

GALLERY news

The Art Society of Tasmania Inc. ABN 73 537 464 400



Patron: Her Excellency, The Honourable Barbara Baker AC,
Governor of Tasmania

Vice Patrons: Lord Mayor of Hobart Cr. Anna Reynolds and Mr Rob Valentine MLC

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Newsletter No 97

Jan-Feb-March 2024

Swiss cows, a bird mystery and more....



*Di Casimaty OAM 'Trees - East Coast'
a watercolour*

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Acknowledgements

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Vicki Chapman*

*Photographs:
Helen Barrett,
Peter Walsh*

*Printed by Monotone,
Hobart.*

From the President

The Art Society of Tasmania was founded in 1884 with the objective to encourage art and hold periodic exhibitions. In 2023 we certainly fulfilled these objectives, we ended the year with 245 members, held 15 exhibitions, and conducted 9 workshops. We also had artists meeting weekly in the gallery in various art groups to paint and socialise.



Individuals with a sense of personal responsibility, a shared experience and

commitment beyond themselves build a community, and that is what I believe is achieved in this Society.

Our people are our strength, we are a collective of artists and art lovers dedicated to the success of the Society. Our exhibitions, openings, workshops and events bring people together to build relationships built on mutual support and friendship. Our membership base is quite constant, many of our members have been with the Society for many years and we are welcoming to new members who are embraced by the wider membership.

The Art Society provides a place for members to regularly exhibit their work in the Lady Franklin Gallery, however for this to occur we require members to regularly volunteer to sit in the gallery. Looking forward I'd like to see the load of sitting in the gallery spread more evenly across the membership.

I would especially like to thank our social members who give their time and energy to the Art Society without the reward of seeing their work on the walls. Two of our committee members Phil Muir and Sarah Crossland give much of their time to support the society without the benefits afforded to our exhibiting members. We are so grateful for the contribution of our social members. Our Vice Patron, Rob Valentine MLC recently wrote to me and he stated of his association with the Society: See page 23.

AGM Report for 2023

I am so proud to lead the Art Society, and I am privileged to volunteer in this space, to hang each exhibition and spend time looking at and appreciating the works created by our members and invited artists. I love watching the development of our members as they try new methods or tackle new themes for our members exhibitions. I love the process of hanging an exhibition, with Carol doing all the hard work of selecting the order the works will be hung, to bring out the best in each work. There is magic that happens in this gallery after all the works have been delivered and an exhibition starts to take shape.

I love attending our openings and watching others appreciate the works on the wall and talking to other artists about their work and inspiration. I love talking to you, our members when I see you at the gallery or attending a workshop. The friendships and camaraderie in this place, where there is genuine kindness, and very few egos, gives me joy.

The Art Society is financially secure which enables us to continue to operate as we have been. Overall, there was an operating surplus of \$21,000 for the year. It enables us to continue to hire the Long Gallery for our Annual Exhibition and Waterways and allows us to seek high quality tutors for our workshops.

The Art Society has some very accomplished exhibiting members, and these artists are increasingly being recognised by other arts organisations and selected exhibitions. It was wonderful to see members of the Art Society's work on display at the Henry Jones exhibition in 2023. And I can't wait to arrive at the Glover Art Prize next weekend and see the work of 5 members of the Art Society exhibited in Evandale. As an arts organisation holding exhibitions is fundamental to what we do. I'd like to thank all our exhibiting members who engaged with the themes and produced artwork for our exhibitions.

As with any voluntary organisation, you get out as much as you put in, new friendships are formed sitting in the gallery for a day with a member you may not have spoken to before. New ideas and artistic inspiration may come from an informal chat at an opening or from attending a workshop.

Water Ways was held in the Long Gallery in February 2023, with 119 artists from around the State submitting 200 works in all mediums. The overall winner of the exhibition was Brad Quinn and we will be seeing more of his work in November 2024 when he holds an exhibition at the Lady Franklin Gallery.

Joan Humble held a very successful exhibition Our Beautiful Tasmania in the Lady Franklin Gallery in April. It was a beautiful exhibition and an amazing way to celebrate a 85th Birthday. Thank you Joan for sharing your work with us and for your contribution as an artist and tutor in Tasmania.

cont'd

Amber Koroluk-Stephenson and Jo Chew transformed the Lady Franklin Gallery with their exhibition Figment. This was a very different look for the Gallery and explored the history of the Gallery and the Franklins. A very fitting exhibition to celebrate the 180th anniversary of the Gallery.

The 139th Annual exhibition was held in the Long Gallery in September 2023 and congratulations to Vicki Chapman who was the overall winner of the exhibition from a total of 150 works on display. The Art Society will continue to hold the Annual Exhibition at the Long Gallery as it provides our members with the opportunity to display their work in the artistic centre of Hobart. It also provides the space for each member to submit two works for the exhibition.

It was exciting to see an exhibition by our newest group of members, The Photographers in September 2023. Each of them has a distinct way of working and they captured the stunning landscape of Tasmania.

