Joe Rootsey (1918-1963)
Joe Rootsey, of the Barrow Point people (Amu Wuringu clan), lived and worked as a stockman in country north of Cooktown, in East Cape York, and eventually settled at ‘Uvwevea’, near Lauda. He did not start painting until 1964 when, diagnosed with tuberculosis, he was confined to a Cairns hospital for two years. His first solo exhibition was in Cooktown, and in the late 1950s he studied art for six months at the Central Technical College, Brisbane, under the sponsorship of the Native Affairs Department.

Margaret Olley (b.1923)
Margaret Olley, born in Lismore, New South Wales, studied art at the Central Technical College in 1941. She then attended the East Sydney Technical College from 1942 to 1947. Olley travelled to England and Paris in 1949 and attended classes at the Academdie de la Grande Chaumière. Returning to Australia in 1954 she travelled through far north Queensland and New Guinea before settling in Sydney in 1965. Although Sydney became her home base, she continued travelling throughout Asia and Europe. She has received many awards and prizes and in 1997 was declared an Australian National Treasure. She continues painting today and is represented by Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane and Australian Galleries, Sydney/Melbourne.

John Rigby (b.1922)
John Thomas Rigby, born in Brisbane, studied art at the Central Technical College between 1937 and 1938. After serving in the Australian Imperial Force during World War II, he studied at the East Sydney Technical College under the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme from 1946 to 1951. In 1956 he studied in Italy after winning the 1956 Italian Government travel grant. From 1956 to 1958 he also visited London and France. Returning to Australia, Rigby took up the position of Officer in charge of Fine Arts at the College from 1957 to 1972. He has had an exhibiting career since 1959 and currently lives and works in Adelaide. Moon was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in 1984.

Gordon Shepherdson (b.1934)
Gordon Shepherdson, born in Brisbane, attended several private classes with Caroline Barker at the Royal Queensland Art Society in 1959. In 1960 he took a Diploma course under the Central Technical College and travelled to London where he attended classes at the Academie de la Grande Chaumière. Returning to Australia, Shepherdson attended the drawing classes of Jon Molvig and drawing and painting classes with Andrew Sibley around 1961. He has exhibited extensively since 1962, and is represented by Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane.

John Alan (1937-2007)
John Alan, born in Brisbane, studied art at the Central Technical College between 1958 and 1959. After a stint of teaching in Queensland schools in 1960 and 1961, he set up his own studio, giving private lessons and conducting drawing classes between 1965 and 1967. In 1968 Alan relocated to Rome to continue his art practice from there. His writing has also been published in such journals as Art and Australia.

Carl McCollenn (1926-2003)
Carl McCollenn was born in Chicago, USA. He moved to Brisbane in 1940-46. McCollenn studied sculpture at the Central Technical College in 1948 with support under the G.I. Bill of Rights. During this time he assisted Hatton Beok in the pottery studio. McCollenn was Instructor of Painting and Carving from 1952 to 1954, when he left to set up his own pottery studio in Norman Park. From 1958-62 he was appointed Instructor in Pottery at the College. He left to commence working full-time at his Pinjarra Pottery in the early 1960s, where he gained his reputation as one of Australia’s most notable ceramists. He returned to the College from 1970 to 1974 to teach sculpture. He travel extensively overseas, particularly through Asia. He was awarded several Honorary Doctorates as well as the Order of Australia.

Roy Churcher (b.1922)

John Peart (b.1945)
John Peart, born in Brisbane, studied art at the Central Technical College between 1963 and 1964 before moving to Sydney in 1965. After successfully securing a grant in 1969 he travelled to Europe, USA and UK. He ended up staying overseas until mid-70s, living in New York and England. Peart has been exhibiting nationally and internationally since 1985 and currently lives and works in Sydney. Courtesy of Watters Gallery, Sydney; Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne.

Betty Quelhurst (b.1919)
Betty Pauline Quelhurst, born in Laidley, Queensland, studied art at the Central Technical College from 1937 to 1942, then taught at the Central Technical College as a trainer. From 1948 to 1950 she studied at the National Gallery of Victoria School. Quelhurst travelled to Europe from 1952 and 1953 and studied in Paris. She then taught full-time at the Brisbane Central Technical College from 1954 to 1964. She retired from teaching in 1964 and remains one of the Art College’s longest serving lecturers. Quelhurst is well known for her landscapes and portraits.

