



## EDITORIAL

Quite out of the blue we find a theme of books in this issue of the magazine—so many stories turned out to be related to the publication of a book. It began with Erika Mordek's invitation to Kickstart her project to publish *The Perfume of Books*, an unusual subject one would have to agree, and yet very enticing.

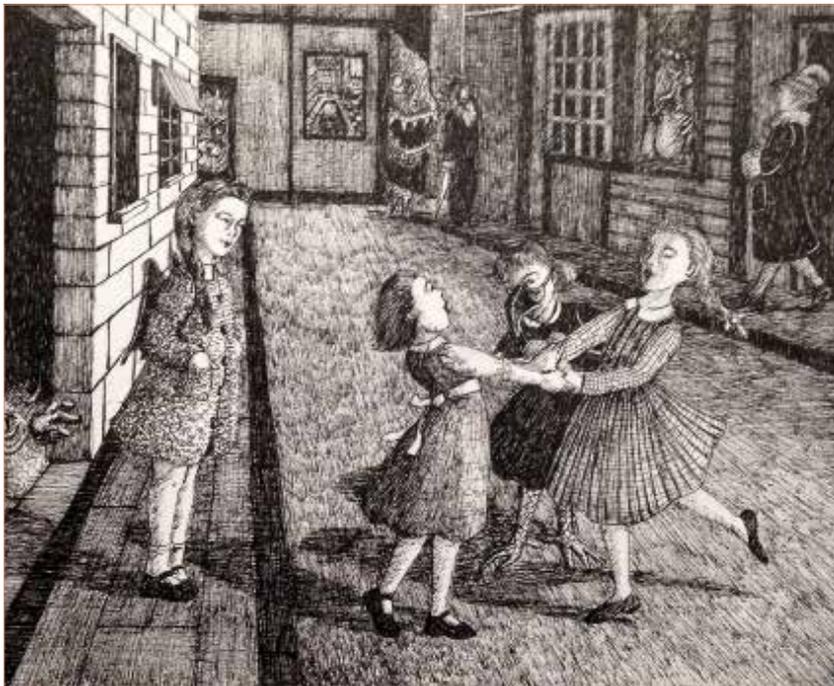
Then Carolyn Leigh's book about her father artist *Jurgis Miksevicius* turned up, another fascinating project. We have invited the artist's friend artist Fiona Davies to write about Jurgis's home and the magical way he applied his art to the walls, ceilings and furniture.

Juliet Schlunke's new book *Buns in the Oven — John Olsen's Bakery Art School* has just been published by Thames and Hudson and naturally John Olsen and his art school feature prominently. Juliet has drawn together stories of the time from her own experiences, as well as from friends and past students in a nostalgic evocation of art school life and Sydney in the sixties which, she tells us, would have been rather spicier if it hadn't been edited of some the more 'interesting' parts—shame! Nevertheless, reviewer John Ellison, an artist and teacher himself, found it a very enjoyable read.

And on we go to another new book, the first part of Martin Sharp's biography, the labour of love of many years by Lowell Tarling. Friend of both Martin and Lowell, Roger Foley-Fogg has

taken great delight in reviewing the book and adding his own insights. We could have filled many pages with the photographs Roger wanted included in his piece, but that will have to wait for another time!

When I first held Deb Westbury's beautiful little book of poetry, *Winter in Stone Country*, at the launch of this first publication by a new press, Hope Street Press, at Varuna, The Writers' House, in Katoomba, I was deeply moved. It is clearly a work of great love by a number of people—and then there is Deb Westbury's poetry. Judith Martinez who designed the elegant and tactile little book, went on to create a number of works to illustrate one of the poems, *Ghostbride*, and we have reproduced both these and the poem in this issue.



Fiona McDonald: Ring-a-ring-a-rosie

Aboriginal rock art has been an obsession of architect John Van der Have for a large part of his life. He is fascinated by the physical context of these ancient works and tells how he, and others, believe that these places are charged with atmosphere, that they have a special sense of spatial presence that can be sensed when one arrives at a place, even before sighting the works. Van der Have's book provides a valuable reference to a large number of the 1,000 and more which are known to exist in this World Heritage Area.

When a wellknown photographer produces his own 36-page booklet promoting his other passion, chairmaking, it is a cut above the usual advertising spiel and I think you will agree is worthy of being regarded as a publication in its own right. You be the judge from our excerpt.

Author and illustrator Fiona McDonald felt moved to write about writing pictures and drawing words and her search for the perfect union, providing us with the perfect excuse to feature some of her amazing drawings (see above for one of her drawings telling a story).

All this and I haven't even mentioned the major feature of this issue, the irrepressible Janet De Boer on wearable art and the stunning images which illustrate her story. Enjoy!

Carolynne Skinner