Kaye Volkman and Elizabeth Hunn held a successful exhibition Love this State in November. Whilst each artist has a unique style their works complimented each other.

I'd like to thank all the members of the Committee for all their assistance, at hand in and for hanging, for coordinating openings and being there when needed. But most importantly I'd like to thank them for their friendship and the way they conduct themselves with kindness, integrity and a sense of shared purpose. I am delighted that they have all decided to remain on the committee for another year.

Thank you to our Patron, her Excellency Barbara Baker, who so kindly opened our Annual exhibition in 2023 and invited us to Government House to celebrate the 180th anniversary of the Lady Franklin Gallery. I wish to thank our Vice Patron Rob Valentine MLC, who is an ardent supporter of the Art Society. His association with the Art Society in role of Patron or Vice Patron has continued for 25 years.

I wish to thank our Vice Patron Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds for her support during the year. I'd like to thank the Hobart City Council for preserving and maintaining this wonderful building, and for providing it to the Art Society.

And lastly I'd like to thank Lady Jane Franklin who in 1842 had the vision to build a small Greek temple in a colonial settlement to foster the arts, and opened it just before returning to England and leaving it in the hands of the colony.

Nikki Munro

Executive Committee members:

President: Nikki Munro
Vice Presidents:
Zane Yasuda
Jane Battaglione
Secretary: Judy Griffiths
Treasurer/ Public Officer:
Robert Sargent

General Committee Members:

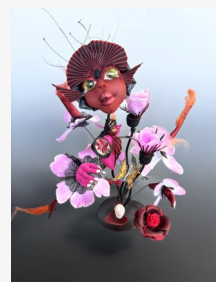
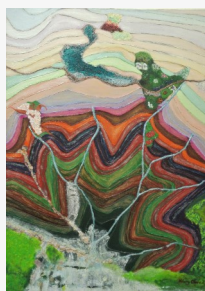
Vicki Chapman	Kaye Volkman
Georgina Cane	Helen Barrett
Carol Sheppard	Phil Muir
Peter Walsh	Sarah Crossland
Leanne Halls	Susie Meech

January Exhibition - STUDIO WORKS



Sat 13th - Sun 28th Jan

*During January the artwork from members for the exhibition **Studio Works** created a remarkable exhibition with a diverse range of works gracing the walls of the gallery, bringing a fresh and delightful insight into the range of talents of the artists.*



FIND ALL EXHIBITION WORKS IN IMAGE GALLERY ON AST WEBSITE
www.artstas.com.au

February Exhibition - SPLASHING PAINT



We were fortunate to have international tutor and highly regarded artist John Lovett with his 'Splashing Paint' exhibition during February combined with his 4 day workshops. He gave an insightful opening speech after being introduced by Nikki our president. His work was extraordinary, using mixed media and working predominately in transparent watercolours with the addition of pen and ink, gouache and gesso adding to the uniqueness of his approach.

It is impressive how he achieves such a strong atmosphere and sense of place in all of his paintings. John also held an artist talk and demonstration on the final day of the exhibition.



John's wife Diane and John with Nikki Munro and exhibition hanger Carol Sheppard



John talking with Rob Valentine MLC, one of our Vice Patrons

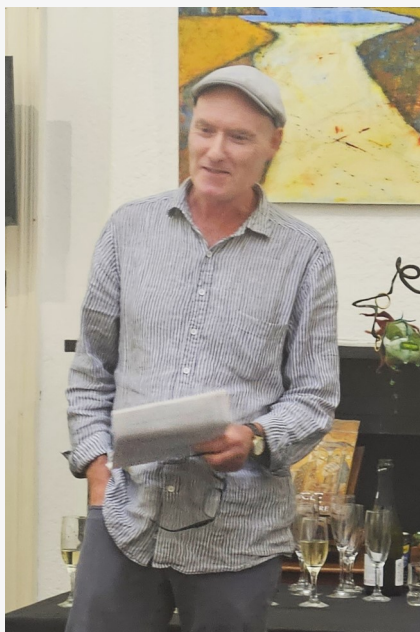


February Exhibition - SPLASHING PAINT



March Exhibition - FROM MY TRAVELS

Rick Crossland an award winning plein air painter and traveller, invited by coordinator Georgie Cane, gave a heartfelt talk to the well attended Friday evening opening of a wonderful exhibition 'From My Travels'



It would have been easy for me to just say 'what a wonderful exhibition' but I wanted to dig under the surface, to point out what to me is significant about this exhibition. When thinking about what to say I remembered this quote from the wonderful NZ wildlife artist Raymond Harris-Ching, who said "*Drawing is possession. Every creature I've ever drawn is inside me still.*"

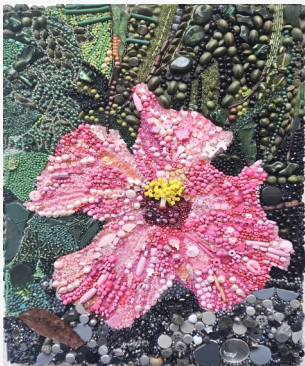
Everyday life (unless you are amongst the fortunate few) is often mundane and it can become a blur. Those of us lucky enough to travel get a break from the mundane. We experience something different, a new place, country, culture or perhaps to revisit a place of significance from our past. Almost without exception we want to bring something of our travel experience and adventures back with us.

