



MICHAEL LEUNIG

THE NIGHT WE LOST OUR MARBLES



DESERT JOY 2016
Acrylic on canvas
106 × 122 cm



THE NIGHT WE LOST OUR MARBLES II 2016

Acrylic on linen

76 × 92 cm



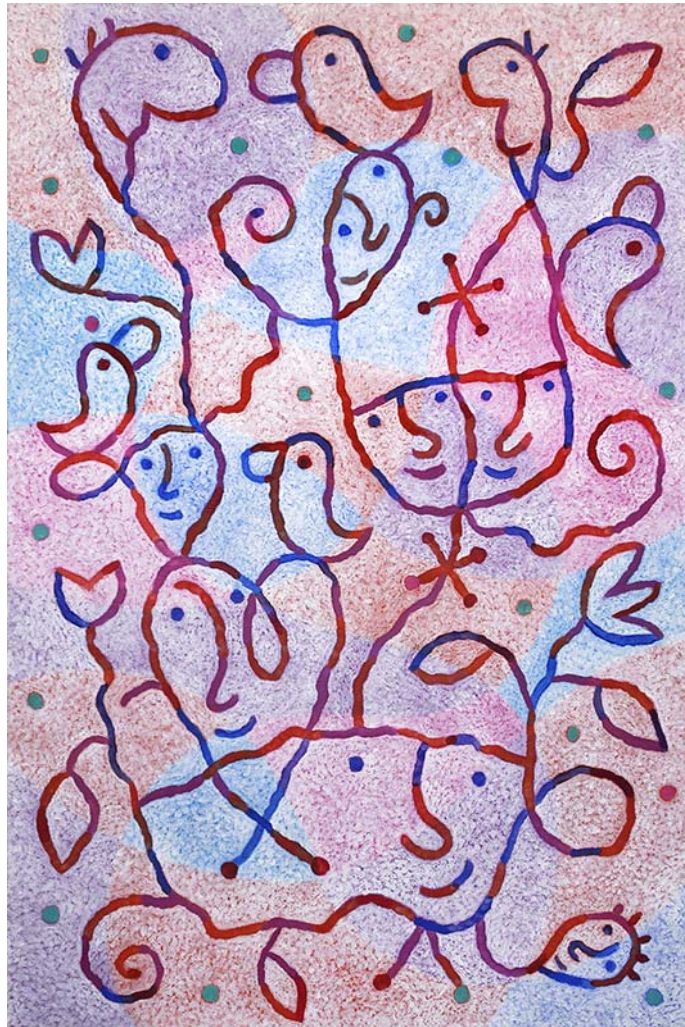
THE TIDE COMES IN 2016

Acrylic on canvas

91 × 76 cm



PILGRIM 2016
Acrylic on linen
92 × 71 cm



FRIENDLY FACES 2016

Acrylic on linen

91 × 66 cm



UNDERSTORY 2016
Acrylic on linen
