



ALBURY - WODONGA
ARTISTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

PAINTBOX STUDIO/GALLERY
GATEWAY ISLAND, LINCOLN CAUSEWAY,
PO BOX 1170,
WODONGA, VICTORIA 3689

www.awartsoc.org
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APRIL, 2016

Dates for your Calendar!

Regular Groups		
Every Tuesday	Oils - 10am – 3pm Other members may also attend to paint with other media	Co-Ordinator: Kata Kupresak
Sat 2 nd April	Life Drawing: 1 – 3pm	Co-ordinators: Olga Juskiw and Gai Sutherland
Sat 9 th April	Acrylic: 10am – 3pm	Co-ordinator: Nancy Robinson
Sat 16 th April	Portraits: 1 – 3pm	Co-ordinator: Elsie Reitenbach
Meetings		
Wed 18 th May	Committee Meeting: 8.30am	Secretary: Therese Davis
Sunday 17 th April	General Meeting: 2.00pm	Secretary: Therese Davis
Workshops		
Sat 30 th – Sun 31 st July	Pastels Workshop with Catherine Hamilton	Co-ordinator: Kathy Bruce
MAMA Workshop Sat 6 th – Tues 9 th Aug	Oils Workshop with John Wilson At MAMA Workshop space	Peter Drummond in conjunction with MAMA staff
Sat 10 th – Sun 11 th Sept	Oils Workshop at AWAS with Christine Caferella-Pearce	Co-ordinator: Kata Kupresak
Other		
MAMA Exhibition 12 th May – 12 th June Thurs 12 th May	“Brush with Border Artists” Meet the Artists 5.30 – 6.30pm	Check MAMA Website for more details and to make a booking

For information on how to contact Committee members and Co-ordinators, refer to the list at the end of this newsletter.

As daylight saving finishes on Saturday 2nd April the Studio will close at 3.00.p.m. (unless you wish to stay longer.)

Sadly we have decided there will not be any further Pastels and Drawing Group sessions on the last Saturday of the month due to lack of numbers. It was worth a try!

So we now have the last Saturday of the month available if any member wishes to organise a group. It is great to experience a regular day with other members who use the same, or similar, medium. If any member has a suggestion please contact a member of the committee.

A Word from our President

Congratulations to all of those who have contributed to the Life Drawing Workshop Exhibition showing in the studio until early April. The works are a real showcase for the earlier workshop, and are modern and vibrant. Please make sure that you come in and have a look.

During March we also saw artist Kelli McGregor from Maryborough in Queensland present a two day acrylic workshop, with the subjects being landscape and still life. I have been told by coordinator Nancy Robinson that the workshop was a success, and challenged the artists in many ways. Thanks Nancy for organising this. Just a reminder that there are still three more workshops planned for this year – watercolour, pastels and oils, so please keep your eyes open for details about these in our newsletters.

Last week I enjoyed four days in Canberra, where I visited amongst other things the Tom Roberts exhibition. This was a fantastic exhibition by a prolific painter, presenting works including landscapes, cityscapes, figurative and portrait works. The exhibition was large, and when I visited very busy, but well worth visiting the Capital for. While I was in Canberra I also enjoyed a visit to the National Library to see the current exhibition of Chinese history titled the “Celestial Empire 1644 to 1911”, but it was the Treasures Gallery there that took my attention, where there was an absolutely stunning exhibition titled “Hardy Wilson’s Peking”, which consisted of meticulous pencil drawings by Australian architect Hardy Wilson who visited Beijing for four months in 1921. Another exhibition at the National Archives caught my eye “Magnified – 12 years of the Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize” – a retrospective exhibition of the last 12 years of winners of this prize. Well worth seeing if you are planning a trip to Canberra soon. Of course the NGA and the Portrait Gallery are always worth visiting.

I trust that your MAMA paintings are nearing completion, as we only have a matter of a couple of weeks now before they are due at the studio for curation on 12 April. In addition, don’t forget that we have two new exhibitions happening in April – Faces and Figures at the Plant Farm, and Dynamic Acrylics at the studio.

So, keep painting and enjoy....

Barb Strand

Next General Meeting

This will be held on Sunday, 17th April at 2.00 pm. Come a bit early and have lunch with colleagues.

