world wars including the heroic Nurse Alice Kitchen on a hospital ship off Gallipoli, and Olive King driving the ambulance she bought with her own

money through the city of Thessaloniki in flames and rescuing hundreds from dying in its great fire. We follow the lives of four major 'Paradise Road' nurses, Sisters Vivian Bullwinckel, Sheila Muir, later McGregor, Betty Jeffrey and Joyce Twedell as they leave Singapore aboard a yacht with a group of civilian women and children, are shipwrecked and captured by the Japanese and follow their careers on their return to Australia, – heroic women we should all know but who have been ignored for too long.

The paperback book of this lecture is published by HarperCollins, Sydney, available from Booktopia or from the Australian War Memorial Bookshop.