71 × 81 cm



CLIMBING UP THE FENCE 2016

Acrylic on linen

66 × 76 cm



PSYCHE 2016
Acrylic on linen
76 × 66 cm



PIXIE TEA 2016
Acrylic on canvas
70 × 60 cm



EARTHSCAPE 2016
Stabilised earth on linen
70 × 60 cm



MAN WITH DOG 2016

Acrylic on linen

66 × 51 cm



ME AND YOU 2016
Acrylic on canvas
51 × 61 cm



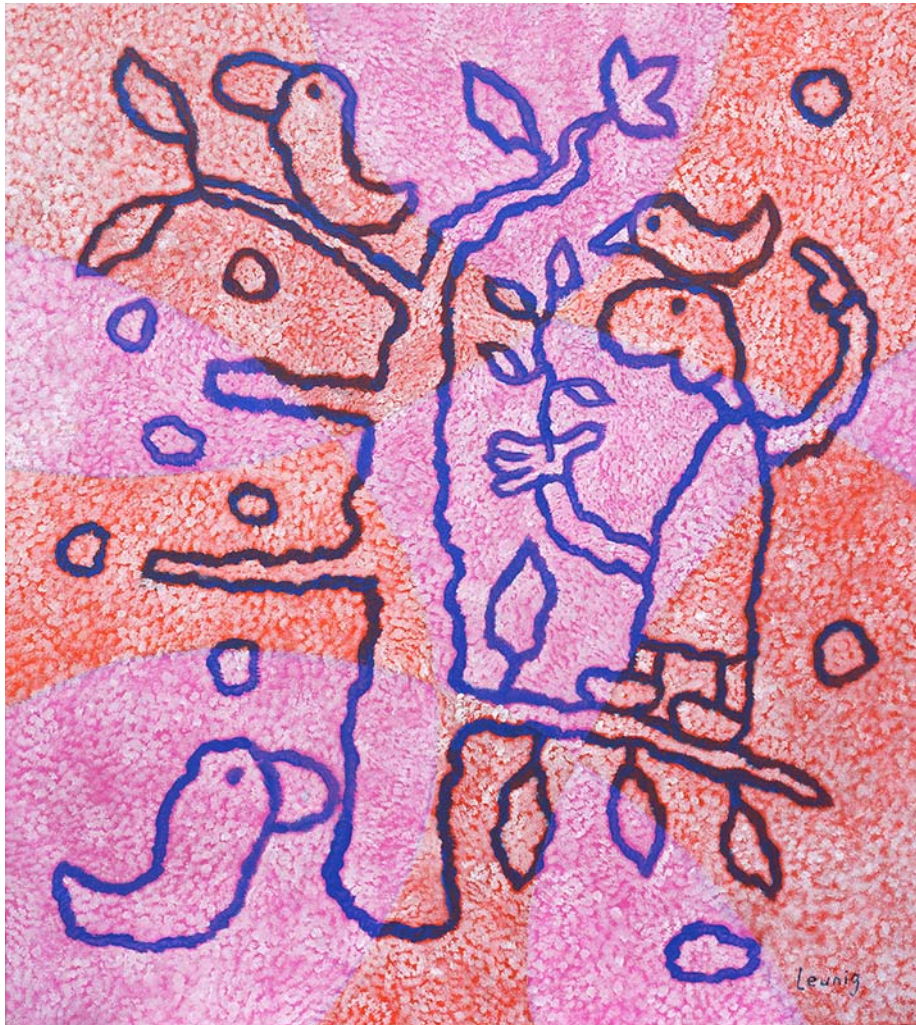
NOCTURNAL DANCE 2016
Acrylic on canvas
50 × 60 cm