This may be in the form of photos, music, a recipe, a journal, painting or drawing. My own travel doodles, paintings and writing take me right back to the special moments when they were created. It's a way of hanging onto that moment when I felt alive, in that I took notice of what I was doing. I wasn't just 'comfortably numb', to quote the lyrics of the song by Pink Floyd.

When it comes to painting, the cliché 'he or she has captured it!' comes to mind. In 'capturing' something it not just reminds us of a time which was special and allows us to possess and relive it, it can also remind us to make the most of the time we still have.

Some months ago I watched a short clip on Instagram about a French lady in her 80's. She was confined to a wheelchair and had advanced dementia which had robbed her of her memory and who she was. She had formerly been a ballet dancer, performing all over the world. Her doctor started to play music from one of her more famous performances. The change in her facial expressions was amazing. She began to dance with her arms, the movements came to her automatically from a memory triggered by the music. It was a wonderful example of how the creative process can influence recall and memory.

Creativity is such an important part of being alive and being human. The works in this exhibition demonstrate this. Each artist has expressed something meaningful to them, at a time and place when they felt alive and wished to hang on to that experience, image, understanding or feeling and hopefully communicate it to others. It is a wonderful exhibition.



A Swiss Experience

This article was provided by AST member Barbara Etter. She travelled to Switzerland to join a workshop retreat with master pastellist Lyn Diefenbach, one of our most popular Australian pastel tutors.

In October 2023, I attended a 10 day pastel Artable retreat in Appenzell, Switzerland, with Lyn Diefenbach.

Appenzell is the smallest canton in Switzerland. It is up in the N-E corner of the country. The main language in that area is Swiss German so I was able to practice my High School German.



Appenzell is a small village near Zurich nestled in green rolling hills with surrounding mountains. We stayed in a small family-run hotel right on the town square. It was a beautifully decorated Swiss chalet.

The emphasis of the retreat was on pastels, particularly landscapes, portraits and florals. But there was also an opportunity to do en plein air in the spectacular Swiss landscape.

We were very fortunate to have been in Appenzell for the annual parading of the

Alpine cows down the main street, with the people dressed in traditional costume or "tracht" and the cows adorned with massive traditional cow bells. Lyn did some amazing demonstrations during the retreat including a portrait of a young Swiss girl from the parade, a portrait of a Swiss Brown cow and an incredible en plein air landscape of the nearby river, with the hills in the background. She emphasized the importance of colour, edge, line and values.



Lyn also regaled us with her cleverly crafted poems she wrote overnight about our amusing experiences, including a story about one of the Swiss Brown cows at the previous year's parade making her way into the local perfume shop! We were also amused by an art installation on a main thoroughfare that was nothing much more than a rotating manhole in the middle of the road.

We had some very talented women on the course. I was able to produce a number of human portraits, a couple of animal portraits (a goat and a cow) and a floral of a poppy with a buzzing bee. (See photo).

We also fitted in some sight-seeing (including a cable car ride to the top of a nearby mountain) and some great culinary experiences. There was much frivolity singing songs from The Sound of Music.



I managed to haul a 30 kg bag all the way to Switzerland and back. I had to have my favourite sets of pastels with me at the expense of my wardrobe. We were blessed with 10 perfect days of weather in their Autumn or 'Herbst'. This was truly a once in a lifetime experience not only for the art learnings and insights but for the wonderful cultural experience, new friendships, and warm hospitality of the Swiss people.

Barbara Etter



Lyn journaling

THREE MONTHS AT A GLANCE

Workshops and Events in the next 3 months

MARCH

March Exhibition: 'From My Travels' members exhibition

Friday 1st	Opening of 'From My Travels' 6pm LFG
Sun 3rd	AGM LFG 4pm
Mond 4th, 18th	Botanical Art Group
Tues 5th, 19th	Watercolour Group
Wed 6th, 13th	Oil Painting Groups 20th and 27th
Sun 10th	Glover Lovers Coach trip Evandale car park Moonah
Thurs 21st	Sebastian Galloway 2-day Still-Life oil & acrylic workshop
Fri 22nd	Sebastian Galloway 9.30 - 3.30 LFG
Sunday 24th	Collection of 'From My Travels' delivery of 'Betty Debnam'
Wed 27	Opening of 'Betty Debnam' 6pm LFG

