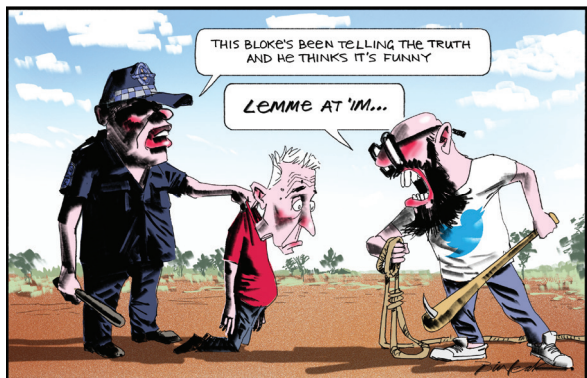
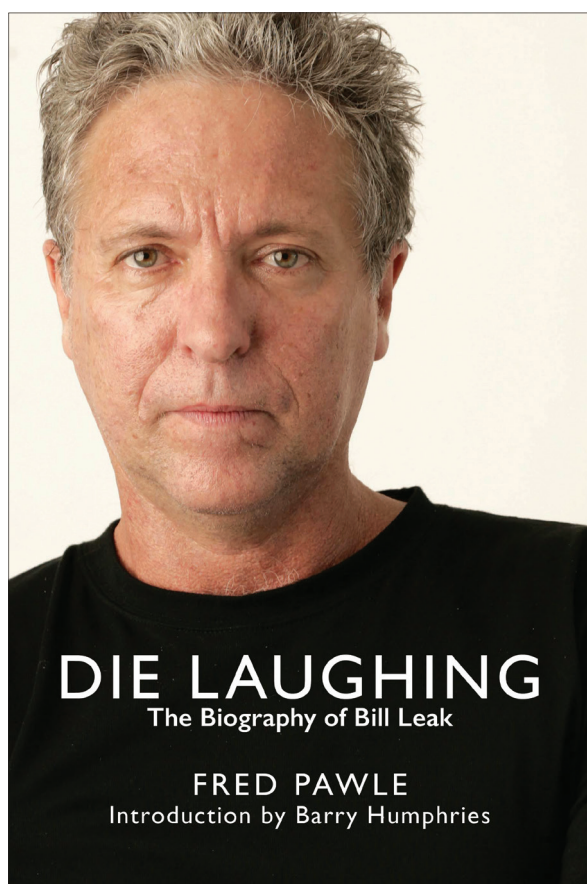


# ASP NEWSLETTER

August–September 2021

NEW TITLES BY AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARLY, ARCADIA, ARDEN & TANTANOOLA



## Die Laughing

The Biography of Bill Leak

FRED PAWLE

How does a young man who learns jazz and classical piano, scours Europe's great art galleries for artistic enlightenment and falls in love with women from all over the world go on to become reviled as a bigot?

The answer has less to do with him than it does with his critics. As cartoonist Bill Leak discovered, all it takes is to express an opinion that differs from today's neo-authoritarian narrative.

When Leak, late in life, provoked the wrath of politically correct mobs and institutions, he didn't flinch, adhering to what he knew to be the truth and ridiculing his detractors with his brilliant caricatures and savage intellect.

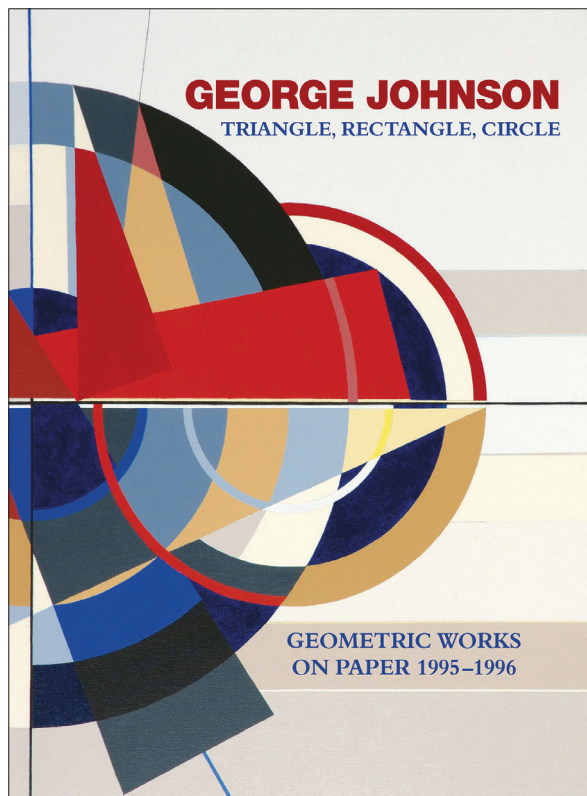
These battles were significant and symbolic, but should not define Leak's life and work. Fred Pawle has spent three years researching and interviewing dozens of Leak's friends and colleagues to create this intimate and honest biography.

