



ALBURY-WODONGA
ARTISTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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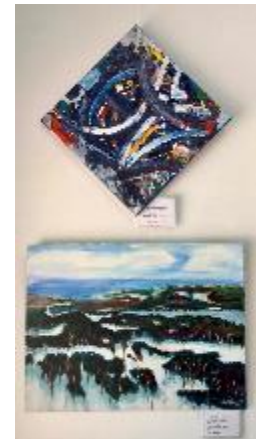
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APRIL 2020

“COLOUR, FORM AND SHAPE”. AWAS MEMBERS EXHIBITION 2020 5-16th March 2020

Such good timing! We managed to put together such a great exhibition in March, just before we had to close our doors to the public and hibernate! The opening was a pleasant get-together for members and friends. Little did we realise that soon such a social occasion would not be possible. Thanks to all involved, organisers and exhibiting artists. Below are some photos Donna Johnstone took at the time, as well as some of the artworks I took later. Due to reflections in the glass frames, some artworks are not featured in this newsletter, but may be glimpsed in the background.



UPSTREAM 2020 Arts + Culture Festival

Our Members' Exhibition was planned to coincide with the March long weekend in Victoria, and this year, the first across-the-border Arts Festival. Lots of Art events were happening in varied venues in Albury/ Wodonga.

Even though the Festival's opening event on Friday evening happened at the same time as our art opening, we had a good crowd at our studio. In the days after, our exhibition was open. Thanks to those who manned the door of our exhibition during the week of the festival.

The Monday holiday was fairly quiet at the Gateway, especially in the afternoon. The crowds were elsewhere, having been well catered for the evening



before at the Gateway by the Acrobat performances and Hothouse theatre.



AWAS Studio/Gallery: Closing down all activities at the studio.

- Due to the restrictions caused by the Corona virus, the doors to our studio will now remain closed until the crisis is over. **All gatherings of members are cancelled.** Our membership is predominantly in the “more mature” age group and it is in the best interests of everyone’s health to avoid opportunities for the virus to spread.
- The studio is closed to members for individual painting.
- The kitchen is not to be used for any food preparation or storage, as cleaning needs to be vigilant.
- Members with a key can access the studio to pick up artwork and equipment, but not to stay for any length of time. Surfaces used such as doorhandles, ladder, tables and chairs touched need to be disinfected before leaving.
- Regular monthly Saturday sessions have been cancelled until further notice: There will be no Life Drawing or Portrait sessions for possibly 6 months or more.
- The next scheduled General Meeting will not be held. The committee will be communicating by email, so if you have any concerns, art news or ideas to share with members, email or ring one of the committee members.
- Plans for Special tutored workshop weekends have been cancelled, but we look forward to re-scheduling these when the virus pandemic is over.

AWAS EXHIBITIONS AT THE PLANT FARM CAFE

The current Wodonga Plant Farm Café Exhibition will remain. There will be no changeover of works in April. Current artwork will remain at the Plant Farm and there will be no installation of abstracts until further notice. (However, people may collect their artwork within the next couple of days if they wish to do so). The café serves only takeaway at this time.

KEEP PAINTING!

After finishing our artworks for the AWAS members exhibition and our "Famous Fakes" artwork, some of us are contemplating our next project! Perhaps you can start a sketchbook project- a drawing a day: the C-19 project? Some ideas to get you started around your house:

SHADOWS CREEPY CRAWLIES UNUSUAL VIEWPOINTS (eg. What the ant sees)
CLOUDS WASHING ON THE LINE CLINGING VINES BIG AND LITTLE
WINDOW TOOLS TABLE SETTING KEEPSAKE FABRIC PATTERN

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MEMBERS

There are a small number of long-time AWAS members who do not have email and receive their AWAS newsletters by post. They do not usually come in to the studio very often, and can often feel rather isolated and out-of-touch with AWAS activities. Especially now in home isolation these people may need support. Consider giving them a cheery phone call.



UPDATE: FAMOUS FAKES AUCTION (Organised by MVSRG)

Painting Labels (2)

Name of Work
Artist (Deceased)
Date Painted
Size
Medium
Your name & date painted

Name of Work
Artist (Deceased)
Date Painted
Size
Medium
Your name & date painted

The Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group have postponed the Famous Fakes auction, but by now all artworks to be auctioned should be completed. As the virus crisis intensified, all collection of artworks was suspended. If you still have your artwork, hold on to it until we have more news about the new date. Here is a reminder of requirements:

- You cannot copy works of artists deceased after 1978 as this is contravening copy right laws.
- Sizes not to exceed 76.2 cm X 91.4cm (30" X 36") This does not include framing.
- The artist can sign their own name on the front of the work or,
- on the back name the artist then "Copied by ---- " (your name) and date of copy.
- Please attach 2 forms per art work, one at the front/one on the back on the wrapping.

- All paintings to be wrapped securely. An artist can submit up to 2 works.

AWAS CONTINUING THROUGH C-19

Like most other Arts organisations now, we are looking at ways in which we can meet our ongoing expenses, as we will not be having any workshops, exhibitions and studio sessions for a while. We are approaching Wodonga Council for rent and rates assistance. I include here a letter the manager of Bright Art Gallery sent to their members, outlining ways they are approaching the situation. Steve is a former AWAS member, and some of our current AWAS members are also members of Bright Art Gallery.

Date: 27 March 2020 at 3:20:21 pm AEDT
Subject: News re Autumn Art Show

*Good afternoon members,
 I'm afraid to say that the inevitable has happened and the Gallery must close for the foreseeable future. I know that many of you were looking forward to our prestige annual event. I must acknowledge the hard work by dedicated gallery members who set up this year's show, only to be disappointed at the last minute. How long we must remain shut is anybody's guess.*

*However, the good news is that we HAVE been able to setup an **online** show, which will enable viewing (and purchase) of many of the art works! Helen and Annmarie have been working especially hard over the past few days to get this happening; and it all should be fully on our website within a few days. The trick is now to get the message out to the wider world-and that is where you can help greatly by informing friends and relatives about this development. You can actually log into www.brightartgallery.org.au right NOW to see the first few paintings there-it will give you an idea of what it's going to be like. The more 'hits' we get, the higher we go up the ladder in Google search!! And that helps us too!
 It is also a possibility that we can extend this year's show beyond the normal closing date-but that of course is a decision we cannot make now.*

Unfortunately it is still most likely that our normal sales will be well down on normal years, due to couple of obvious reasons which have plagued the community since the start of January. As a Gallery we need to meet ongoing running expenses. Here's one way you may be able to help. Instead of paying the \$5 door entry-which you can't do-why not buy some tickets in our raffle! This is for a pastel painting titled "Early Morning on Morse's Creek"

You can email the Gallery telling us how many tickets at \$2 each you would like, or phone myself or Pauline on 57501074. We will inform you of the ticket numbers allocated to you.



It will be a difficult year ahead-for all of us. Please take proper precautions, look after each other and hopefully we'll see things eventually return to normal

Best wishes, Steve McCall, Bright Art Gallery manager@brightartgallery.org.au

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Astrid Bruning's stunning painting which featured in our member's exhibition.
Yes, the frame was part of the painting!

Thank you to all the members whose paintings feature in this newsletter.
Unfortunately, I have not the artist nor the titles of each work on hand to label them correctly- the information is in the studio! Sales are welcome- just contact the Treasurer Tony Smit (details above).