APRIL

April Exhibition: 'Betty Debnam' feature artist exhibition

Mon 15th,	Botanical Art Group
Tues 16th	Watercolour Group
Wed 3rd, 10th	Oil Painting Groups + 17th, 24th
Fri 12th	Denise Bassett Stone Paper Painting workshop 10 - 1pm LFG
Sunday 28th	Collection of 'Betty Debnam' delivery of 'Town & Country'

MAY

May Exhibition: 'Town And Country Portraits' members exhibition

Fri 3rd	Opening of 'Town and Country Portraits' 6pm LFG
Mon 5th, 19th	Botanical Art Group
Tues 6th, 20th	Watercolour Group
Wed 1st, 8th	Oil Painting Groups + 15th, 22nd, 29th
Sun 26th	Collection of 'Town and Country' delivery of 'Workshop Tutors'
Friday 31st	Opening of 'Workshop Tutors' 6pm LFG

JUNE

June Exhibition: 'Workshop Tutors' invited artists exhibition

Mond 5th, 19th	Botanical Art group
Tues 6th, 20th	Watercolour Group
Wed 7th, 14th	Oil Painting Groups
Wed 21st, 28th	Oil Painting Groups
Sunday 25th	Collect 'Workshop Tutors' deliver 'Texture'

Art Society Exhibition Calendar 2024

EXHIBITION CALENDAR 2024

Month	Exhibition <i>Hours 11am -4pm</i>	Opening	Change-over, after 4pm
JANUARY	Gemma Black Dec exhibition cont.		Collect Jan 7 th
JANUARY	Members Exhibition STUDIO WORKS Latest works from the artists' studio	Sat 13 th Jan 11am BBQ Opening	Deliver Jan 7 th Collect Jan 28 th
FEBRUARY	Invited Artist JOHN LOVETT John will also give 2 X 2 day workshops	Fri 2nd Feb 6pm	Deliver Jan 28 th Collect Feb 25 th
MARCH <i>Easter 29th – 1st</i>	Members Exhibition FROM MY TRAVELS Art inspired by travel Glover Lovers bus trip 10 th March	Fri 1st March 6pm	Deliver Feb 25 th Collect 24 th March
APRIL	Feature Artists - BETTY DEBNAM	Wed 27th Mar 6pm	Deliver 24 th March Collect 28 th April
MAY	Members Exhibition TOWN and COUNTRY PORTRAITS Portraits of city and country folk or their homes	Fri 3rd May 6pm	Deliver 28 th April Collect 26 th May
JUNE	Feature Artist WORKSHOP TUTORS Many talented artists have shared their skills as workshop tutors. Here they share their work.	Fri 31 st May 6pm	Deliver 26 th May Collect 30 th June
JULY	Members Exhibition TEXTURE Explore the surface, any medium	Fri 5th July 6pm	Deliver 30 th June Collect 28 th July
AUGUST	Members Exhibition ATMOSPHERIC Any style , any medium	Fri 2nd Aug 6pm	Deliver 28 th July Collect 25 th Aug
SEPTEMBER 3rd to 16th	140th Annual Exhibition Long Gallery, Salamanca	TBC	Deliver 3rd Collect 15 th
SEPTEMBER	Feature Artist Heritage Art Group	Fri 30th Aug 6pm	Deliver 25 th Aug Collect 29 th Sept
OCTOBER	Members Exhibition INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE Any style , any medium	Fri 4 th Oct 6pm	Deliver 29 th Sept Collect 27 th Oct
NOVEMBER	Feature Artist Brad Quinn	Fri 1 st 6pm or Sat 2 nd Nov 11am TBC	Deliver 27 th Oct Collect 24 th Nov
DECEMBER	Feature Artist RICK CROSSLAND	Fri 29th Nov 6pm	Deliver 24 th Nov Collect 5 th Jan 2025

Slots for 6 members Exhibitions, plus the Annual, 5 Feature Artists and 1 Invited Artist

2025 Water ways February

LIBRARY NEWS

The story of a unique publication new to our library:

***BIRDS OF TASMANIA* by Susan Lester**

Susan was commissioned in the 1980's to produce 200 paintings of Tasmania's birds for a limited edition book to commemorate the Examiner newspaper's 150th anniversary. Sue worked for four years to produce the exquisite, detailed paintings. She collaborated with Dr Bob Green, QVMAG's well known ornithologist and spent much time observing the birds in the bush and drawing museum specimens to ensure accuracy.

As she delivered the paintings, the Examiner's parent company ENT was caught in Tasmania's bribery scandal, and company chairman Edmund Rouse was jailed. The book project was abandoned and the paintings forgotten.

Almost a decade later, an accountant in Hobart's WIN commercial television studio, previously owned by Rouse, found the paintings and took them to the TMAG where the curators helped identify the collection and the extraordinary story of the commission and loss. WIN generously donated the paintings to TMAG, and 40 were displayed in the Bond Store in 2001 in a stunning exhibition.

On 30th January 2022, Sue died after a short, intense battle with cancer.

