

Studio + Gallery
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NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2023

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Our Half Price Art Sale has been a huge success!! with 20 paintings sold so far!

Welcome to our Newsletter



Jan Toulis - President

Happy New Year to all of our members and their families. Let us hope that 2024 will be a peaceful, healthy and a happy year for everyone.

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with your families and friends and you are ready for a fabulous new year of creativity and fun.

To our newer members, I extend a warm welcome to our art society. I hope you will enjoy this new year with us. New members bring with them, new ideas and a variety of works which enrich the tapestry of our society and I look forward to seeing your work hanging in the gallery.

Last year, 2023, the art society experienced a mini renaissance. We began with a fresh new look. Thanks to Cath Dopper and her brilliant decorators, we now have a bright, inviting gallery in which to display our work. To further enhance our art works, we purchased more lights.

Another initiative was the introduction of "Loose Works" which are displayed on mobile stands that are easily moved around the gallery. These works are professionally presented and give members the opportunity to show a little more of their art without the expense of framing. They are great gifts and are perfect for sending interstate or overseas in the post.

We also purchased new stands for the small, \$45 paintings. Visually, these

stands are great. The paintings are beautifully displayed and easily moved around and there is storage underneath to house the extra stock.

Six new, sturdy table easels have been purchased, replacing some small, unstable easels.

Our exhibitions, Workshops, Demonstrations and Life Drawing have all been successful. Attendances and interest have increased to the point where we have had to purchase more chairs. The Friday Council group has operated at full capacity. The Website and social media have enhanced the CPAS' profile by promoting the art society's activities and the members' art and informing the public in the best professional manner.

This year we will have 8 exhibitions. Included in these eight are the Awards Exhibition and the annual Half Price Sale. We will also have our annual exhibition at Winston Hills Shopping Village. With the opening of the newly refurbished Town Hall, we are hoping that it will be available to us for the Awards Exhibition as it has in the past. We will keep you informed.

Our aim is to provide our members with the tools and inspiration to create, experiment and experience art in its many forms. I sincerely hope we succeed in this endeavour. With your participation, I look forward to a fabulous year.

Best wishes for a happy, a healthy and a successful 2024

GALLERY NEWS

ANGUS LOCKHART



2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR

The concluding event at The Hunter Street Gallery, aptly named "The Half Price Sale," marked a significant finale.

With the exception of the \$45 framed originals, all exhibited pieces were prominently advertised at half price or even less.

Out of the impressive display of 70 paintings, 20 were successfully sold, amounting to an approximate value of \$5000.

Additionally, various unframed works and our popular \$45 gift stable found eager buyers.

As we look forward to the New Year, our first exhibition, "Splashing Out With Colour," promises to set the tone for an exhilarating year ahead.

The gallery remains committed to fostering artistic pursuits, offering a diverse range of classes facilitated by highly qualified teachers.

These classes provide an excellent opportunity to uncover latent artistic talents.

Embark on the New Year by exploring your creativity through our extensive class offerings and consider becoming a member of our vibrant artistic community.

Wishing you all a joyous and safe New Year.

Vale - Trish Keating in Loving Memory

Sadly, Trish peacefully passed away on the morning of 31st December after a painful battle with pancreatic cancer. Her son, Adrian and her brother Christopher were by her side.

Trish became the CPAS Secretary in 2019 and continued until ill health caused her to retire from the position in 2022.

During these two years, Trish guided the art society through the difficult time of the COVID outbreak, ensuring that we followed the government health regulations and adhered to the guidelines.

For Trish the safety and health of each member was paramount and she was constantly in touch with members, ensuring they were safe and well. Trish dealt with many challenges over this period, some quite political and extremely irrational but she handled them all with good grace and diplomacy. Such was

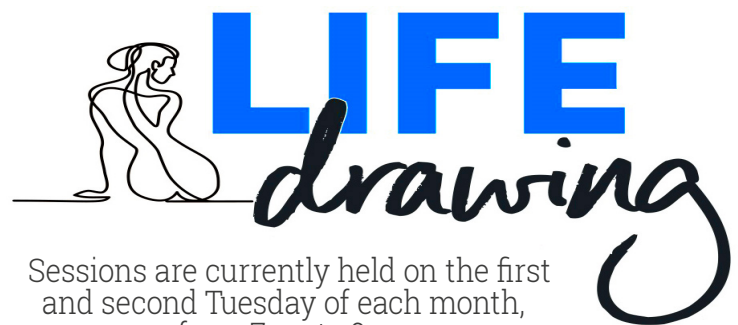


her nature. Even when she was so ill and in constant pain, she was always concerned about the health and wellbeing of those around her.

Our thoughts and condolences go to her son Adrian and his wife Kerry, and to her grandchildren children, Chloe and Noah and to her brother Christopher.