Now, for the first time, here is the whole beautiful but occasionally troubled story behind an extraordinarily gifted Australian artist, cartoonist, writer and raconteur.

**'An ordinary bloke who became a great Australian.'**

– Paul Kelly, journalist and author

FORMAT **Paperback** PAGES **350** ISBN **978-1-922669-03-2** RELEASED **11 September** PRICE **\$49.95**



# Triangle, Rectangle, Circle

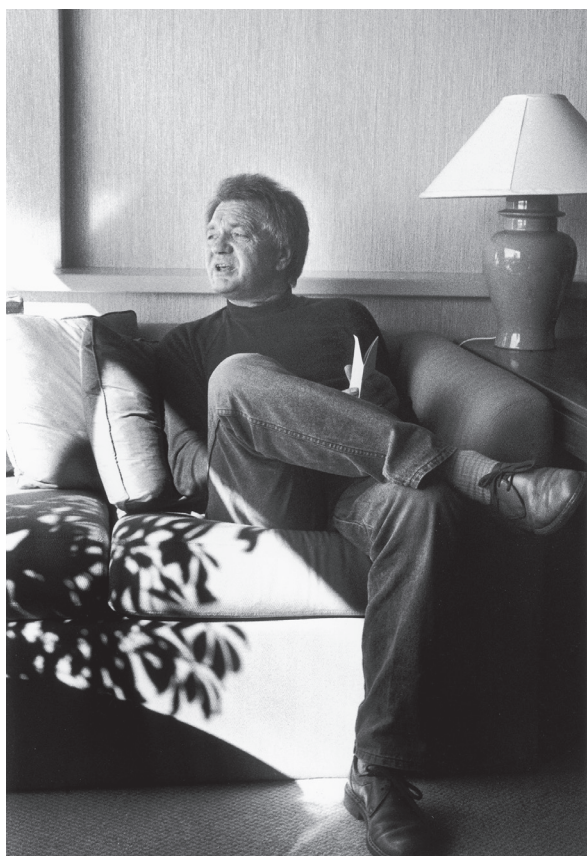
Geometric Works on Paper 1995-1996

GEORGE JOHNSON

New Zealand-born Australian artist George Johnson, who with close colleagues Roger Kemp and Leonard French introduced abstract painting to Melbourne audiences in the 1950s, is one of abstraction's most intentioned and vigorous proponents.

Patrick Hutchings, Jenny Zimmer and the artist himself outline the sources of Johnson's use of Geometric Abstraction to express his philosophy of life; examine his studio practices from sketchbooks to major paintings; outline the trajectory of his career with the numerous exhibitions which have presented his works nationally between 1956 and 2021.

Beautifully illustrated, with portraits of the artist, studio shots, photos of exhibition installations and reproductions of major works on canvas. These paintings celebrate Johnson's unique and meaningful compositions of triangular, rectangular and circular forms.