With the support of TMAG Sue's family and OUTSIDE THE BOX/Earth Arts Rights have now created *Birds of Tasmania*. In keeping with Sue's exquisite paintings, *Birds of Tasmania* is a truly bespoke publication. In the tradition of the folio volumes by significant bird artists of the Victorian age, many of the paintings are reproduced as full-page colour-plate illustrations and are supported with historical commentary.

(Text from Fullers Bookshop launch June 2023)

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/earshot/earshot-promise-me-lost-birds/14082222> is a link to a fascinating podcast



For new members - please record your loans and **sign out** in the **BIG BLACK BOOK** at the desk. Please **sign back** in when returning your books - leave in the **BIG YELLOW BOX** out the back in the library. Loan time is four weeks. Please contact the library chick on 0408295118 or email csmeech@bigpond.com if you have any book suggestions or want extension time. There are latest artist magazines for sitters to peruse at the desk. Happy borrowing! *Susie Meech*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It is always great to welcome people to the Art Society of Tasmania and even better when they join us from the north of the state.

Our new exhibiting members from the north are Susie Shaw, Kate Frankcombe, and Pam Lockwood. Other exhibitors are Angela Turner, Tracy Boheim, Peter Thirlwell, David Pyefinch, Veronica Miles, Anne Sharp, and Alexis Heffernan. The new social members Eva Marjanovic, Kate Hamilton and Preeti Malhotra.

Please make yourself known to these people when the opportunity arises, as it is always great to see new faces in our gallery. We welcome our new members and look forward to a long and happy association.

Zane Yasuda Membership Secretary

ROSTER VOLUNTEERS

The calendar for the remainder of 2024 is well and truly open and it would be wonderful if members could plan ahead and make commitments to sit and enjoy their favourite exhibitions. Remember the success of the Lady Franklin Gallery Exhibition Calendar depends on volunteers and I hope that, those members who are able, volunteer for at least the two sittings each year that members are encouraged to undertake. *Georgina Cane* Roster Coordinator

CONTACT AND PAYMENT DETAILS

Secretary and all enquiries	Judy Griffiths	PO Box 403, Lenah Valley, Tasmania 7008 The secretary info@artstas.com.au
Roster	Georgina Cane	georgiecane@gmail.com
Gallery News	Susie Meech	csmeech@bigpond.com
Library	Susie Meech	csmeech@bigpond.com
Facebook & Instagram	Helen Barrett	helenbarrett61@gmail.com
Website	The Art Society of Tasmania	www.artstas.com.au
Lady Franklin Gallery	0490 910 229	Please leave a message
Payments: Membership, workshops	The Art Society of Tasmania	Direct Debit (please identify any payments) BSB 067005 A/C 28005288 Payments can also be made in person at the gallery by cash, credit card or cheque

Member News

OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER - ROBERT SARGENT

Presentation to our newest Life Member :

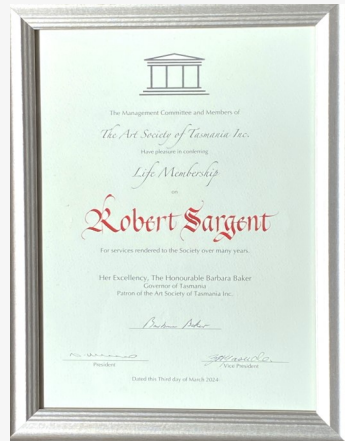
At the recent 140th Annual General Meeting Nikki Munro presented a certificate to Robert signed by the Governor and the President after having read out his achievements.

And a few words from Robert :

"I thank the President and Committee for this great honour.

I feel humbled to be made a Life Member of the Society, and to be put in the company of the outstanding people who have been previous Life Members.

Being a member of the Society has been an important part of my life, and doing the work of Treasurer and other little tasks has been something I have enjoyed doing."



STUDIO WORKS

People's Choice Award
Winner

Gaye Oakes

for her acrylic'
'Breaking Waves'

Sitters Extraordinaire

Drum Roll....and a Gold Star, Elephant Stamp and Bouquets go to...

Members who volunteer and sit during the year at the Lady Franklin Gallery and the Long Gallery are the life blood of our art society. Without them we would not be able to keep the gallery open and have the opportunity to exhibit (and sell!) our art works.

All members are encouraged to sit for at least **3 sessions** during the year but many members do so much more.

During 2023 twenty two members volunteered to sit more than 5 times.