THE NIGHT WE LOST OUR MARBLES 2016

Acrylic on canvas

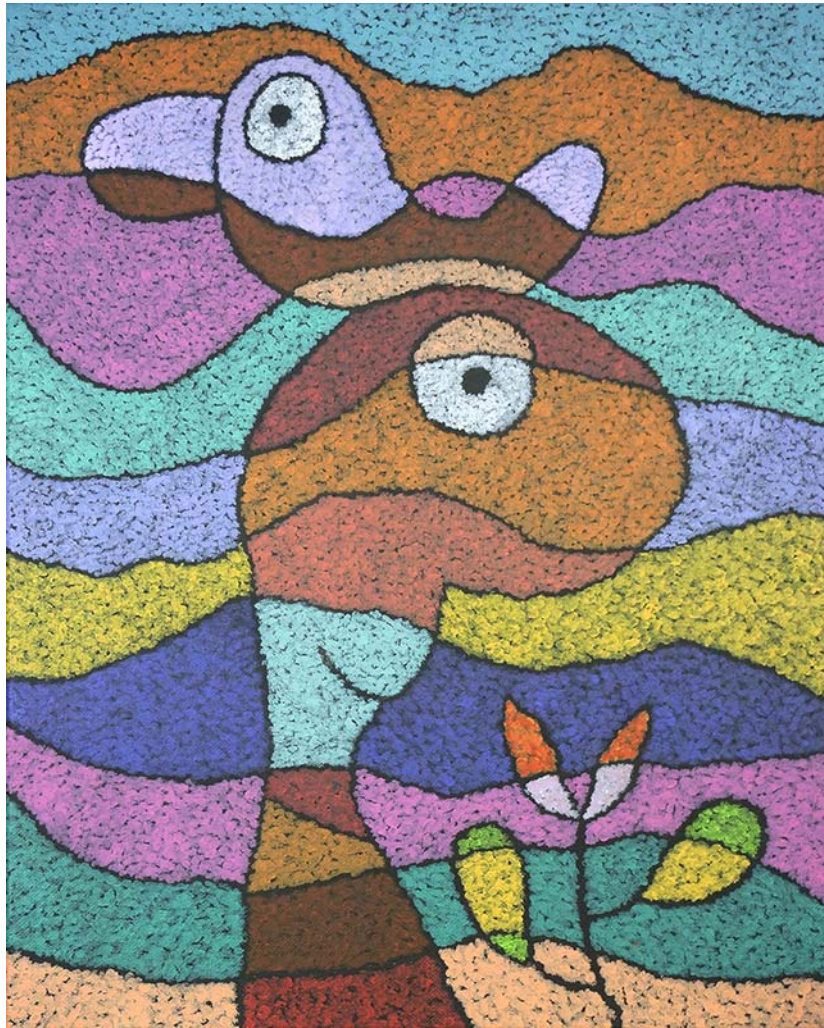
51 × 60 cm



HOLY FOOL IN TREE 2016

Acrylic on wood

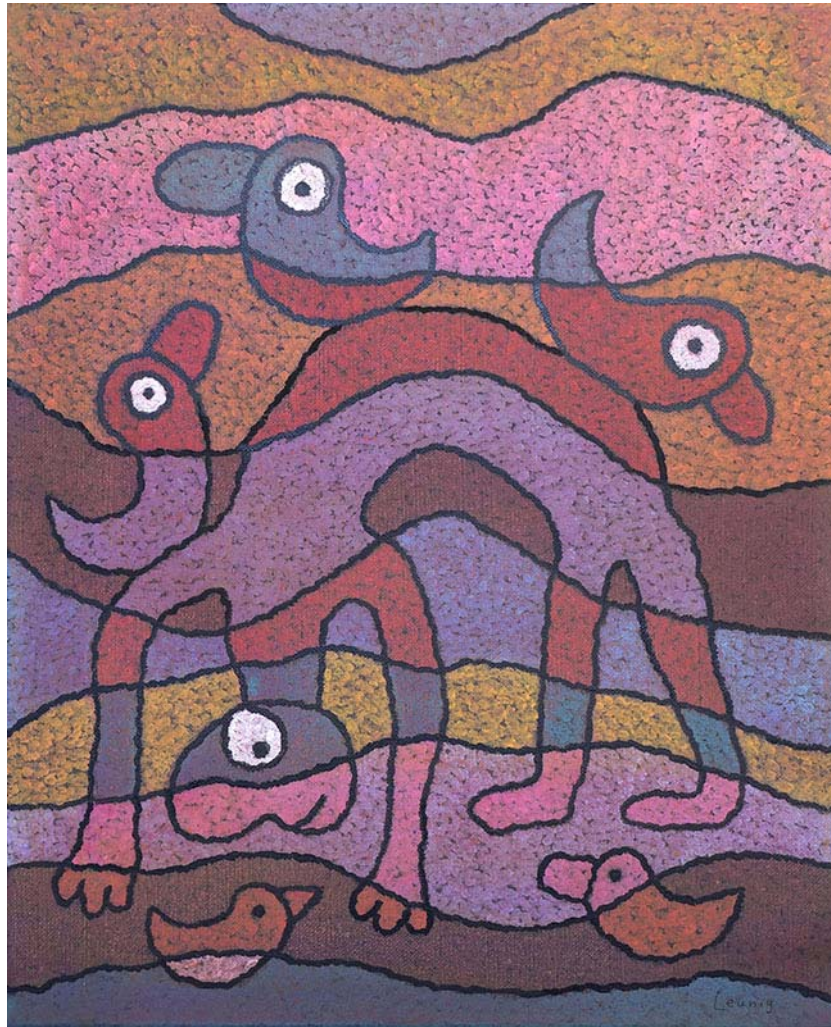
50 × 45 cm



EBB AND FLOW 2016

Acrylic on linen

51 × 41 cm



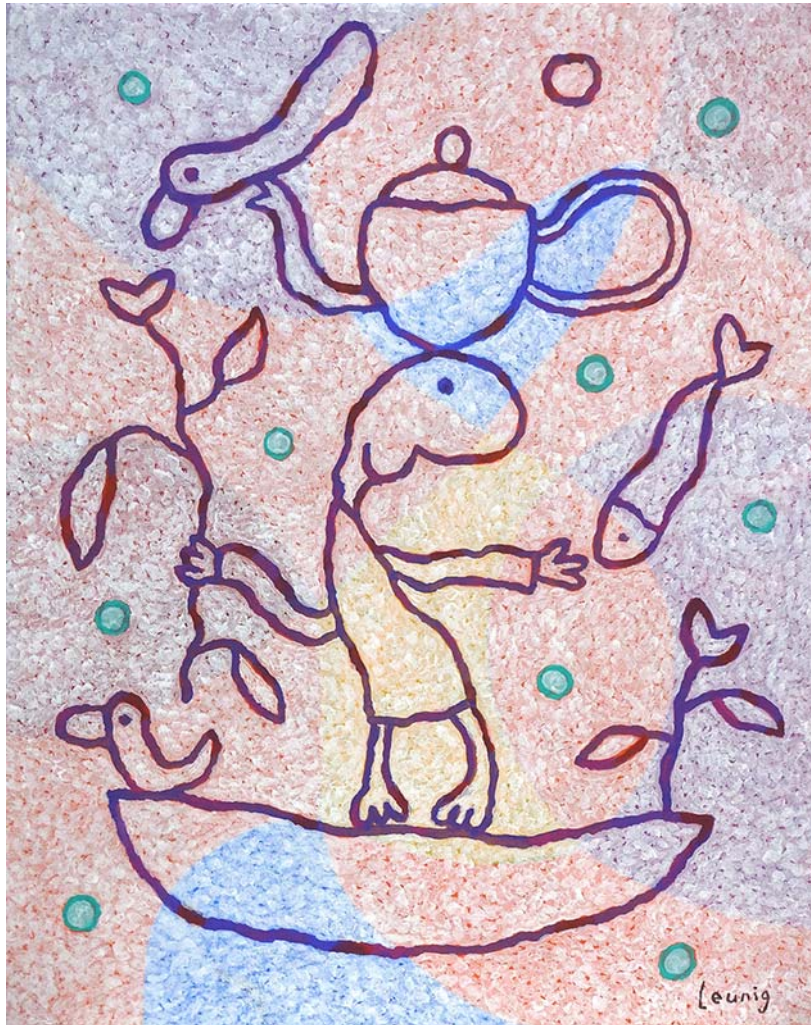
HOLY FOOL WITH BIRDS 2016

Acrylic on canvas

50 × 40 cm



HOLY FOOL 2016
Acrylic on canvas
40 × 50 cm



LIFEBOAT 2016
Acrylic on linen
51 × 40 cm



AFFINITY 2016
Acrylic on linen
42 × 45 cm



THE ESCAPEE 2016
Acrylic on linen
36 × 46 cm



EACH OTHER 2016
Acrylic on wood
40 × 35 cm



FAMILY TREE 2015
Acrylic on canvas
35 × 28 cm



BEE BIRD 2016
Acrylic on linen
26 × 31 cm

MICHAEL LEUNIG—*THE NIGHT WE LOST OUR MARBLES*

Michael Leunig is an Australian cartoonist, writer, painter, philosopher and poet. His commentary on political, cultural and emotional life spans more than forty years and has often explored the idea of an innocent and sacred personal world. The fragile ecosystem of human nature and its relationship to the wider natural world is a related and recurrent theme.