NITTY-GRITTY : THE SCULPTURE OF DEAN BOWEN

## Nitty-Gritty

### The Sculpture of Dean Bowen

ANDREW STEPHENS

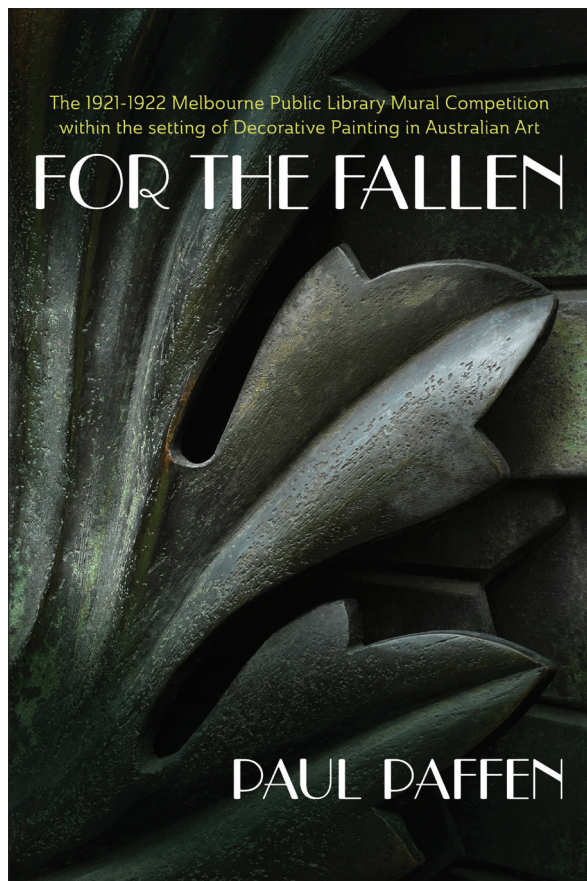
This spectacular book presents a richly illustrated record of the sculptural practice of Dean Bowen.

Hundreds of bronze sculptures by the artist are beautifully reproduced, and the reader is invited into his studio and the nearby bronze foundry where they were conceived and created. These sculptures reveal the humanitarian and environmental values expressed in all of his works. Many are now in public collections and his monumental bronze Wombats, Echidnas, Owls and other creatures are now encountered in numerous public spaces.

Dean Bowen's career to date is described in detail, outlining an extensive history of exhibitions held throughout Australia from as early as 1983, as well as the numerous exhibitions which have travelled to Japan, Germany, Switzerland, the UK and France.







## For The Fallen

The 1921-1922 Melbourne Public Library Mural Competition within the setting of Decorative Painting in Australian Art

PAUL PAFFEN

In December 1921 the Melbourne Public Library launched an historic mural competition seeking to obtain a fifty-foot-long wall decoration to honour those who gave their lives in the Great War. Lindsay Bernard Hall – the National Gallery of Victoria's formidable Director and strict disciplinarian Painting Master of the Gallery's prestigious Art School – conceived the idea, overseeing it along every step of its unpredictable course.

The competition collapsed controversially in August 1922 with no outright winner declared. New Zealand-born artist Harold Septimus Power was approached to proceed with the design he had entered, which was only accepted by the narrowest of margins by the institution's Board of Trustees on the advice of three judges.

This major, ground-breaking study brings to life the vast cast of the art world involved in the controversial competition. Myriads of relevant connections and inter-relationships spanning decades are navigated to feature the significant place that decorative painting occupied within Australian art, when it successfully challenged the dominance of staid academic realism, being an alternative, creative, way for the contemporary artist to manage pictorial space.

**'Beautifully illustrated, clearly written, meticulously researched.'**  
– Ian Callinan, *The Spectator*

*Left*

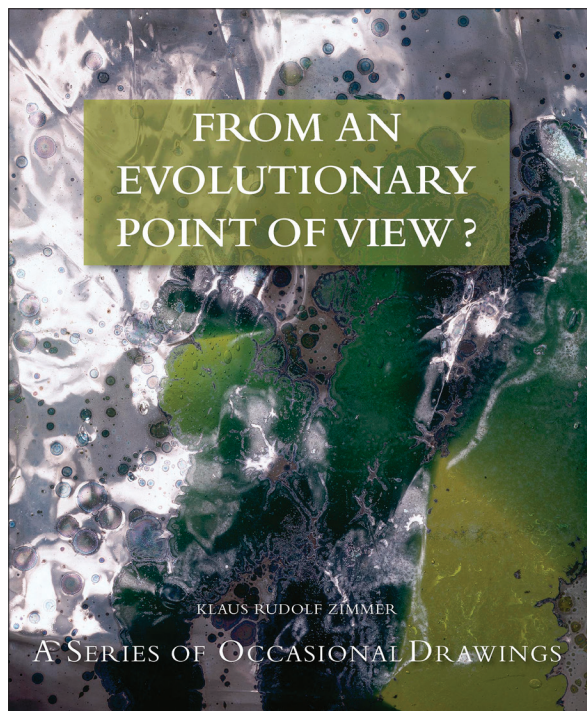
1916: *Leaving for the Front*, Dora Meeson