Our honour roll includes five members who sat 7 or more times. These stars of the society are:



Maggie Bullock (11)
Vicki Chapman (11)
Nikki Munro (10)
Lynne Bertram (9)
Judy Griffiths (7)
Robyn Michael (7)



Our other generous sitters who are:

Kerry Andrews
Helen Barrett
Christine Delfatti
Wendy Galloway
Elizabeth Hunn
Pauline Johnson
Susie Meech
Natalie Murden
Gaye Oakes
Jessica Randle-Young
Ruth Rees
Robert Sargent
Cherie Sibley
Mieke Vermeulen
Kaye Volkman
Paula Woodward
Zane Yasuda



Georgie Cane Gallery Roster Coordinator

MEMBERS EXHIBITIONS COMING UP

**MAY -TOWN & COUNTRY PORTRAITS
COUNTRY & CITY FOLK - THEM OR THEIR ENVIRONS**

**JULY - TEXTURE
EXPLORE THE SURFACE - ANY MEDIUM**

Latest AST Member Achievements

Accolades to two Art Society Life Members



Our huge congratulations to Diane Casimaty Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours awards, recognising her service to the museums and galleries sector. A wonderful achievement by Di, donating her time, skills and experience to TMAG since 1994, running pARTicipate art classes, and guiding visitors through the museum and gallery. So well deserved with her selfless contribution to the art world in Hobart over the years in so many ways.



Carolyn Bassett received a Citizen of the Year award from the Southern Midlands Council on Australia Day. It recognised her extensive community volunteering work as secretary or office holder of almost every local community group. Some examples being the local RSL, the Kempton Festival progress committee and curator of the annual ARTLANDS exhibition. Carolyn's special passion is the art group she runs for children in a therapeutic capacity. Our heartiest congratulations Carolyn.

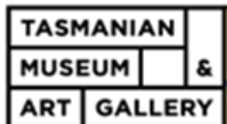
GLOVER FINALISTS

Congratulations to all finalists in this years Glover prize, in particular the selected members of the Art Society of Tasmania...

Terry Gough, Brad Quinn, William Muldoon, Geoff Tuck, & Luke Wagner

HUON ART AWARDS

Congratulations to Terry Gough for winning the Huon Valley Council Acquisitive Award of \$1500 for his Watercolour painting *Along the River at Judbury*. The exhibition continues until the Sunday the 17th March



TMAG's gallery for
children 0-7 years
NOW OPEN



Unshackled: The True Convict Story

Opening date : 13-03-2024

Closing date : 28-07-2024

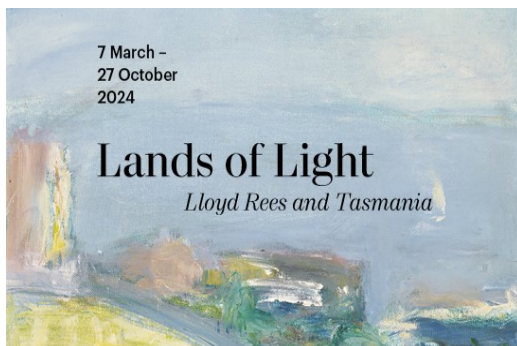
Unshackled tells a new story of convict Australia drawn from recent discoveries within the UNESCO listed convict records. It highlights the shared but different experiences of the dispossessed poor, the political radicals and First Nations resisters across Australia who were forced into the convict system

Lands of Light: Lloyd Rees and Tasmania

Opening date : 07-03-2024

Closing date : 27-10-2024

This exhibition celebrates the work of Lloyd Rees (1895-1988), particularly his works painted in Tasmania between 1967 and 1988. Rees was one of the pre-eminent Australian landscape artists of the twentieth century and a highly accomplished painter, draughtsman and printmaker.



From TMAG guide Diane Casimaty for the Lloyd Rees exhibition:

It is going to be such a great show with something for everyone. The first gallery is mainly of his early work with some very accurate pencil sketches. His paintings range from early traditional landscapes to the broad, final works where the sun and atmosphere became so important.

The 8th of March is the opening day and I will be taking a tour on the 8th and 16th of March.

CASTLE FORBES BAY ART SHOW

Congratulations to the winner Nicola Oliver with her dress made from books. Nicola has also accepted the artist in residence at Geeveston Town Hall and Visitor centre.

Painting the Past - en plein air

From 2021, Ruth Bosveld and Fiona Verdouw took regular trips along southern Tasmanian back-roads; discovering old churches and capturing their charm in oil paint.

Early on in their plein air painting friendship, Ruth and Fiona captured landscapes exclusively.

It wasn't long before Ruth suggested branching out to try painting a series of old farming sheds. She had been inspired by the work of Gwen Gutwein from Indiana, USA.

Fiona admitted to feeling daunted about painting buildings, but thought that old Tasmanian churches would possibly offer more variety than sheds.

Since many churches are no longer used as places of worship, for various reasons, capturing them as they are now would be a worthwhile project from a preservation of history perspective too.

What followed was two years of - more or less - monthly trips taken along southern Tasmania's back-roads; hunting down churches to try capturing their charm with oil paint (often in the rain, or under the threat of storm clouds.)

They looked for buildings that had character, or which stood out in the surrounding landscape well. Noteworthy features like bell towers and porticos were also sought after. Not every church painted had ceased to be a place of worship, but many had been repurposed in some way or stand waiting to be. One, is already due for demolition.

Sometimes Ruth and Fiona painted the same view, but often, different angles were chosen.

