

Studio + Gallery
Open 10AM - 3PM Tues-Sat
or by appointment
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NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUG 2023

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Acrylic painting by Desiree Martin - Our Demonstration Artist for the month of July

Welcome to our Newsletter



This is the first newsletter since the AGM in July. Most of the committee members from the previous year accepted nomination for their existing positions and were all re-elected non opposed.

Brian Richardson, who has been our Public Officer for a number of years, has been ill and needs time to recuperate so he did not seek re-election. His position as Public Officer has been filled by John Hallam.

New faces with new ideas are an asset to any group and I'd like to welcome John to the committee and thank the old committee members for once again volunteering to stand for another year.

The Awards exhibition is next on the agenda. As we still do not have access to the Town Hall and due to the space limitations of the gallery, this has to be a "members only" competition. Regardless, the prize money is very generous and our regular contributing members will be the beneficiaries.

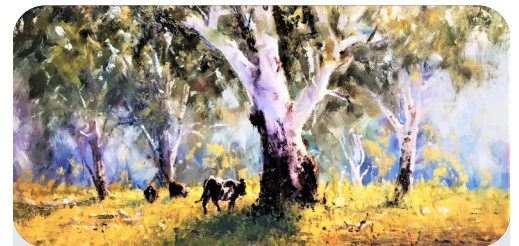
The prize money for the Awards Exhibition is garnered from the entry fees you pay to hang your work in the gallery on a regular basis. So, it is for this reason only, that we are only accepting entries from those members who have regularly shown their work during the year. In the past, prizes have been won by artists who have joined the society at the last minute to take advantage of the prize money on offer, walked away with

a prize and have never been seen again.

Sadly, those people who have recently become CPAS members, will not be eligible for this year's Awards Exhibition but we encourage them to exhibit their work in our general exhibitions and enter the Awards Exhibition next year.

Good luck to everyone

Jan Toulis - President



Don't miss this upcoming demonstration:

**Tuesday evening 19th Sept
7.00pm - 9.00pm**

Bob Gurney will be demonstrating painting a landscape in water soluble oils

More details: www.parra-artsociety.com/demonstrations



GALLERY NEWS

ANGUS LOCKHART



Elevating the Gallery Experience: Masters Past and Present Exhibition

Our current exhibition, "Masters Past and Present," unveiled on Tuesday, August 15th, has received exceptional feedback for its captivating presentation.

Featuring an impressive collection of 58 paintings, the display offers a unique and intimate engagement with each artwork. The increased spacing between pieces has resulted in a more open and inviting atmosphere, enhancing the overall viewing experience. Notably, this arrangement has led to two paintings finding new homes and a noticeable rise in gallery visitors.

The ongoing popularity of our \$45 paintings continues, and the demand for Australian landscapes remains strong due to their limited availability.

We kindly remind all artists to adhere to the outlined entry requirements for framing, hanging, and stringing to maintain the exhibition's high quality.

We eagerly anticipate your submissions for the upcoming Annual Art Awards, building upon the success of "Masters Past and Present" to create an immersive celebration of artistic excellence.

Thank you for your dedication to our art society.



Event Details

Date: Friday, 29th September

Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: The Hunter Street Gallery of Fine Art

Address: 6/4-14 Hunter St, Parramatta

Light refreshments will be provided.

Dear Members & Friends

We are thrilled to invite you to the opening of our highly anticipated art exhibition and the presentation of the 2023 Parramatta Art Society Art Awards.

With a total prize pool of \$7,100 across five sections this event promises to be a celebration of creativity and talent.

Each section features 1st, 2nd, and Highly Commended awards.

"Embrace the canvas of possibilities. Let each stroke tell your story. In art, there are no limits, only boundless imagination.



"Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh: This iconic painting features a swirling night sky filled with stars and a moon, capturing the artist's emotional and imaginative interpretation of the universe.



Unleash Your Creativity: Join Our Wednesday Sketch Club!

Are you free on Wednesday afternoons? Look no further! We're excited to invite you to our weekly Sketch Club sessions, held every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm at the gallery.