New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to our new members – Doug Hoth and Tim Sanders. Also welcome back to Fiona Matthew, who has returned to live in Albury.

May you enjoy your painting experiences at the Society and also enjoy the friendships and social events we have.

Spotlight On.....

Spotlight on Barb Strand



It's a sad thing to say, but most of my life has been a life without art – I wasn't interested in it, I didn't draw or paint, and I didn't know I could. I spent my working life in the world of science, maths, IT and business – I travelled the world with my work, and now I realise how much I really missed – all those artworks I could have seen and didn't!!!

It was only after I retired about five years ago that I first thought to have a go at painting. I knew my mother was artistic, as a silversmith, and my daughter as an architect, so I thought that maybe it was worth a go as there might be some genes there somewhere....

I decided that I would have a go at teaching myself. My background in IT certainly helped, and on the internet I found thousands of YouTube clips aimed at every level of artist, from beginner to expert, and in every media. Some were good, some not. There are also lots of articles there to read and digest, and I spent hours at the screen, soaking up the information. I was totally captivated from the start. I bought magazines by the bucket load, from the op shop, and from the newsagent. I visited the libraries in both Wodonga and Albury, and found some great books to help me on my way, reading their every word from start to finish. I began to order books from the internet, and fishpond.com.au was a pretty good source. I fell in love with works from artists like Soraya French and Mike Bernard, contemporary artists working in acrylics. I bought videos from Pulsar Productions, and Artists Network TV, which I watched over and over, taking in how other artists work.

I began with acrylics because I had read somewhere that acrylics are the easiest. I started by copying photographs, calendars, and other people's work – a great way to learn technique, develop style, and just draw images. I read about the colour wheel, about colour mixing, and watched videos on preparing colour, and generally how to mix paint colours. At first I experimented with all the colours under the sun – every manufacturer had their own colour set, and I tried them all. I started at TAFE, and it was there I really began to understand more about art – I loved Art History, and it was great to learn some elementary stuff about colour, composition, and how to look at other people's artworks and understand what made each artwork what it was – much more than just the sum of its parts. Attending art galleries, museums, and looking at works on the internet all helped to develop a better sense of how to put together a piece of art.



Figure 2 One of my first acrylic paintings.



Figure 1 Digital abstract "Sydney"

Because of my background in IT, I felt comfortable working digitally, and I began to use my Kindle tablet (similar to an iPad) to practice drawing on a daily basis, and I studied a little Photoshop at TAFE. Some people use a sketchbook, I use my Kindle. I found a great app to use – Sketchbook Pro – and have been working on my

digital “paintings” for some time now, publishing my digital paintings in a calendar each year.

I have heard over and over that you have to put in the brush miles, and this is what I am doing now. I am totally addicted! My aim is to continue to learn with every painting I do – some new technique, some small change in style, and some experimentation with colour palette. I am still searching for “my style” and I suspect that it will gradually develop. I know that I like painting landscapes, in a contemporary way, but at the moment they still have to look like landscapes.



Figure 3 A recent work "Rich Rewards"

I have just started exhibiting my works seriously, and it has been a great surprise and pleasure to see how other people look at my work, and this has been a great incentive to keep me painting. It's not about the money, it's about the enjoyment that I get from what I do – putting my heart and soul out there for all to see, and hopefully enjoy. (The money also helps!)

These days I am enjoying the opportunity of “working” with other artists, and arts organisations. Being President of AWAS is indeed a privilege, and I hope that during my time in office, AWAS thrives and develops. The committee are certainly working hard at making this happen. My personal aim at the moment is to work with others to develop the opportunities for our regional artists, and I am aware that there are some great opportunities coming our way over the next couple of years.

Some Internet Sites that you may find interesting:

- My site www.barbstrand.com
- Artists Network TV (great videos and online tutorials) www.artistsnetwork.tv (I pay an annual fee of \$200 and can watch any video in their 600 + video collection).
- Colour in Your Life (TV episodes on the internet) www.colourinyourlife.com.au
- Pulsar Productions (to purchase art DVDs) www.pulsarproductions.com.au
- fishpond.com.au (Art Books and DVD's) www.fishpond.com.au/Books/Arts_Photography/Art
- Videoclip of Jose Salvaggio plein air painting in oils on YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pA2UHvyLNE

Artists and Illustrators Magazine site www.artistsandillustrators.co.uk (heaps of good things)

Editor's Note - Looking for a new or used book? www.fetchbook.info is a great search engine for many, many booksellers, including Amazon, The Book Depository and Abebooks to name a few.