Part of the enjoyment of the project was discovering how two artists can be looking at the same building, but approach painting it very differently:

Ruth sees the structure as a whole and almost always captured the entire building in her compositions; not wanting to lose anything of it in her work. In contrast, Fiona often couldn't help but zoom in on details.



Eyeing off St Paul's
Anglican church
Copping.

Reflecting on this, Fiona wondered if she was simply too fearful of attempting to draw the entire church, and was taking the easy route. Ruth takes a kinder view on things and points to Fiona's background as a graphic designer playing a role. Using a feature to suggest the whole is a long-held part of her creative process.

Both artists agree that these two differing perspectives make the collection of paintings all the more interesting as a whole.

In addition to the enjoyment of observing and painting the buildings, Ruth and Fiona found learning about the history of each church was also very satisfying.



Painting *the* Past

9 APR - 20 MAY

Plein air paintings by
Ruth Bosveld & Fiona Verdouw

St David's Cathedral cloisters

Sometimes, whilst painting, current owners or people with past association to a church stopped to chat. Other times, people reached out to Ruth and Fiona on social media, or recommended blogs that were particularly insightful.

Far from being a simple exercise in applying colour and tone, the subject matter took on greater significance as dates, names and events surrounding each church were discovered. Often, the churches were not just a place of worship, but centres of community activity and a source of civic pride.

Which makes it fitting to see Ruth and Fiona's collection of paintings - with a brief history of each - on display in St David's Cathedral cloisters, as part of the church's 150th Anniversary celebrations this year.

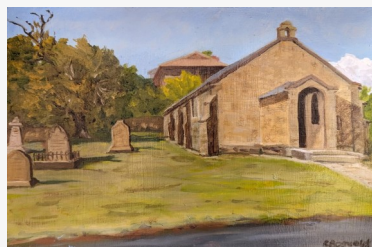
Official opening & artists' talks: Friday April 12th, 6pm.



Fiona's completed
Anglican Church
in Snug



Fiona's Copping piece



Ruth painting in the
boot on a hot day

St Marks Chapel of Ease
Bellerive by Ruth

2x2 Day workshops with John Lovett

**at The Lady Franklin Gallery & Colour Circle,
15th & 16th, 17th and 18th February**

Many words describe the 2 day workshop presented by John Lovett. Enjoyable, informative, instructive, explorative and productive.

At the end of the two days the group either completed or almost completed 4 very different works of art, based on images provided by John, learning new skills and techniques along the way. John was very open and generous in sharing his knowledge, skills and techniques.

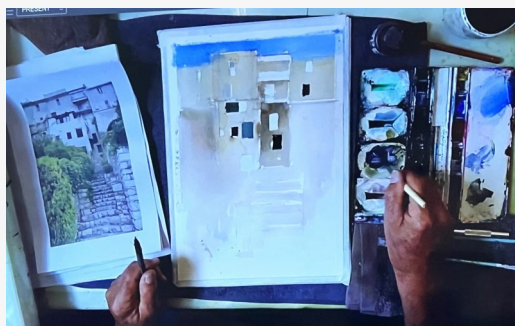
Using a limited palette of colours and brushes, including a surprising "fooler" brush and even more surprising "gesso", the group was taken on a step by step journey of discovery. Composition, establishing a strong focal point, strong colour where contrast is most needed, creating wonderfully diffuse areas and strategic use of light were all part of the process. The use of ink, charcoal, pencil and gesso (which caused many a gasp) brought the images to life. John gave considered feedback and encouragement where needed.

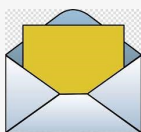
An excellent workshop well worth attending. **Eva Marjanovic**



Thank
You!!!

Many thanks go to Carol Sheppard for all her efforts in helping to make it all happen all so smoothly and successfully.





Our Vice Patron, Rob Valentine MLC 's letter to our president:

The creative pursuits of members have been very inspiring, to say the least, and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting friends and acquaintances on each occasion I have variously been

able to attend or open exhibitions.

From my observation, the Society, with its many exhibitions along the way, have certainly added so much to the community of Hobart over the years and hopefully for many years yet to come! It is indeed a much-valued Tasmanian institution providing such a creative outlet and learning opportunity for so many - to the delight of the broader community of course !



EDITORS CORNER

Into another year of Gallery News arty reports stories articles and achievements. The deadline for the winter newsletter is the **last week in May** Send to: **www.artstas.com.au** or **csmeech@bigpond.com** email if you would prefer to change and receive a printed copy of the newsletter. *Susie*

Workshops

STILL LIFE with SEBASTIAN GALLOWAY



Sebastian Galloway will be delivering a 2-day workshop on

21 and 22 March

Sebastian will be showing oil and acrylic painters how to create beautiful still life paintings. 9.30-3.30 LFG

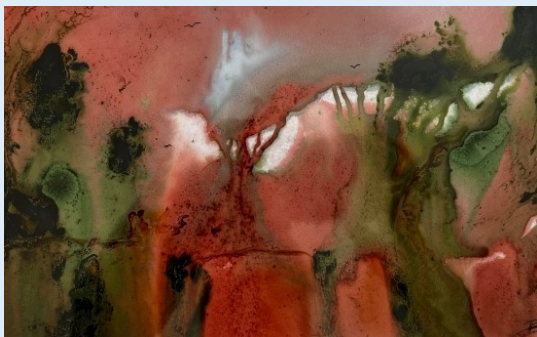
Members \$130.00

Non members \$150.00

register and pre-pay on the a AST website: www.artstas.com.au

'if you are not familiar with his work, go online to have look...'