What to Expect:

Our Sketch Club provides a warm and welcoming environment where creativity knows no bounds. Whether you're an experienced artist or just starting your creative journey, you'll find a supportive community eager to share their passion for art. **There's absolutely no charge for our members to attend**, making it a perfect opportunity to explore your artistic talents.

Unleash Your Creativity:

Bring along your favorite drawing or painting materials, you'll have two hours to immerse yourself in the world of art. Our gallery provides the ideal backdrop for inspiration, surrounded by stunning works that



can ignite your imagination.

Plus, as you craft your masterpiece, there'll be plenty of tea, coffee, and biscuits to keep your creative energy flowing.

Friendly atmosphere:

The Sketch Club is more than just a place to create art; it's a space where individuals come together to encourage and learn from each other. Share tips, techniques, and insights, and feel the camaraderie of like-minded creators. Whether you're seeking to refine your skills, explore new styles, or simply unwind through artistic expression, you'll find the club a fulfilling and enriching experience.

Join Us!

We extend a warm invitation to all our members, regardless of skill level. It's a splendid opportunity to dedicate two hours to your creative side, all while enjoying the company of fellow art enthusiasts.



The committee all work on a volunteer basis. No one is paid for the work they do and for some, the work-load is substantial.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated group of people but we could do with a little more help from members.

Angus is on duty every day the gallery is open. He is always there, greeting visitors, encouraging buyers and keeping the gallery clean and inviting. However, we shouldn't expect him to do this alone.

The committee members do duty as well and we also have a few dedicated regulars who come in but we are looking for more regular help from you, the members.

A couple of hours a week or a fortnight would be great. It is much easier for us to organise if you are able to

help on a regular basis, but any time at all would be great. Sometimes the gallery is quiet and you may think you have wasted your time, but your company is appreciated. It may mean that Angus can have a lunch break with friends without having to worry about who can fill in for him. When you are on duty and at a loose end you could help by vacuuming the floor or straightening the paintings and cleaning the glass. If you are really keen, there is a lovely floor cleaner/scrubber waiting for you to try. The sink in the kitchen can always do with a scrub and the tables are begging to be cleaned. So, you see, you won't be bored and you will be helping us immensely. All of these jobs have to be done by someone and it is usually Angus. We are wearing him out!

It doesn't matter if sometimes there are more people than necessary, have a chat and a cuppa, bring a sketch pad and pencil or some brushes and paints.

The last thing we want is to have to cut down the opening hours of the gallery because we don't have sufficient people to do duty, or, because we have worn out our regulars.

So please, come, give us a hand.

If you are able to help, email myself, Vicky, Carmel, Scottie or Angus at cpas@parramattaartsociety.org and let us know how and when you can be there.

Cheers
Jan Toulis



A Warm Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members!

We would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to our new members and express our gratitude to those who have renewed their commitment to our art society. Your passion and participation are vital to our thriving artistic community, and we're excited to have you on board!

As we embark on this new membership year, we'd like to highlight a few essential points to enhance your membership experience:

Read the Conditions of Entry:

We encourage all members to review and familiarise themselves with the Conditions of Entry, which can be found at www.parra-artsociety.com/conditionsofentry. A clear understanding of these guidelines ensures a smooth and respectful collaboration within our society.

Copyright Matters:

It's important to be aware of copyright laws when sharing your artwork. To gain a better understanding, please refer to our FAQ section at www.parra-artsociety.com/faq. Respecting copyright not only protects your work but also contributes to a culture of artistic integrity.

Stay Connected:

Our gallery isn't just a space for exhibitions—it's a hub of creativity and camaraderie. Don't be a stranger; drop by for a cup of tea or coffee. You're not only supporting our gallery but also immersing yourself in an environment that celebrates art and friendship.

Spread the Joy:

Share the artistic spirit with your loved ones! Invite your family and friends to explore our gallery, where they can immerse themselves in the captivating world of creativity. Your invitation might just spark their own artistic journey. www.parra-artsociety.com/joinus

Consider Volunteering:

Our art society thrives on the contributions of volunteers. If you're looking to enhance your involvement, volunteering can be an enriching experience. Your support behind the scenes contributes to the success of our endeavors.

Hills Sketchers



Come and join us!

We are a friendly group who enjoy going out and about sketching and painting.