Jan Toulis

The date for Trish's funeral service is yet to be announced



Sessions are currently held on the first and second Tuesday of each month, from 7pm to 9pm.

Our first class this year is on Tue Jan 9, from 7pm to 9pm

Numbers are limited and bookings are essential.

Session fee is \$20

For any enquiries & bookings please email:
brucefh@hotmail.com or text
Bruce on 0433 163 230.

More details on our website:
parra-artsociety.com/lifedrawing

All levels of ability are welcome.

Working in our group is a great way to see other artists in action, and we learn from each other.



Dates for your calendar - don't miss these demonstrations!



DEMONSTRATION BY JOHN PERKINS

DATE: SAT 17TH FEB
TOPIC: EARLY EVENING LACHLAN RIVER
TIME: 1.30PM TO 3.30PM
MEDIUM: OILS



DEMONSTRATION BY GREG HANSELL

DATE: SAT 16TH MARCH
TOPIC: FLOWERS
TIME: 1.30PM TO 3.30PM
MEDIUM: PASTEL



DEMONSTRATION BY LINDA BROWN

DATE: SAT 20 APRIL
TOPIC: TREESCAPE
TIME: 1.30PM TO 3.30PM
MEDIUM: WATERCOLOUR & GRANULATION

Good Gift Markets Centenary Square, Parramatta

Thank you to Carmel, Vicky, Caroline, and Scottie for their exceptional efforts at the Good Gift Markets on Dec 7th 2023.

Braving the heat on a day where the sun seemed relentless, these individuals took on the responsibility of showcasing a variety of small paintings and loose works. Their aim was not just to sell art but to represent as many members of our art society as possible. Their thoughtful curation spoke volumes about the richness and diversity of our Art Society.

Beyond the sales, they also distributed brochures highlighting not just the artworks but also the activities and ethos that define our society. In doing so, they became ambassadors, raising awareness about the existence and vitality of our art society.

Their commitment to our art society is a shining example, reminding us all that, together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact in the world of art and beyond.



Volunteer Call Out: Your Help Matters!

Once again, we find ourselves in need of your valuable assistance to keep our gallery running smoothly. We're on the lookout for volunteers who can spare some time to support Angus in various tasks such as gallery duty, cleaning the floor, tending to the kitchen area, or giving a table or two a good scrub.

Every contribution, no matter how big or small, will be received with gratitude. Your efforts play a crucial role in maintaining the vibrant and welcoming atmosphere of our gallery.

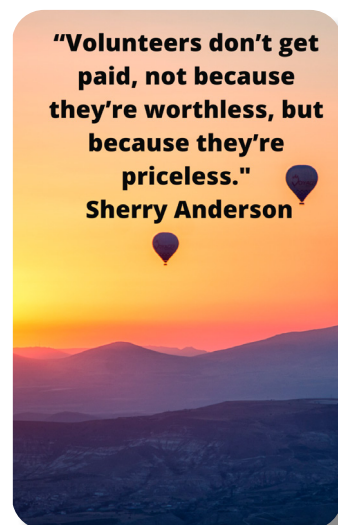
Please take a moment to consider how you can lend a helping hand, and if you're able to contribute in any way, we would be immensely grateful. Your support makes a significant impact, ensuring the continued success of our artistic community.

Kindly get in touch with Jan Toulis at cpas@parramattaartsociety.org and let us know how you can assist.

Together, we can keep our gallery thriving and continue to foster a space that celebrates art and creativity.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support!

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
Sherry Anderson



Over 55's Art Group, supported by Parramatta City Council

Commentary by Carmel Mackie (Coordinator)

Tutors: Carmel Mackie & Jan Toulis

What a fabulous second year it has been! The talent of the participants in this class continue to surprise us!! Every new project I choose, I think maybe it's too difficult but these ladies, with brave Paul...take it on and I love that!!!! Some participants have attended only 1 or 2 terms, others 4-7 terms and most have not painted since their school days.

**Congratulations to you all on each week bringing to class that positive attitude.
A fabulous cohesive group of people!**



Amanda – Acrylic, Portrait of Dolly, by Kees Van Dongen.
Tutor: Carmel Mackie.



Donna & Paul – Watercolour, Yacht Resting in Hobart Harbour.
Tutor: Carmel Mackie.



Picasso Project: Catherine - Picasso Inspired design using Acrylic.
Tutor: Carmel Mackie.



Sui Lin – Pastel, Sunset.
Tutor: Jan Toulis.



Group – Pastel, Seascape.
Tutor: Jan Toulis.

Victoria – Acrylic, Lily

Our over 55's art class & our wonderful teachers have made such a difference to my life, my health and sense of community. I retired from the workforce just before COVID and then was thrown into isolation, it was a terrible time in so many respects. I especially found it difficult to reestablish meaningful connection with people. I then found this art class and my tribe!