His newspaper work appears regularly in the Melbourne Age and the Sydney Morning Herald. He describes his approach as regressive, humorous, messy, mystical, primal and vaudevillian—producing work which is open to many interpretations and has been widely adapted in education, music, theatre, psychotherapy and spiritual life.

This exhibition comprises a collection of Michael Leunig's rarely available paintings. Covering a range of joyous themes and motifs both familiar and unusual to Michael's newspaper and book audiences, it offers a rare opportunity to acquire an indelible expression of this unique artist's output.

BIOGRAPHY

Michael Leunig was born in East Melbourne in June 1945, a slaughterman's son and the second eldest of five children. He was educated at Footscray North Primary School and Maribyrnong High School, plus at various factory gates, street corners, kitchen tables, paddocks, rubbish tips, quarries, loopholes, puddles and abattoirs in Melbourne's industrial Western suburbs. Enid Blyton, Arthur Mee, Phantom comics, The Book of Common Prayer, J.D. Salinger, Spike Milligan, Bruce Petty, Martin Sharp, Private Eye magazine and The Beatles were early creative influences and his political consciousness intensified radically upon reading his notice of military conscription sent to him from the Australian government in 1965.

He fled in disgrace from formal education and pursued a successful career as a factory labourer and meatworker where he nurtured his art and philosophy before beginning work as a political cartoonist for a daily newspaper in Melbourne in 1969. The Penguin Leunig, his first book of collected cartoons, was published in 1974 and since then has produced twenty-three more collections including books of newspaper columns, poetry and prayer. His prints, paintings and drawings have been exhibited broadly and are held in various public and private collections.

Leunig's public appearances have included on-stage conversations with people ranging from the Archbishop of Canterbury to an Indonesian President, as well as painting and poetry performances at the Sydney Opera House accompanied by the Australian Chamber Orchestra. He has also performed on stage in the Purcell Room at the National Theatre in London as the special guest of the extraordinary poet and musician Ivor Cutler, the non conformist Glaswegian humorist, anti-noise crusader and Beatle mentor. London's Trestle Theatre Company created an elaborate stage production based upon his work called 'State of Bewilderment' which toured England, Ireland, Europe and Australia in the early 1990's.

Leunig provided the images and verse for the Australian Chamber Orchestra's productions of the Carnival of Animals and the Carnival of the Humans. In 2001 he wrote songs and lyrical poetry with Neil Finn, Brett Dean and Richard Tognetti for the ACO's production of Parables, Lullabies and Secrets and developed a series of short clay figure animations for SBS Television. Leunig's various collaborations and journeys with indigenous painters from remote communities in northern and central Australia have greatly influenced his art, humour and philosophy.

In 1999 he was declared a national living treasure by the National Trust and awarded honorary degrees from La Trobe and Griffith universities and the Australian Catholic University for his unique contribution to Australian culture.

A watershed came in Leunig's daily cartooning work with the advent of the 'war on terror' following the 9/11 atrocity. His cartoon commentary strongly opposed the war and the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, a classical dissenting cartoonist's position that put him conscientiously at odds with editors, commentators and various hostile or militarist elements in Australian society; an experience that left Leunig feeling more disillusioned and alienated from his culture than he had felt during the time of his youthful opposition to the Vietnam war. Distracted and deeply concerned by the destructive, polarized cultural climate and the morbidity of the dire political events during this time his work showed a decline in the more lyrical or gentle themes and for a significant period he stopped drawing his whimsical characters Mr. Curly and Vasco Pyjama. Throughout this period however, the odd duck made a forlorn, but brave appearance and the moon hung faithfully in the skies of his drawings; remote, simple, soulful and as mystical as ever. His work still appears regularly in the Melbourne Age and The Sydney Morning Herald.