When: 3rd Sunday morning of each month

Where: Beautiful places around The Hills, The Hawkesbury and Parramatta

Contact: [Facebook - Hills Sketchers](#)

Email: hillssketchers1@gmail.com



Sessions are currently held on the first and second Tuesday of each month, 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

Regardless of your current experience level, there's always room for improvement through practice and exploration.



Welcoming the 2023-2024 Committee our Dedicated Volunteers

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the ingoing committee members who volunteered their time once again to stand for another year. Their dedication and contributions remain invaluable, and we want to emphasise that they do so without monetary compensation, driven solely by their passion for our art society.

We are thrilled to introduce the dedicated individuals who form the heart of our art society.

President-Jan Toulis

Jan continues her role of President, bringing a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to guide our society toward new horizons.

Vice President-Carmel Mackie

Carmel has the role of Vice President, ready to lend her innovative ideas and passion for the arts.

Treasurer-Madhu Malini

Madhu assumes the position of Treasurer, ensuring our financial endeavors are in capable hands.

Secretary-Vicky Anne Gatt

Vicky serves as Secretary, efficiently coordinating the administrative aspects that keep our society running smoothly.

Exhibition Manager-Angus Lockhart

Angus Lockhart works tirelessly to curate spaces that showcase our members' exceptional talents.

Newsletter Editor-Vicky Anne Gatt

Has the role of Newsletter Editor, responsible for keeping our members informed and engaged.



Website Manager-Vicky Anne Gatt

Vicky is also our Website Manager, ensuring our online presence remains vibrant, informative and accessible.

Public Officer-John Hallam

John serves as Public Officer, contributing his expertise to navigate the administrative requirements of our society.

Building & Maintenance Manager -Scottie Randall

Scottie brings his dedication to the role of Building & Maintenance Manager, ensuring our spaces are welcoming and functional.

External Exhibitions-Carmel Mackie

Carmel's involvement extends to External Exhibitions, forging connections beyond our walls.

Workshop Co-ordinator-Caroline Pullinger

Caroline oversees our workshops, enriching our members' skills through engaging learning experiences.

Demonstration-Co-ordinator - Helga Kelly

Helga leads our Demonstrations, enhancing our understanding of different artistic techniques.

Life Drawing Co-ordinator-Bruce Hale

Bruce takes on the role of Life Drawing Co-ordinator, fostering opportunities for artistic exploration.

Committee Member-Sheryl Lipczynski

Sheryl supports the committee, contributing her insights and support to our endeavors.

As we embark on this new chapter under the guidance of our 2023-2024 committee, let's come together to celebrate the spirit of creativity, collaboration, and artistic growth.



We are thrilled to introduce a new dimension to our online presence: The City of Parramatta Art Society Blogs!

With a commitment to nurturing creativity and fostering artistic growth, we've created a platform where ideas, insights, and inspiration can flourish.

We invite you to be an active part of this exciting journey. Share your feedback on the current blogs, and let us know your thoughts and ideas for future topics.

Are there specific techniques you'd like to learn more about? Do you yearn to discover the stories behind famous artworks? Are you curious about the process of curating an exhibition? Your suggestions will shape the direction of our future blogs.

To contribute your ideas or feedback, simply email Vicky at cpas@parramattaartsociety.org. Let's come together to make the Blogs section a vibrant hub of creative exchange.

We're excited to embark on this new chapter of online engagement, and we're confident that our Blogs will enrich your artistic journey, spark your imagination, and ignite meaningful conversations.

<https://www.parra-artsociety.com/blog>



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.

Share with Friends and Family:

Spread the joy of your art by sharing the links to the online exhibition with your friends and family. They'll be delighted to witness your creativity on display, and this simple act could spark fascinating conversations and connections.

Embrace Social Media:

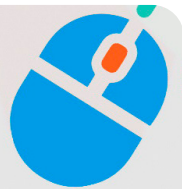
In the age of digital connectivity, social media is a powerful tool. We encourage you to post about your featured artwork on your social media platforms.

Don't forget to tag the art society and use relevant hashtags. Your followers will be eager to celebrate your achievements alongside you.