It is hard to decide what my favourite medium is and I'm surprised each time we are challenged with a new project that I think I won't like and it ends up being a favourite eg: Picasso, water colour boats, pastel landscape etc.

Victoria Carroll



A Palette of Artistic Journey, Awards, and Reflections

An Interview with Colina Grant

Join us for an insightful interview with Colina Grant, where she delves into her artistic journey, guided by interviewer Vicky Anne Gatt. From her early days at the National Art School to teaching and experimentation with pastels, Colina shares pivotal moments, reflections on awards, and the impact of Parramatta Art Society on her career. Don't miss this captivating glimpse into the life of an accomplished artist.

What were your early artistic influences?

Encouraged by parents and most teachers I won a scholarship to admit me into the National Art School and at the same time also found a position in a City Commercial Art Studio, where I worked during the semester breaks. After a year of doing this, my boss suggested that I forego my scholarship and come to work full time and attend college in the evenings. This wasn't taxing at all.... doing what I love (and getting paid for it!) and continuing to be taught my chosen subjects by Australia's best art teachers just up the hill in Darlinghurst from where I worked through the day! I'm so indebted to those teachers.....some of their words stay with me to this day. I think the BIG thing I learnt doing commercial work was to be quick, as most jobs that came in would be wanted yesterday!

How did you balance your art with Family Life?

As marriage and family came along, I left the studio but continued doing free-lance and resumed my studies in the evenings once the babies were tucked in. The College was within walking distance of home.....once again.... perfect! I consider this period as my most creative and owe inspiration to my teacher at the time.

Do you have a favourite medium, and how did you discover it?

I began entering competitions and was encouraged by success. My husband bought me a small pack of pastels and I began experimenting with them, using them, initially as a drawing

medium, then gradually 'painting' with them. There was little or no books and certainly no teachers, so it was trial and error, but I discovered pastel lends itself very well to experimentation. Entering competitions at that time there were no sections accommodating the medium which was frustrating. But finally, societies and groups discovered the many beautiful ways pastel could be rendered.

Have you ever taught art or mentored others?

Yes, and it was always pastel that I would be requested to demonstrate or teach and it wasn't long before groups were inviting me to teach from as far north as Cairns, south to Melbourne. west to Dubbo and east to New Zealand. I was teaching for the Parramatta College (27 years) and running a sketch club for the same length of time. I can't impress the importance of this aspect to freeing up the hand and increasing observation.....I was doing it from the age of 15 and owe much to it, I'm sure. I was also conducting private classes for children and adults at home. Not sure how I fitted in workshops 'away' sometimes for a week at a time but mostly just a weekend, But I did, and kept a diary of it all!

How long have you been a member of The City of Parramatta Art Society?

I joined the Art Society in 1970 after moving back into the Parramatta district once again, with the intent to learn from my elders and wasn't disappointed! Recently, when the society was



turning 70, I suggested a book should be written and got voted for the job! Being able to read through the boxes of archives coincided with covid restrictions and I had great pleasure discovering those early years before I joined and re-living the others.

Tell us about the awards and recognition you have received:

The art societys association with the Combined Art Societies of Sydney allowed me to be presented with "Artist of the Year" 10 times and the Pastel Society of Australia also awarded me "Master Pastellist" and the Royal Art Society of NSW made me a "Fellow".

All these awards cannot take precedence over the camaraderie of friendship formed from these travels over the years.

It's been a privilege and I'm most grateful!

To view some of Colina's amazing artworks visit her website: colinagrants.net.au



Workshop Report

Kristine Ballard - Fragmented Florals

Commentary by Vicky Anne Gatt

On 19/11/23, we experienced a burst of creativity at the “Fragmented Florals” workshop led by the talented artist, Kristine Ballard.

The workshop aimed to boost our creative confidence and illuminate the vibrancy within each participant, providing valuable insights into making still life paintings more dramatic.

Theme and Approach: The focal point of the day was Spring blooms, and under Kristine’s guidance, participants engaged in expressive acrylic painting. Kristine not only shared her expertise but also facilitated an environment where attendees could freely explore their artistic abilities.

Colorplay Exercises: To warm up, participants delved into colorplay exercises, a delightful prelude to the main activity. These exercises not only ignited our palettes but also set the tone for a day filled with vibrant and lively artwork.



Composition Tips: Kristine seamlessly integrated fun tips on constructing well-balanced compositions while maintaining energy in our work. Her guidance empowered us to approach our still life paintings with newfound dynamism and creativity.

Boosting Creative Potential: One of the highlights of Kristine’s workshop was her ability to cater to a diverse class of participants with varying skill levels. Regardless of individual proficiency, Kristine’s instruction enabled each attendee to stretch their creative potential. Her emphasis on easy and enjoyable techniques promised amazing results, making the workshop accessible to everyone.