Paintbox Studio

Our studio is a shared facility. We now have a hundred members entitled to come and use the space. Please keep all areas clean and tidy - in particular wipe up any spills (tables, easels, floor etc) and make the sure the sinks are clean. Cleaning products are provided. Put as much rubbish as possible in the bins outside, this will reduce the number of times someone has to take the studio rubbish home and put it in their own bin. Take leftover food home with you.

Recently the storeroom was cleaned up and two garbage bags of “stuff” were removed – our studio is not a dumping ground.

All we ask is simple consideration for all members who enjoy the use of our great facilities.

MAMA Exhibition “Brush with Border Artists”

At last our exhibition is a “soon to happen” event. The exhibition will be on show from 12th May to 12th June. There will not be an official opening but the first night is Thursday 12th May and a “Meet the Artists” evening will be held from 5.30 – 6.30pm. So this will be our big launch and obviously AWAS members are asked to attend. Keep a check on the MAMA website for particulars and to make a booking. So make sure you save this date in your calendar.

All works for the exhibition are to be at the Paintbox Studio on, or before, Monday the 11th April. Bianca Acimovic, MAMA’s curator will view the paintings at the Studio on Tuesday 12th and she will make her selection then. Selected works will then be transported to MAMA.

- Icons are not to be matted. When you bring these to the studio they are to be placed in the pockets of an A3 folder designated for the icons.
- All other works to be framed must have a mat. It is suggested they be wrapped in cellophane so they can be viewed and handled easily. Pastel works should have a spacer between the work and the mat.
- Works on canvas are to be ready for hanging with D rings and plastic coated wire or cord. Make sure the wire or cord is strong enough for the weight of your painting - heavy work should have double wire or cord. Cords should be very securely tied – do not have the knot in the centre of the cord but have it close to the D rings.
- All works (canvas or to be framed) are to be wrapped adequately for handling and transportation. Fragile works should be strengthened by placing between strong cardboard, Corflute, or similar.
- Label your wrapping clearly with your name and the title of the work.

All works (including icons) are to have a label on the back which includes the following information:

Artist’s Name:

Title of Work:

Year work was painted:

Medium used:

Price:

The price you put on your work is an individual decision.

Artist’s Profile: Artists are to prepare a paragraph explaining their work – i.e. the reason the subject of your work is of significance to you personally. This should be in the package with your painting.

When you take your MAMA work to the Studio you are to fill in the registration form. These are in a display book on the black table in the middle room.

AWAS Groups - News and Reports

LIFE DRAWING

Life Drawing Special Sessions – From Light to Dark

Draw and paint the Human Form within an environment in which strong light interplays with contrasting darkness. Be prepared to experiment with various media to capture the play of light and dark on the human figure.

When: Mondays – 18th and 25th April.

Time: 7 – 9pm

Models: a different model each night.

Cost: members -\$10; non-members \$15. Payment on the night for each session.

Note: A head torch can be very handy if you have one or can borrow.

Olga Juskiw - Life Drawing Co-ordinator

ACRYLICS GROUP

The next Acrylic group will meet on Saturday 9th April at 10am in the Studio.

The second exercise will be on calligraphic lines and abstracted forms executed in a complementary colour scheme. The title of the exercise is **Rhythmic Landscapes**.

Please bring along a photo/picture that you wish to use as your inspiration.

Bring along your paints, brushes including a large one for painting the background and any other mediums/gels to use.

Remember, we are painting in an abstract style that may or may not be recognisable with regard to your photo. See you on the 9th for another fun day of painting.

Christina and Nancy.

PORTRAITS GROUP

The last two portrait sessions have been very interesting and a challenge as our models have been men from the African Circus which has been at the Gateway. Here are a couple of photos. It is really worthwhile attending all, or any, of these Saturday groups to share and learn with others in a spirit of co-operation and a friendly atmosphere – so don't feel intimidated, come along and join in the fun.