By sharing your featured work with your networks, you're not only showcasing your talent but also supporting our art society as a whole.



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

What's on

parra-artsociety.com/whatson

Demonstration Report

Contemporary/modern flowers in acrylic by Desiree Martin

Commentary by Vicky Anne Gatt

During the demonstration, artist Desiree Martin shared her unique method of creating abstract landscapes using acrylic paints. Inspired by her daily morning walks, she emphasised how these experiences provided her with a wealth of inspiration for her artwork.

Desiree began by explaining her approach to painting abstract landscapes. She mentioned that her morning walks allowed her to connect with nature and observe the beauty of the world around her. She would capture these moments by taking photographs and later use them as references in her artwork.



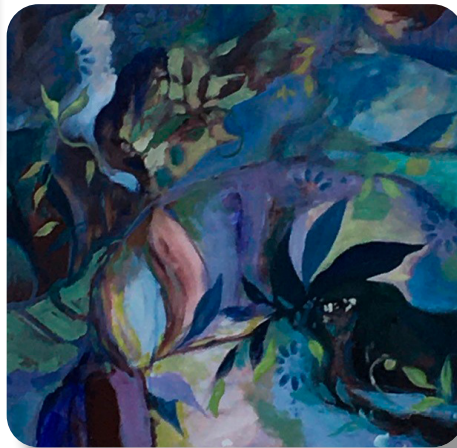
Using a charcoal drawing as a starting point, Desiree discussed the importance of capturing the essence of the landscape. She highlighted the significance of shapes, patterns, and the interplay of light and shadow. Desiree's process involved gradually building up layers of acrylic paint to create depth and texture in her paintings.



Throughout the demonstration, Desiree emphasised the need for experimentation and artistic freedom. She encouraged attendees to explore their own unique styles and techniques. Desiree's use of willow charcoal allowed for expressive marks and added a sense of fluidity to her work.

Desiree also discussed the importance of composition in abstract painting. She emphasised the use of quadrants to ensure a visually balanced artwork. By focusing on the individual sections of the painting, she ensured that the overall composition would be harmonious.

As the demonstration progressed, Desiree shared her insights on colour placement and creating focal points within the painting. She encouraged attendees to trust their instincts and adjust based on what felt right for each artwork.



Desiree's approach to abstract painting included working with negative spaces and allowing the painting to evolve naturally. She encouraged attendees to embrace the unpredictability of the process and make use of happy accidents along the way.

Throughout the demonstration, Desiree showcased her versatility as an artist. She mentioned her use of oils & alcoholic inks in addition to acrylics, highlighting the different techniques and effects that can be achieved with each medium.

Desiree also discussed the use of glazes to enhance certain areas of the painting and create depth.

In conclusion, Desiree Martin's demonstration highlighted the power of abstract art and the role of personal inspiration in the creative process.



The completed artwork

Attendees gained valuable insights into her techniques, including the use of charcoal, layering, and composition. Desiree's emphasis on experimentation, embracing unpredictability, and finding inspiration in the everyday served as a reminder of the limitless possibilities within the world of abstract painting.



This is the completed 2nd canvas that Desiree brought to the demo.

More photos of this and other demonstrations can be viewed on our website: parra-artsociety.com/demonstrations



Workshop Report

Vivien McDonald - Still Life

Commentary by Kim Besso

A lovely day was had by all of us who attended Vivienne McDonalds oil painting workshop, it was relaxed and informative. This workshop was designed for beginners through to proficient artists.

To begin with we were given 2 still life colour photos and the same in black and white along with a tonal sheet and a good set of techniques to follow, also a colour palette was there to guide us, which was extremely helpful. Along with the photos was a table prepared with still life items very similar, or identical to the photo.

There was an initial discussion about starting off, some people preferred to do a thumbnail sketch while others were sketched straight onto a gesso based board/canvas.

Vivienne explained what constituted a good composition, primarily dividing the background into thirds, this tends to be a given rule in composition, and by placing the focal point on an intersecting line makes the picture interesting.

To draw your eye to the focal point the still life items are arranged in such a way to guide your eye into the picture and out of it, colour is also used to guide the eye, as is tone. Remember to pay attention to where the light falls on the items. The above tips encourage the eye to move around the picture.