He is a devout nature lover and spends his time between the solitude of the bush in Northern Victoria and a home in Melbourne where he enjoys talking to strangers in the street, walking in the local park, morning coffee in the café, chamber music in the concert hall and attending to work in his studio. He is married and is the father of four children.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Artist:	Michael Leunig
Exhibition:	<i>The night we lost our marbles</i>
Runs:	19 October–19 November 2016
Opening drinks:	6:00 – 8:00 pm, Friday 28 October 2016

SUMMARY—TWO EXHIBITIONS IN ONE

Michael Leunig's exhibition *The night we lost our marbles* runs in parallel with *Kamano man*, an exhibition of recent sculptures by Ruki Famé. Arguably Papua New Guinea's most significant living artist, Ruki Famé is the innovator from whom two subsequent generations of PNG sculptors have derived

inspiration and influence. Together, these exhibitions provide audiences with the opportunity to view, side-by-side, works by 'national living treasures' of Australia and its nearest neighbour Papua New Guinea.

MICHAEL LEUNIG

BIOGRAPHY

Born 2 June 1945, East Melbourne, Victoria

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *The night we lost our marbles*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 2015 *Moment of Truth*, Port Jackson Press, Melbourne
- 2005 *Personal and Peculiar*, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
- 2002 *Leunig Animated*, Museum of Sydney, NSW; National Museum of Australia, Canberra; Queensland Museum, Brisbane; South Australian Museum, Adelaide
- 1998–2002 *Michael Leunig: The Happy Prints*, New England Regional Art Museum, NSW; Wollongong City Gallery, NSW; National Archives of Australia, Canberra (also toured regional galleries in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania)
- 1997 *Michael Leunig*, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria
- 1991–94 *Introspective: Michael Leunig*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth.
- 1986 *Pictures for Papers*, Centre for the Arts, University of Tasmania, Hobart
- 1986– *Tram No. 816*, Melbourne Metropolitan Tramway Board, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Australia Day Celebratory Exhibition*, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
- 2008 *Optimism*, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
- 2002 *Canterbury Art Exhibition*, Canterbury Primary School, Melbourne
- 1999 *Artists and cartoonists in black and white*, S. H. Ervin Gallery, National Trust of Australia (NSW), Sydney

SOLO PERFORMANCES

- 2015 *Michael Leunig: Live Cartooning*, Brisbane Powerhouse, Queensland

GROUP PERFORMANCES

- 2012 *Billy the Rabbit* (with Gyan Evans), Byron Bay Community Centre, Byron Bay; Recital Centre, Melbourne
- 2007 *Billy the Rabbit* (with Gyan Evans), Sydney Opera House, New South Wales; Adelaide Cabaret Festival, South Australia; Byron Bay Writers Festival, New South Wales; Judith Wright Centre, Brisbane
- Carnival of the Humans*, Australian Chamber Orchestra, National Tour
- 2003 *The Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ*, Australian String Quartet, Arts Centre, Melbourne
- 2001 *Parables, Lullabies and Secrets*, Australian Chamber Orchestra and Neil Finn, National Tour
- 2000 *Carnival of the Animals*, Australian Chamber Orchestra, National Tour

- 1996 *State of Bewilderment*, Trestle Theatre Company, Sydney Opera House, Sydney
1992–03 *State of Bewilderment*, Trestle Theatre Company, Tour of England and Australia.
1991 *Ivor Cutler and Michael Leunig*, Royal Festival Hall, London, UK

AWARDS

- 2007 Honorary Doctorate, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne
1999 National Living Treasure, National Trust of Australia, Sydney
1999 Honorary degree, La Trobe University, Melbourne
1999 Honorary degree, Griffith University, Brisbane

