

# CAIRNS REGIONAL GALLERY COLLECTION RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Heinz Steinmann

*Brady Creek moon, Jowalbinna 2008*

Donated by the artist Heinz Steinmann, 2009



CAIRNS  
REGIONAL  
GALLERY

Since European settlement during the 19th, the landscape has occupied a central place in Australian art, highlighting different ways of depicting the land and organising pictorial space. Of course long before the arrival of Europeans, Aboriginal people were interpreting aspects of their land through song, art, dance and ceremony.

Whilst the search for the exotic by the southern-trained 'escape artists', such as Donald Friend and Ray Crooke, is well known, during the 60s and 70s, the relative isolation of the regional centres north of Brisbane, and the dearth of art courses, meant many of the most colourful characters, such as Bill Yaxley, Clem Forbes, Percy Trezise and Dick Roughsey, were principally self-taught. What is so interesting about their practice, is that they represent an artistic convergence of the naïve and modern art that is unique to Far North Queensland, the establishment of a regional pictorial tradition that encompasses such diverse artists as Torres Strait artist Ellen José, Adrian King from Lockhart River and Swiss-born Heinz Steinmann.

Steinmann was born in Winterthur, Switzerland in 1943 relocating with his family to Australia [Sydney] in 1958 at the age of 14. His father Max was an outstanding impressionist painter who studied in France. A genre painter of rural scenes and exceptional portraits, he painted in Switzerland, south of France, Thailand as well as 30 years in Australia [although he held only a small number of exhibitions in Australia].

The talent that Steinmann possessed was clearly evident from a young age. Unlike his father, having no formal art training and little acquired skill with paint, Steinmann stayed within the drawing genre while also developing a connection with mixed media. He continued down this artistic path during the 60s and 70s before trying his hand at oil painting, which he has slowly mastered over the past 25 years.

What gives Steinmann's art true depth is the combination of his natural ability, the dedication, and equally important, his close relationship with the natural environment and subject matter on which his work is based.

In viewing Steinmann's paintings that have evolved from his own life experiences one is often drawn into them seeking a freedom of mind, adventure, and a closeness to nature and her unfolding mysteries. You can turn his paintings upside down and still the interplay of colours and shapes, subject matter, balance and tension, mystery and appeal are retained.

Steinmann was first introduced to Jowalbinna in the early 70s through Wally Grady and Percy Trezise. Jowalbinna, located near the township of Laura, some 350km north of Cairns is the gateway to Queensland's most significant Aboriginal Rock Art sites, the Quinkin Galleries, which are rated amongst the top 10 rock art sites in the world. This area was made famous by the late Percy Trezise and Goobalathaldin [Dick Roughsey] as it was inspiration from these sites that sparked the entire series of Aboriginal Dreamtime children's story books produced from the mid 70s and onwards.

The acquisition of this particular work *Brady Creek moon, Jowalbinna* [2008] continues the Gallery's relationship with established artists of the region, enhancing our holdings of works under the genre of Australian landscape painting.



Heinz Steinmann,  
*Brady Creek moon, Jowalbinna 2008*

## GALLERY OPENING HOURS:

10.00am - 5.00pm Monday – Saturday  
1.00pm – 5.00pm Sunday and Public Holidays  
Gallery admission: Adults \$5.00  
Children up to 16 years are free

Cnr Abbott & Shields Sts, Cairns. Tel 4046 4800  
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