*Below*

H. Septimus Power as 'Decca' – representing the Western Front theatre of the Great War







## From An Evolutionary Point of View?

A Series of Occasional Drawings

KLAUS RUDOLF ZIMMER

How did this book of unusual drawings, arranged in a hypothetically evolutionary cycle, come about?

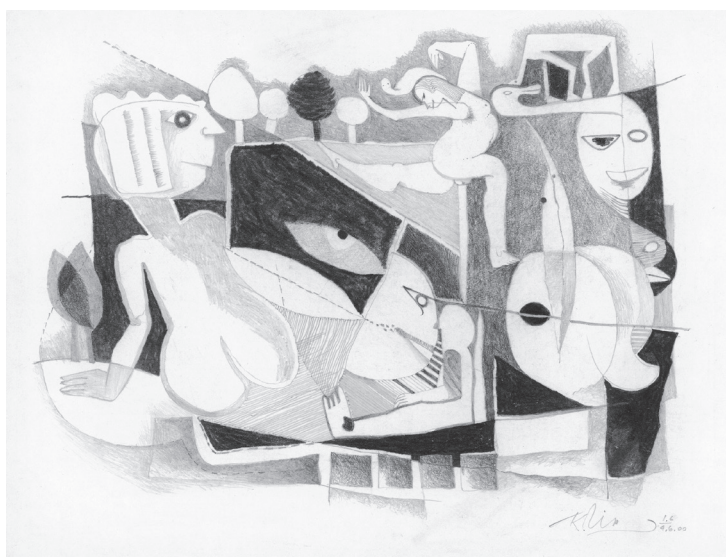
With a Berlin Diploma of Graphic Art, a successful audition for the Berlin Staatsoper and extensive adventures in the South Seas Islands, Klaus Zimmer arrived in Australia in the 1950s. After working as the Snowy Mountains Authority's graphic designer, and more Pacific travels, he returned to art school to study painting. He also joined Melbourne's Theosophical Society and furthered his interests in spiritualism as fostered by Wassily Kandinsky and Madame Blavatsky. But life is serendipitous and, by chance, he became a pioneer of Australia's studio glass movement with many major stained-glass commissions here and overseas.

Nearing the end of his life, Zimmer wished to return to painting and began with drawings that are significantly influenced by his experience of the animistic arts of the South Seas and those of other cultures which combine human, animal and every other element in the concept of a universe that is vitally alive in all its aspects, both animate and, supposedly, inanimate.

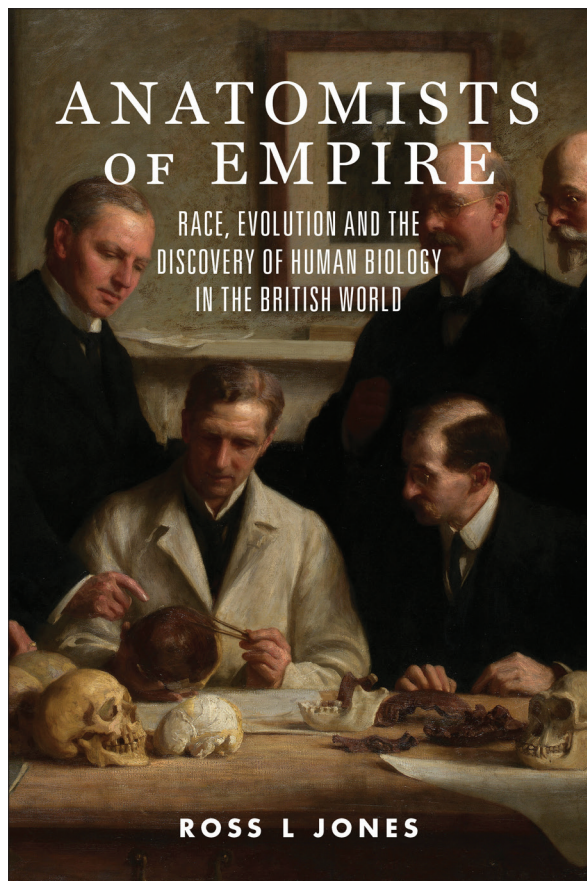
Extensively illustrated with 1950s photographs of the Islands, examples of Zimmer's glass and an array of drawings, this book offers fascinating glimpses into the mind of a spiritually reflective artist — and not always without humour.