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- Leunig, Michael, *A Bag of Roosters*, Angus & Robertson, Melbourne, 1983
Leunig, Michael, *A Bunch of Poesy*, Angus & Robertson, Melbourne, 1992
Leunig, Michael, *A Celebration: Michael Leunig*, Friends of the National Library, Parkes, 1997
Leunig, Michael, *A Common Prayer*, Harper Collins, Melbourne, 1990
Leunig, Michael, *A New Penguin Leunig*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2005
Leunig, Michael, *Curly Verse: Selected Poems*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2010
Leunig, Michael, *Everyday Devils and Angels*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1992
Leunig, Michael, *Goatperson: and other tales*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1999
Leunig, Michael, *Holy Fool*, Allen and Unwin, Melbourne, 2013
Leunig, Michael, *Hot... and bothered*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2007
Leunig, Michael, *Introspective: Michael Leunig*, The Text Publishing Company Pty Ltd, Melbourne, 1991
Leunig, Michael, *Musings From the Inner Duck*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2015
Leunig, Michael, *Poems: 1972–2002*, Viking (Penguin Books), Melbourne, 2002
Leunig, Michael, *Ramming the Shears: a collection of drawings*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1990
Leunig, Michael, *Short Notes from the Long History of Happiness*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1996
Leunig, Michael, *Strange Creature*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2003
Leunig, Michael, *The Bedtime Leunig*, Angus & Robertson, Melbourne, 1981
Leunig, Michael, *The Curly Pyjama Letters*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2006
Leunig, Michael, *The Essential Leunig: Cartoons from a Winding Path*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2012
Leunig, Michael, *The Happy Prints* [ex. cat.], Chrysalis Publishing, 1998
Leunig, Michael, *The Lot: In Words*, Viking (Penguin Books), Melbourne, 2008

Leunig, Michael, *The Penguin Leunig*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1974
Leunig, Michael, *The Prayer Tree*, Harper Collins, Melbourne, 1991
Leunig, Michael, *The Second Leunig... a dusty little swag*, Angus & Robertson, Melbourne, 1979
Leunig, Michael, *The Stick: and other tales of our times*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2002
Leunig, Michael. *The Teapot of Truth: The Michael Leunig Prestige Collection*, Australia Post, Melbourne, 1998
Leunig, Michael, *The Travelling Leunig*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1990
Leunig, Michael, *The Wayward Leunig: Cartoons that Wandered Off*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2015
Leunig, Michael, *When I Talk To You*, Haper Collins, Melbourne, 2014
Leunig, Michael, *Why Dogs Sniff Each Other's Tails*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2007
Leunig, Michael, *Wild Figments*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 2004
Leunig, Michael, *You and Me*, Penguin Books, Melbourne, 1995
Leunig, Michael and Rahner, Karl. *A Common Philosophy*, Aurora Books/David Lovell Publishing, Melbourne, 1992

BOOKS/MUSIC

Leunig, Michael (Words and images); Australian Chamber Orchestra—Tognetti, Richard (Director and lead violin); Garrett, Peter (Narrator); Saint-Saëns, Camille (Music), *Carnival of the Animals* (CD/Book), Pan Macmillan, 2000
Leunig, Michael (Poems) and Evans, Gyan (Music), *Billy the Rabbit* (CD/Book), Vitamin Records, Mullumbimby, 2006

FILMS

Leunig, Michael (Cartoonist); Brown, Bryan and Szapiro, Deborah (Producers); Donalson, Roger (Executive producer); Grusovin, David and Grusovin, Katey (Directors); Horne, Andrew (Animation director), *Leunig Animated* (DVD), New Town Films/Fruitcup Films/SBS Independent, Sydney, 2001
Leunig, Michael (Cartoonist); Brown, Bryan and Szapiro, Deborah (Producers); Donalson, Roger (Executive producer); Grusovin, David and Grusovin, Katey (Directors); Horne, Andrew (Animation director), *Leunig Documentary* (DVD), New Town Films/Fruitcup Films/SBS Independent, Sydney, 2001

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Library of Australia, Canberra
National Museum of Australia, Canberra
Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne
Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria

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