<https://www.sebastiangalloway.com/>



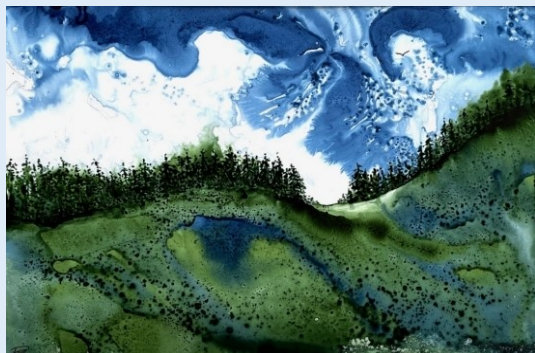
Stone Paper Painting with Denise Bassett

Friday 12th April 2024

10am - 1pm LFG
(non-members are welcome to register)

\$50 members,
\$55 non-members.
Please register online and pre-pay.

www.artstas.com.au



And in preparation for our members exhibition "TEXTURE" in July



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OPINION - MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR ART SOCIETY

It is such a satisfying experience to put yourself in charge of our terrific gallery for the day if you are able, just 5 quick hours. Getting to know a fellow artist, meeting new people coming through the door or past members revisiting all curious to see the artwork and discover what our unique Greek temple holds in its clutches every weekend.

Pop your favourite music on, if you choose take the opportunity to catch up on some of your art using one of the small tables (artist in action), a chance to talk over your work with a curious visitor or simply just sit and contemplate and have a closer look at the exhibition or perhaps borrow a library book.

New volunteers will be paired with someone experienced.

Its easy, and its enjoyable.

The committed committee happily work long hours organising and presenting each exhibition at its best with expert hanging and providing excellent guest speakers and refreshments for every opening. Promote your exhibition to friends and family - check the Art Society website and your Gallery Newsletter for times and dates, we would love to see you.

Efforts have many rewards and just one of them is the joy of participation.

‘In Sight’

A retrospective of works by

BETTY DEBNAM



My two great passions in my life have been cake decorating and art and it's amazing how the two overlapped for example when I made and iced a cake for Max Angus' hundredth birthday. Using sugar, I painted Max painting at his easel.

My art journey began about 40 years ago when I was able to achieve my ambition of attending Adult Education watercolour classes with Eve MacArthur. It was a plein air art group and I continue to love outdoor painting. Unfortunately, in the past 15 years, my eyesight has deteriorated, and now I have no central vision at all. The love of art has pushed me into pursuing whatever medium I can to continue in some form, and now I find charcoal, because of just the tonal values and the broader sketching is more suited to my problem. Unfortunately my love of buildings and streetscapes has now had to be put aside, as the eyes and hand will not coordinate well.

In the exhibition, you will see samples of work I have executed in the past until the present. I am a traditional artist and could never get my head around abstraction! I have been a member of the Art Society for over 30 years and was honoured with life membership a few years ago and have been grateful for the opportunities the society has offered Members, including the opportunity of holding this retrospective exhibition during the month of April. I do hope you enjoy it.

**To be opened by Diane Casimaty on Wed 27th March at 6pm
runs every weekend until Sunday April 28th, 11am to 4pm
At the Lady Franklin Gallery**

Exhibition Notices

APRIL EXHIBITION



*The Art Society invites you to
a feature artists exhibition*

'In Sig ht'

A retrospective of works by
BETTY DEBNAM



30th March to 28th April

Lady Franklin Gallery

268 Lenah Valley Rd
weekends 11-4 www.artstas.com.au

MAY EXHIBITION



*The Art Society invites you to
A members exhibition*

Town & Country Portraits



4th May to 26th May

Lady Franklin Gallery

268 Lenah Valley Rd
weekends 11-4 www.artstas.com.au

JUNE EXHIBITION

The Art Society invites you to a feature artists exhibition

WORKSHOP TUTORS

June 1 to June 30th

Opening Fri 31st May 6pm

Lady Franklin Gallery



SPONSORS

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Thanks Phil for all your support for the Art Society over
so many years. Best wishes!

Picture it Framed 289 Main Rd, Glenorchy.
Jeremy 6272 7933 / 0413 532 822
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Andrew Peters from **JUST FRAMES** is offering a **10% discount** to members
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