Exhibition Notes

Please drop off and collect your paintings at the designated times.

All works should have professional hanging D rings and strong plastic coated wire or cord. Wire wrapped around needs to be fastened so there are no protruding ends (recently the person hanging a work cut her finger on the ends of wire).

Works will only be hung if the hanging gear is of a professional standard

All works to be included in exhibitions at the Studio and the Plant Farm are to be registered on the forms provided in the display books on the black table at the Studio. If you take work directly to the Plant Farm the registration form will be available there.

Don't forget to attach a sealed envelope, with \$2.00 in it, to the back of your painting. Write your name on the envelope. This money helps to offset the cost of brochures, posters and publicity.

Studio – paintings are to be at the studio (on the black table, middle room) from the Friday to the Sunday before the hanging date. Please collect any unsold paintings promptly when an exhibition finishes – we do not have storage space at the studio.

Plant Farm –Bring your paintings to the Plant Farm at 2 o'clock and take down your work from the previous exhibition (if applicable). This will then give the hanging team a clear go to hang the new exhibits Please arrange for your painting to be delivered and picked up from the Plant Farm if you cannot do this yourself (the kind member who has acted as a courier now has a smaller car.)

Studio Exhibition

Dynamic Acrylics – 5th April – 1st May Works are to be at the Studio on, or before, Sunday 3rd April.

Plant Farm Exhibition

Faces and Figures – 5th April to 7th June. Don't forget only two paintings per member.

Workshops

2016 is proving to be a busy year for workshops. There is a total of five workshops, either run already or in the pipeline. Life Drawing was in January, Sumie in February, Acrylics in March. Each of these has been very successful. Coming up we have Pastels in July and Watercolour later in the year (probably October). Also Peter Drummond has organised an Oils workshop with John Wilson which will be held at MAMA.

A very big thank to the members who have organised these workshops, it is a very time consuming task but very much appreciated.

Acrylics Workshop Report

The Acrylic Workshop was held on 12th and 13th March. The tutor was Kelli McGregor from Maryborough, Queensland. This workshop was an opportunity to gain some really good practice and knowledge of acrylic painting.

The opportunity to do a landscape and then a still life enabled us to enjoy a range of skills. Kelli uses charcoal



sketching techniques prior to the first step of doing an underpainting.

We worked with a limited palette and this taught us about mixing our colours and it was really interesting how we each interpreted our colours.

Kelli worked "with us" she was a tutor who was able to break down the steps and shared with each one of us her skill. Kelli gave us each a very individual experience.



It was a wonderful weekend and we would highly recommend to any member of our Artists Society to take the opportunity to participate in workshops where you gain so much from members and tutors.

Anita Saleeba

Thank you to all who participated in this workshop.

Nancy Robinson

Acrylics Group Co-ordinator

Pastels - Action required ASAP.

"Innovative Pastels" is our winter workshop July 30th and 31st with Victorian Pastel artist Catherine Hamilton. The March Newsletter included notes about Catherine and photos of her work. Members were asked to contact Kathy Bruce by e-mail an expression of interest but with no financial commitment at this stage. Only a few people have responded to this and so we may have to extend invitations to artists outside AWAS. We need to have enough attendees as we had to cancel a workshop with Catherine last year. **Members are urged to contact Kathy ASAP to ensure a place before we open it to others.** A deposit of \$50.00 is required by the 16th May with the remaining \$100 due by 30th June.



You can view other examples of Catherine's work by accessing the Pastel Society of Victoria website and clicking the "members" option. www.vicpastel.com.au

Oils Workshop

An oil workshop will be held at the Studio on Sat. 10th and Sun. 11th September. The tutor will be Christine Cafarella-Pearce. Her website- <http://www.christinecafarella-pearceart.com> Information and Application form will follow in the next newsletter.

Kata Kupresak – Oils Co-ordinator

MAMA Art Prize – Applications Open

The MAMA Art Prize is a biennial acquisitive award for emerging artists from the Albury Wodonga and wider Murray region. It is dedicated to innovation and excellence across contemporary, traditional and new media genres.

Shortlisted works will be on display in the [MAMA Art Prize Exhibition](#). The winning works will be acquired for the MAMA Collection.