*waiting for Wilhelm Tell!* 8.10.06







## **Anatomists of Empire**

**Race, Evolution and the Discovery of Human Biology in the British World**

**ROSS L JONES**

The 20th-century anatomists Grafton Elliot Smith, Frederic Wood Jones and Arthur Keith travelled the globe collecting, cataloguing and constructing morphologies of the biological world with the aim of weaving these into a new vision of bio-ecology that links humans to their deep past as well as their evolutionary niche. They dissected human bodies and scrutinised the living, explaining for the first time the intricacies of human biology. They placed the body in its environment and gave it a history, thus creating an ecological synthesis in striking contrast to the model of humanity that they inherited as students. Their version of human development and history profoundly influenced public opinion as they wrote prolifically for the press; they published bestsellers on human origins and evolution; they spoke eloquently at public meetings and on the radio. They wanted their anatomical insight to shape public policy. And by changing popular views of race and environment, they moulded attitudes as to what it meant to be human in a post-Darwinian world—thus providing a potent critique of racism.

**‘Very comprehensive and readable book.’**

**— Philippa Martyr, *Historical Records of Australian Science***

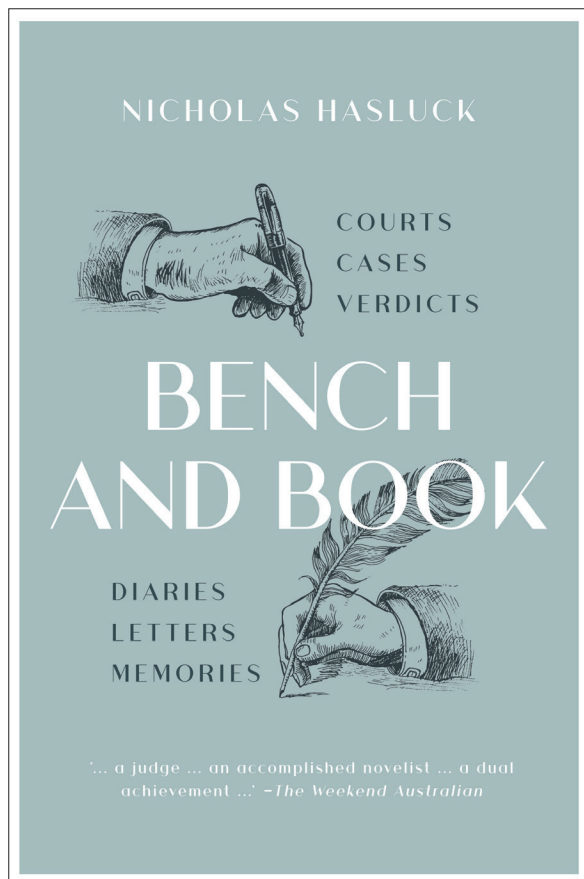
**‘Interpretations of Anatomy that will be of interest to both the historian of science and the general reader.’**

**— Malcolm MacCallum, *Journal of Anatomy***

**‘Even with the generous word allowance of a lead book review, I cannot possibly do justice to the richness of the background material explored by Jones. I recommend it unreservedly.’**