Irene AMOS (b.1927)
Irene Amos, born in Brisbane, studied art at the Central Technical College from 1960 to 1964 before attending summer schools at University of New England, and the University of Queensland. She travelled through Europe and U.K. from 1967-72. Amos has won several awards including the Godfrey Rivers Memorial Award in 1961 and the Kenneth MacQueen Memorial Award in 1962. She was the first Queensland to be awarded a PHD in arts practice, conferred by University of Wollongong in 1990, and still exhibits regularly.
Roberts studied art at the Royal College of Art in London. After arriving in Brisbane in 1880, Clarke became the first teacher of drawing at the Brisbane School of Arts in 1881 and remained Art Master until his death in 1890.

Isaac Walter JENNER (1836-1902)

Isaac Walter Jenner was born in Godalming in Surrey. After serving in the British Navy during the Crimean War Jenner retired in 1865. As a self-taught painter he exhibited several times in England before migrating to Australia in 1883. In Brisbane, he taught at the Brisbane Technical College including art and architecture before becoming a foundation member of the Royal Queensland Art Society, and one of the agitators for a public art gallery to be built in Brisbane. Jenner was well-known for his marine paintings both in oil and watercolour.

Harold PARKER (1873-1962)

Harold Parker, born in Plymouth, arrived in Brisbane in 1876. He studied art at the Brisbane School of Arts in 1876 under J.A. Clarke and took wood carving under Cuthbert Vickers around 1891-92. He travelled back to London to attend the City and Guilds Art School from 1896-1902, and completed apprenticeships with three of Britain’s prominent sculptors by 1908. Parker gained international recognition with several major commissions, gaining honourable mention in several Paris Salon exhibitions, and subsequently secured major commissions. After brief visits to Australia in 1911 and 1921-22, Parker settled permanently in Brisbane in 1930.

Richard RANDALL (1898-1906)

After studying art at the Brisbane Central Technical College around 1890 and 1891, Brisbane born Richard John William Randall, also known for his work as a London construction contractor, studied at the Paris Academy and exhibited at the Paris Salon. Returning to the United States he worked as a painter and art teacher in California from 1915 to 1927. Randall also exhibited his work as a sculptor, and was the name of a distinguished member of the Royal Queensland Art Society.

Godfrey RIVERS (1859-1925)

Frederick James Martyn Roberts was born in Plymouth in the UK. After arriving in Brisbane in the 1890s, Roberts studied art at the Brisbane Technical College from 1890 to 1895. Roberts showed regularly at the Royal Academy Schools and was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1895. Roberts later studied at the Slade School in London between 1897-98. He migrated to Australia in 1889 and was the Art Master at the Brisbane Technical College between 1890 and 1915. Rivers was an active member of the Queensland Art Society, holding the Presidency for several years.He worked tirelessly for the establishment of a State Gallery, which opened in 1885. There he held the positions of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Curator. In 1915 Rivers relocated to Tasmania.

F.J. Martyn ROBERTS (1871-1963)

In 1910, Brisbane-born Lloyd Frederic Rees won a scholarship to study art at the Central Technical College. In 1917, Rees worked as a commercial artist in the Sydney studio of Smith and Julius. He was Vice-President then President of the Society of Artists, and a foundation member of the Queensland Academy of Art in 1938. Rees taught drawing, painting and art history at the University of Sydney from 1946 to 1986. Rees travelled extensively throughout Italy, France and Germany on a Fulbright Fellowship of the University of Sydney. In recognition of his services to art, Rees was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in 1977, a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1980, and the Medaille de la Ville de Paris in 1987.

Edward COLCLOUGH (1866-1950)

Edward Colclough, born in Sydney, studied art at the Brisbane Technical College in the early 1880s. Colclough worked tirelessly to promote Brisbane art, and from 1899 held positions in several Brisbane art societies. He was Honorary Secretary to Trustees of the Queensland Art Gallery from 1930 to 1945.

