



art
Peter Hill

Creative thoughts

Christmas is a great chance to make the art-lover in your life happy. A wide range of art works can be bought from commercial galleries such as Australian, Ray Hughes or King Street. Prices can range from less than \$50 to, well, the sky's the limit when Santa is up there with his reindeer.

Sydney has dozens of fine galleries so you will need a copy of the *Art Almanac* to help navigate your way through the art centres of Paddington, Waterloo, Darlinghurst, Surry Hills and Redfern. An annual subscription to the *Art Almanac* will make a fine Christmas present that reminds the owner of you every month throughout the year.

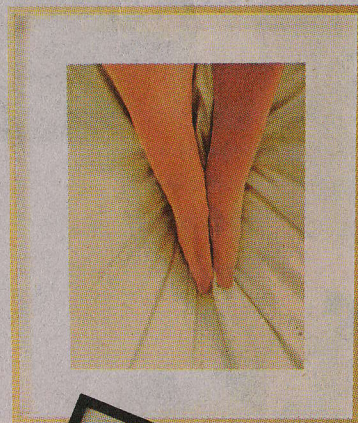
Other magazines I've asked for, and given, as gifts include *Australian Art Collector*, *Photofile*, *Art Monthly Australia* and *State of the Arts*. Australian photography is among the best in the world and is very affordable. Stills Gallery, Gitte Weise and GrantPirrie are three of many galleries selling cutting-edge photo-works.

Most major museums, from the Museum of Contemporary Art to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, have annual memberships that include invitations to exhibition openings, special events and the use of the Friends Room. They also have museum gift shops where calendars, ties, jewellery and books can be added to your Christmas list.

Try the new Object Gallery in Surry Hills for that special present designed to perfection or the well-stocked shop in the Powerhouse Museum. If you want to give a practical "hands-on" present to a friend, the Australian Centre for Photography in Paddington and the National Art School in Darlinghurst offer classes in everything from "lighting" to life drawing.

And, if you know a young, struggling artist, why not really get in to the spirit of Christmas and support him or her by buying a print.

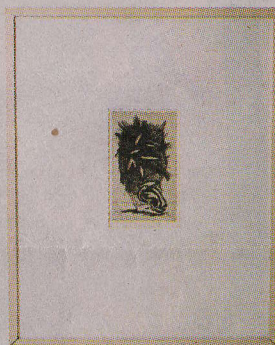
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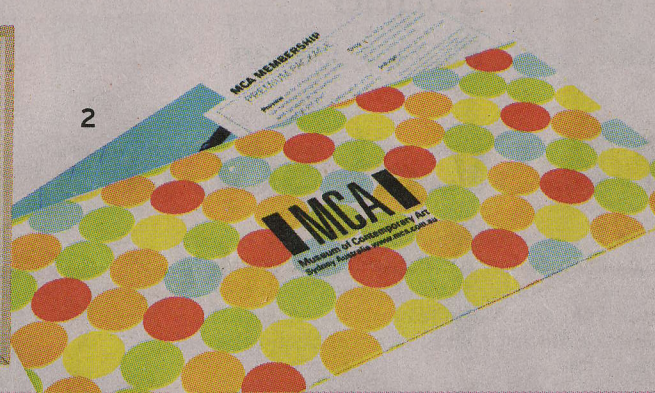
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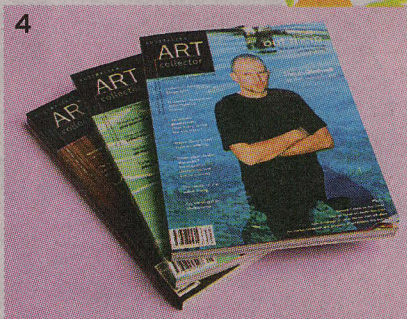
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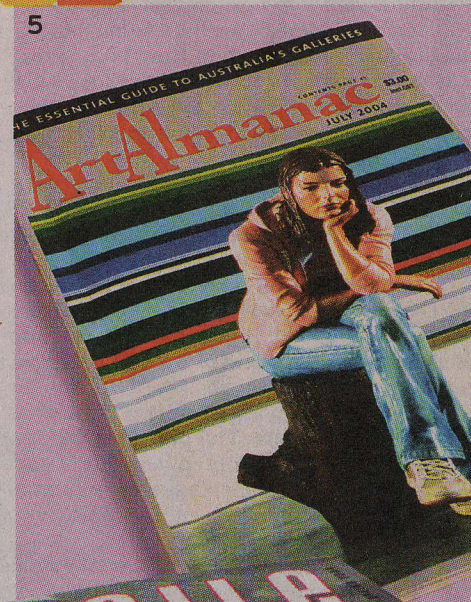
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