**— Bernard Wood, *Journal of Human Evolution***





## Bench and Book

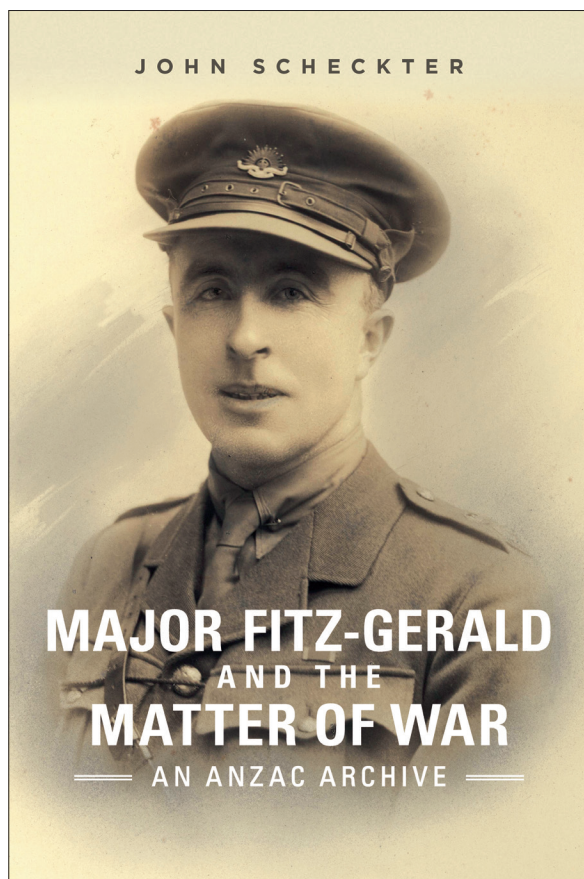
NICHOLAS HASLUCK

In both law and literature, Nicholas Hasluck has been a player and a commentator. In this fascinating memoir he uses diaries of his time as a Judge and as Chair of the Literature Board to explore intriguing issues at the start of the new century, from culture wars in Australia to al-Qaeda's terrorist attack in New York.

He turns an astute gaze on battles in the courts and everyday struggles and delusions. He watches self-styled intellectual leaders nail their colours to the mast with an air of heroic virtue, though nearly everyone in the room agrees with them.

In times when history is often misinterpreted, how can we pass on what has been learnt? How can Australians come together to build a better future, rather than denigrating our institutions and shared past? His views are those of a writer with a principled mind and a ready sense of humour.

FORMAT **Paperback** PAGES **360** ISBN **978-1-922669-12-4** AVAILABLE NOW PRICE **\$44**



## Major Fitz-Gerald and the Matter of War

An Anzac Archive

JOHN SCHECKTER

In 1915, Major Richard Francis Fitz-Gerald was the last Australian to leave an exposed position at Gallipoli. He was awarded the DSO for that and served on the Western Front through to the end of the Great War. Everywhere he went, often while in danger, he collected materials that marked his experience – photographs, orders, his battalion's timetable for evacuation, and a souvenir map of Gallipoli that he annotated by hand. He wrote careful comments on everything he kept, transforming public documents into personal sites of memory and retrieval. He also kept a diary for the first year of his experience, covering Gallipoli, Egypt, and France. *Major Fitz-Gerald and the Matter of War* personalises the difficult position of a front-line officer by closely examining the things he carried, collected, and preserved for the rest of his life.

FORMAT **Paperback** PAGES **198** ISBN **978-1-922669-05-6** RELEASED **26 August** PRICE **\$39.95**





# Isolation

TOM PETSINIS

In his new book of poems, Tom Petsinis focuses on the day-to-day experiences of lockdown and isolation to produce a collection of vivid snapshots that draw on memory, home, religion, mathematics, football and funerals. He has crafted poems that are sometimes whimsical, often elegiac, but always immediate and palpable, expressed in a language that speaks to all.

One of the more disturbing effects of COVID-19's prolonged lockdown has been the sense of becoming a stranger to one's own life. The poems in Tom Petsinis' *isolation* overcome this feeling of estrangement by offering a rich (sometimes deeply moving and sometimes very funny) collection of observations of this new life of ours.

FORMAT **Paperback** PAGES **122** ISBN **978-1-922669-04-9** RELEASED **26 August** PRICE **\$22**

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