



the watermill center
a laboratory for performance

robert wilson, artistic director

www.watermillcenter.org



Ann Lewis
August 2, 1935 – May 16, 2011

The Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation mourns the loss of its board member Ann Lewis. Ann was one of the most influential and loved patrons of the arts in Australia where she died after a long battle with pancreatic cancer in her hometown of Sydney at the age of 74. Her passion and influence though was not only limited to Australia but her influence and vision could be felt abroad as well, particularly in New York where she had a second home.

Already in the late 70s and early 80s she was on the board of directors of the Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation where she worked tirelessly on raising monies for productions such as "the CIVIL warS a tree is best measured when it is down". Wilson met her through the long time chairman of the foundation Porter McCray. Wilson says of Ann Lewis: "The extraordinary thing is that she mixed well with all kind of people. She was the cultural ambassador of Australia". Years later she joined the board of the Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation again as she felt it necessary to support Wilson's ultimate vision; The Watermill Center, a laboratory for performance and a place for young and emerging artists to develop new ideas. She collected Aboriginal art way before it was fashionable. She was interested in what the young generation of artists were doing. She was a true and independent global mind. She was working behind the scenes and never claimed the limelight but was influential in many artists' careers.

She did not let the cancer take over her life but kept living it until the very end. She still went to see art shows, went to concerts and responded to the many letters that were sent by her friends. We have lost a true supporter of the arts, but foremost a great friend.