The inaugural MAMA Art Prize is valued at over \$15,000, shared between four awards:

1. [MAMA Art Prize Acquisitive Award](#) (\$3,000 cash plus \$7,000 catalogue and exhibition value)
2. [Susan Moorhead Memorial Acquisition Award](#) (\$2,000 cash)
3. [Jennifer Bowskill Acquisition Award for Photography](#) (\$1,500 cash)
4. [MAMA Indigenous Acquisition Award](#) (\$1,500 cash)

The prize reflects MAMA's commitment to increasing opportunities for our region's talented emerging artists to shine and to making their work more accessible to wider audiences.

Key Dates

Friday 27 May - Applications close at 4.00pm

Week of 13 June - Applications assessed by judging panel

Week of 20 June - Applicants notified of judging panel outcome

Check the MAMA website – Get Involved

Bianca Acimovic Curator

Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS)

Another year of wonderful lectures for 2016 for anyone interested in the many and varied aspects of the arts. Notes explaining about ADFAS and brochures for this year's program are available on the small noticeboard at the studio – nine lectures this year. The lectures are held at the Hothouse Theatre on a Friday evening – drinks and nibbles at 6pm and the lecture from 6.30 – 7.30. Cost - \$25 per lecture; come along and pay at the door.

The next lecture is on this Friday evening – 1st April and should be of interest to many members. The topic is “Garden Voices – The History of Australian Landscape Gardening” and it will be presented by Anne Latreille, an Australian writer and journalist with a special interest in gardening. Anne will be addressing both contemporary and historic landscape designers, including Edna Walling and Ellis Stones. An autographed copy of Anne's book will be raffled and the proceeds of our raffles support the local Young Arts Program.

For further information check the website www.adfas.org.au. Albury Wodonga society is called Murray River. For any enquiries contact Judy Balfour Ph: 6043 3169 or djbalfour@bigpond.com
I can e-mail information about ADFAS and our 2016 program.

A note from the editor

Our “Spotlight On....” is of great interest to members. Many have expressed their delight in reading about, and getting to know, our colleagues in AWAS. A big thank you to those who have contributed so far and also the few I have in the pipeline. This month we thought it would be great if we all got to know our president a bit more (many must be surprised at Barb's completely different background).

A few members have kindly sent me their profile and photos. It is great to be a bit ahead with this so that I'm not chasing somebody at the end of the month when the Newsletter deadline is looming. I have received “Spotlight on...” from Kylie Waldon and Carol Gilbert; and Elsie Reitenbach's is a work in progress.

It has been decided to keep the Spotlight on... articles in a special folder as a record of our members.

Thanks – Judy

Art Quote

“An artist is not paid for his labour but for his vision.” James Whistler

Key Contacts

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Plant Farm Exhibitions	Heather Sparks	Phone: 02 6059 5306 Email: heathersparks@exemail.com.au

The Oils Workshop with John Wilson will be held 6th – 9th August at the MAMA workshop space. This has been organised by Peter Drummond and the MAMA staff. Contact Peter at 0428 572 661 or e-mail peter@drummondrealestate.com.au Also keep a check on the MAMA website.

Pastel Workshop Enrolment Form**Artist: Catherine Hamilton****Date: Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July 2016**

Cost: \$150 - members & students. \$180 – non-members. Deposit: \$50 by 16th May.
Remainder by 30th June 2016. Payment details are given below.

YOUR DETAILS:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____ PC _____

Payment Encl: Full payment \$ _____Payment Method Cash Cheque Direct Deposit Bank/Internet

Signed _____ Date: _____

**** Please advise Workshop Co-ordinator ASAP when you have made payment.**

Co-ordinator Name: Kathy Bruce

Email: kathleenbruce@bigpond.com Ph: 02 6025 5913**Mailing & Bank Account details for AWAS Payments**

Postal Address: The Treasurer, P.O. Box 1170, Wodonga Vic. 3689

Electronic banking:

Account name: Albury Wodonga Artist Society

BSB: 063 534

Account Number: 0090 3179

Please remember to put your NAME (Remitter) in as a reference on your payment and for the description – “Pastels” so that the Treasurer knows who has paid and what for.