William BUSTARD (1894-1973)

William Bustard, born in Sydney, studied at the Hallettseas Polytechnic, Putney, the Slade School in London, the Scarborough School of Arts, and Powell’s Studios, where he learnt about working with stained glass. After serving in Italy in World War I, Bustard married and migrated to Brisbane in 1921. He taught art at the Central Technical College during the 1920s. He was Chair of the Art Advisory Council at Queensland Art Gallery between 1931-37, and President of the Royal Queensland Art Society in 1932.

Frankie PAYNE (1885-1957)

Francis Malville Payne, born in Plymouth in the UK, studied at the Slade School in London between 1877-83. He migrated to Australia in 1896 and completed apprenticeships with three of Britain’s prominent sculptors by 1898. Payne gained international recognition with several major commissions, gaining honourable mention in several Paris Salon exhibitions, and subsequently secured major commissions. After brief visits to Australia in 1911 and 1921-22, Parker settled permanently in Brisbane in 1930.

Lloyd Frederic REES (1898-1906)

Lloyd Frederic Rees, born in Sydney, studied at the Central Technical College from 1911-13. In 1914 she was awarded an overseas scholarship for off-scaling until after the war. She started instead under Julian Alderson in Sydney in 1916-16. Overseas, she studied at the Polytechnic, London (19191920) and from 1923-1920 at the Royal Academy Schools. After living and studying in Italy from 1924 to 1925, Mayo returned to Brisbane. She went on to become one of Australia’s most distinguished sculptors, and a respected committee member and teacher. Perhaps her best-known commissioned work is the Brisbane City Council Town Hall’s triangular tympanum, carved between 1927-20. She was the first woman to be awarded a gold medal for sculpture at London’s Royal Academy and is known for her work as a member of the Women’s Committee of the Slade School of Fine Art from 1938-1940.

Cyril GIBBES (1906-1992)

Cyril Gordon Gibbes, born in Yackandandah in Victoria, graduated from the Ballarat Art School in 1929. He lectured at Swinburne Technical College in Melbourne. In 1930 he moved to Sydney to teach art and painting in 1931, and then to Queensland in 1934 where he established the commercial art firm, Gibbs-Smith Studio, in 1936. Gibbs was Head of the Art School at the Central Technical College from 1930 until 1937. During his tenure, for a fourteen-year period, he was also a Trustee of the Queensland National Art Gallery, and a member of the Art-Advisory board to Trustees.

Douglas ANNAND (1903-1976)

Douglas Annand, born in Toowoomba, Queensland, studied part-time at the Central Technical College, while working at a local bank in the early 1920s. In 1930 he moved to Sydney to work in advertising. Annand won acclaim for his graphic designs and became known for his work on general works, securing many commissions from commercial businesses. He designed the ceiling for the Australian Pavilion for the Paris Exhibition in 1937, and was the art director of the Australian pavilion for the 1939 New York World Fair. Living his tour of duty as a member of the camouflage unit in World War II, Annand painted and drew much of Australia.

Kathleen SHILLAM (1916-2002)

Kathleen Shillam (nee O’Neill) was born in Devonshire and arrived in Australia in 1927. After arriving in Brisbane, Kathleen Shillam studied at the Central Technical College from 1927 and 1933. In 1930 she moved to advertising in Brisbane and Sydney from 1934 to 1940 and then worked as a teacher and artist Leonard Shillam. Although initially known for her drawings, Shillam worked full-time as a sculptor from 1950 and taught several Brisbane art institutions. From 1961 to 1964 Shillam studied bronze casting at the Royal College of Art, London. She and her husband Leonard were founding members of the Society of Sculptors and regularly exhibited throughout Australia. Shillam was awarded the Order of Australia (General Division) in 1986 and Honorary Doctorate from the University of Queensland in 2000.

Leonard SHILLAM (1915-2005)

Leonard George Shillam, born in Sydney, studied at the Central Technical College between 1931 and 1934, where he met his future wife Kathleen O’Neill. Shillam then received a grant from the Australian National Gallery to study art in London. He later studied at the Slade School of Arts and Crafts, both in London. He also studied at the Florence Academy between 1961 and 1963 where he won several awards including the Godfrey Rivers student medal (1963) and his works are held in collections throughout Australia.