



ALBURY - WODONGA  
ARTISTS SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

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## MAY 2020

A bonus for artists! This “staying at home” we have been experiencing for over a month now has allowed us to pause, reflect, and let distractions from what is important to us to fade into the background. It has provided us with opportunities to turn our attention to our surroundings: *have you been inspired to pick up your sketchbook and paints?* Here in the May newsletter are some ideas to keep you going, so when we get back to together we can exhibit some fresh, new artworks!



As soon as we are allowed, we will be back to our regular sessions at the studio as well as some tutored workshops. The riverbank behind our studio is looking immaculate right now, with lots of walkers and cyclers on the paths exercising. I am looking forward to spending some time back there at our studio and the opportunity to gather with fellow artists once again.

## AWAS EXHIBITIONS AT THE PLANT FARM CAFE

Our current artworks at the Wodonga Plant Farm Café Exhibition will remain there until it becomes open to the public again. If you really need to collect your artwork before we hang our new exhibition you will need to contact the Plant Farm to arrange access. You will need to sign the list there to take your work away.

The June to August theme was planned to be “Still Life” and August to October the theme is “Dwelling Place”. We now have lots of time to get ready for the coming exhibitions. Better still, taking part in our “Drawing-a-day in-May challenge” (see next page) will give lots of inspiration for a suitable artwork for display at the café.

## A DRAWING A DAY IN MAY

The Challenge is on!

AWAS members continue being creative this coming month, even though we are still restricted mostly to our home studio.... we are taking on the "Drawing-a day-challenge." Any subject, any media, big or small.

Everyone is welcome to take part. The commitment to set aside some time each day to focus on this challenge will get the observational skills into gear, the creative ideas flowing and the confidence with your art materials as you continue practising what you enjoy!

### What to do:

- Make the decision to be part of the challenge.
- Tell another member, or register your participation by sending an email to me, the newsletter editor. (Not compulsory, but might help you keep your resolve!)
- Organise art materials. (Riot Art is open in Dean Street.)
- Set your own theme for the first week, the following weeks will probably flow from there.
- Time spent on drawing is up to you.
- Enjoy creating!
- *Keep all drawings, whatever the quality or state of completion, for developing ideas later. Life Drawing and Portrait people might base their drawings on earlier work.*

**IDEAS:** SHADOWS, CREEPY CRAWLIES, UNUSUAL VIEWPOINTS, CLOUDS,  
WASHING ON THE LINE, BIG AND LITTLE, WINDOW, TOOLS,  
TABLE SETTING, KEEPSAKE, FABRIC PATTERN, PLANTLIFE



*At the end of May we will decide on the next step. What will we do with these 31 drawings?*

*What will each person's selection process look like as we progress into June?*

Whatever happens, we will be putting on a final exhibition which will be based on the drawings from the challenge.

The June newsletter will feature photos of members and some of their drawings (in the process perhaps).

### A REMINDER: The AWAS Studio is closed, but will open hopefully soon!

There are no weekday group activities or Saturday Life Drawing, Portrait or Acrylic sessions.

No Member meetings are being held.

The AWAS studio is closed for members painting or informal gatherings.

The AWAS Committee continue to communicate by email and phone. Members can contact the Coordinators and Committee members by referring to the Contact list on the last page.

## AWAS UPDATE: FAMOUS FAKES AUCTION (Organised by MVSRG)



Congratulations if you can guess the famous artist 's work being copied in this photograph!

### **The Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group has postponed the Famous Fakes auction.**

As soon as news is in about collection of works and the new date for the Adamshurst exhibition, we will let you know.

Details for entry, labels etc in last newsletter.

Note: All paintings to be wrapped securely and labelled. An artist can submit up to 2 works.

## LOCAL ART NEWS

- Alburycity is redeveloping an area out near the airport. Longtime members will remember when AWAS was looking for new premises and Albury Council offered us the Waterworks residence. The next door Pumphouse building is now to be a new Arts Development facility. Suggestions have been made to use the renovated heritage building into a “maker space and artist workshop”. It seems highly suitable for sculpture-welding, ceramics etc. A survey is available to feed back ideas:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Albury\\_PumpHouse\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Albury_PumpHouse_Survey)

- MAMA is inviting exhibition proposals for 2021 for the Open Call Program. This is an opportunity for artists or artist groups to submit an exhibition proposal in our local Albury Art Museum. Applications close 5pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May [mama@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mama@alburycity.nsw.gov.au) for more information.
- Art Space Wodonga. Wodonga Council is seeking expressions of interest from “an experienced artist who lives, works and connects with the Albury-Wodonga community to develop an artwork(s) and/or design features for the new building.” (The Library Gallery Redevelopment) Expressions of interest closed on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>, but as the promotional email was sent only 4 days before, if interested, apply anyway. More info on the Wodonga council website.

## STATE GALLERIES ONLINE

**Art Gallery of NSW** have 30,000 artworks from their collections to [view online](#). The Gallery will remain accessible through social media channels. Find them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, sharing art stories of optimism and energy.

The National Gallery of Victoria can be accessed online through [ngv.vic.gov.au](http://ngv.vic.gov.au)

The Australian National Gallery in Canberra can be accessed through [nga.gov.au](http://nga.gov.au)

## OTHER INTERESTING ART INFORMATION

Check out the history of Synthetic brushes. Lots of good information here.

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/blog/2020/04/08/the-development-of-synthetic-brushes/>

Art tutorials:

Artist Sofie Dieu does expressive brushwork, a good extension from our workshop with Emi on Japanese brush and ink. Sofie has created an online learning platform *Learn Paint Grow*. It offers **free art and well-being activities** <https://www.learn-paint-grow.com>

Ken Done, the well-known Australian artist who does very colourful paintings of iconic Australia, has some free art lessons for kids:

<https://www.broadsheet.com.au/national/art-and-design/article/iconic-aussie-artist-ken-teaching-kids-about-art-free-online>

For an amazing Gallery tour (an Apple promotion) sent to me by ADFAS:

<http://www.HermitageMuseum5-hour-one-take-cinematic-journey-on-an-iphone>



Here is an abstract painting by AWAS member Tony Smit. Can you see any creatures in there? There are at least 9. You may need to enlarge to see them. (This is a test of your imagination!)

### AWAS CONTINUING THROUGH Covid-19

As we draw closer to the end of the financial year we will need to look closely at our situation, given we have no income from workshop or sales at this time. To help us meet our ongoing expenses, negotiations with the Wodonga Council have resulted in our rent being cancelled until July, and we hope to defer rates as well. Thanks to Tony and Donna for working on this.

### Key AWAS Contacts

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Social Distancing crimes!

Thanks Olga for this one, taken from Facebook.

Thanks to all members who have sent suggestions for our newsletter.