Acrylics and Personal Expression: Using acrylics, participants discovered the fascinating emergence of their unique personalities with every brush stroke. Kristine’s approach encouraged individual expression, and it was inspiring to witness how each artist infused their distinct flair into their fragmented floral compositions.



Conclusion: In conclusion, Kristine Ballard’s “Fragmented Florals” workshop was a resounding success, leaving participants with enhanced creative confidence and a newfound appreciation for dramatic still life painting. Kristine’s ability to nurture diverse talents within the class and her infectious enthusiasm for color and expression made this workshop a memorable and enriching experience for all attendees.

Artists left the workshop not only with beautiful floral creations but also with a sense of accomplishment, ready to continue exploring their artistic journeys with renewed passion and energy.



We express our gratitude to **Kristine Ballard** for sharing her expertise and inspiring us to unleash the brightness within our creative selves. The workshop was a true celebration of art, expression, and the blooming potential within each participant.

Stay tuned for more exciting events, workshops and demonstrations from our Art Society. parra-artsociety.com/workshops



Demonstration Report

Ruhullah Naqshbandi - Portrait in Oils

Commentary by Vicky Anne Gatt

Ruhullah conducted a captivating demonstration of portrait painting in oils, revealing his skillful technique and thoughtful color palette choices.

At the outset, he introduced his preferred colors, including Ultramarine, Cobalt, Ceruleum blue for blues, Alizarin and Cadmium red for reds, a light green for greens, and Titanium white.

The demonstration commenced with Ruhullah applying a grey mixture broadly across the canvas using a large brush, which he then smoothed and softened with a paper towel. Carefully observing the model, he delicately outlined the head using a small brush.



Progressing to the face, Ruhullah artfully incorporated dark warm colors, consistently refining the features while keeping his chosen colors close together at the centre of his palette.

Moving on to the shoulders and bodice, Ruhullah employed a

palette knife to introduce a light grey, artfully blended to maintain emphasis on the facial details.

To enhance unity, he integrated some of the portrait's colors into the grey background.

The audience remained captivated throughout the demonstration, witnessing Ruhullah's adept development of the portrait.

A job well done, leaving the spectators enthralled by his artistic prowess.



More photos of this demonstration and others, can be found on our website: parra-artsociety.com/demonstrations



A Big Thank You to Our Dedicated Sponsors!

THE ART SCENE

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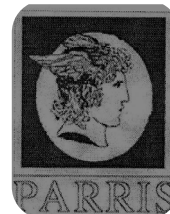
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CITY OF
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Your Art Showcased on Our Website: A Platform for Your Talent

Dear Valued Members

We are excited to share a wonderful opportunity that could bring your artistic creations into the spotlight and potentially lead to sales.

Did you know that your exhibited paintings are now prominently featured on our website?

Visit:

www.parra-artsociety.com/exhibitions & www.parra-artsociety.com

to see your work beautifully displayed!

Each featured artwork now includes essential details like the sale price, dimensions, medium, title, and the artist's name.

To ensure accurate representation, please remember to include the dimensions of your paintings on your entry form.

Also, before framing your artwork under glass, take a high-quality photograph of it.

Send this photo to Vicky at cpas@parramattaartsociety.org.

This step is crucial as glass can often cause reflections that affect the visibility of the image.

Annual Art Awards: Eligibility Reminder

A friendly reminder about the conditions of entry for the 2024 Art Awards. To be eligible, members must participate in at least three exhibitions this year. Take note of the guidelines and start planning your artistic contributions to make this year's awards truly exceptional. parra-artsociety.com/artawards.pdf

Unlock Your Artistic Potential with Our Art Classes!

Looking to hone your skills or explore a new medium?

Visit parra-artsociety.com/classes to discover our range of available classes.

For enrollment, kindly contact individual teachers directly. Embark on your creative journey today!

Sketch Club - every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm

Members only are invited join our weekly Sketch Club sessions every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm at the gallery, where you can unleash your creativity in a supportive and friendly atmosphere.

Whether you're an experienced artist or just starting out, bring your materials and enjoy a space filled with inspiration, camaraderie, and refreshments.

All skill levels are welcome to explore their artistic talents and connect with fellow art enthusiasts.

There's absolutely no charge for our members to attend, making it a perfect opportunity to explore your artistic talents.



USEFUL LINKS



Click on the following links or go to our website for more details:

CPAS Website

parra-artsociety.com

Conditions of entry

parra-artsociety.com/conditionsofentry

Notice re art awards

parra-artsociety.com/artawards.pdf

Classes available

parra-artsociety.com/classes

Calendar of events

parra-artsociety.com/calendar

Blog

parra-artsociety.com/blog