After we had sketched a rough outline on the painting surface there were a couple of things to be aware of. Ensuring that the objects are not kissing (touching each other), it is more pleasing to have the objects overlapping or spaced apart. Also, look at the crease lines on the tablecloth or any lines that may be conflicting, lines should feel balanced, you will know this when you look at the arrangement, it should feel comfortable.

Now we were ready to paint over the outline loosely using paint thinned with solvent, we used Burnt Sienna or a mix of French Ultramarine and Alizarin. Next block in the dark areas with thinned paint, followed by mid tones then light tones, cutting in around the shapes.

Slowly build up your picture using colours from the palette or make your own colour swatch. To soften lines, use a soft brush, for example between a highlight and shadow on a pear.

When the day had finished, we filled in the background with our chosen colour, carefully going around the objects. We could always come back to the detail later, but having the background completed before calling it a day meant when you return you only need to focus on the still life items.



A limited colour palette was used for this painting, it was all that was needed to produce a lovely piece of work. We were all very happy with our work, observing how each of us had our own style.

Some good pointers:

- Don't let eye travel out of the frame, break this with a blur or interruption.
- The eye is drawn to the greatest contrast, let everything else support the focus.
- Use less detail as you move away from the focal point.
- Using a "proportional divider" is handy for sizing objects.



Demonstration Report

Hettie Rowley - Pastels

Commentary by Vicky Anne Gatt

We were privileged to welcome the talented artist Hettie to our recent workshop, where she unveiled a wealth of pastel techniques that left us all in awe. The session was an eye-opening journey into the world of pastels, revealing the intricacies behind creating a stunning work of art.

Hettie's toolkit was a medley of pastel forms, including pastel pencils, pan pastels, soft pastels, and the newer pastel variations. As the demonstration unfolded, we marveled at how she seamlessly transitioned between these mediums to achieve different effects.

The process began with a focus on the dog's dark areas. Hettie employed a small palette-like tool, adeptly picking up pastels from the pan pastels. Mixing colors directly on the palette tool, she applied them to the canvas, resulting in smooth and rich hues. Impressively, she managed to create a harmonious blend of two yellows from the pan pastels, before intricately adding the finishing touch of teeth.

A surprise addition to the demonstration was a makeup rubber, used to create dot-like patterns on the background. To soften the effect, Hettie wielded a large, soft round makeup brush, showcasing her innovative approach to texture creation.

The eyes, a focal point of any artwork, were meticulously detailed using pastel pencils. Hettie's delicate handling of the pencils brought the eyes to life, adding a captivating depth to the subject.

Soft pastels came into play next, as Hettie covered the entire dog. With a finesse that comes from years of practice, she smoothed areas with her fingers, revealing the versatility of this medium.

A masterstroke was Hettie's use of pastel pencils for the final layer of fur. The care she took in varying the direction of each stroke was evident, resulting in an incredibly realistic texture. The gentle strokes she employed were a testament to her skill and dedication.

The culmination of Hettie's efforts left us speechless—the fur looked authentically genuine, bringing the dog to life on the canvas. The final artwork was nothing short of a masterpiece, reflecting Hettie's mastery and artistry.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Hettie for sharing her techniques, insights, and passion with us. The workshop was a reminder that with dedication and the right tools, the possibilities of artistic expression are limitless.

More photos of this and other demonstrations can be viewed on our website:
parra-artsociety.com/demonstrations



Membership Renewal and Joining: Experience the Benefits of Artistic Connection

Calling Previous Members to Renew and New Members to Join!

Whether you've been a part of our artistic family before or are discovering us for the first time, we extend a warm invitation to you.

Why Join Us?

Connect and Learn: Engage with a community of like-minded artists, both seasoned and aspiring, who are eager to share their knowledge and experiences.

Workshops and Demonstrations: Access workshops and demonstrations that expand your artistic horizons and enhance your skills.

Exhibition Opportunities: Showcase your work at our renowned gallery and participate in exhibitions that bring your creations to a wider audience.

Networking: Connect with fellow artists, art lovers, and professionals, creating lasting connections and collaborations.

Support and Encouragement: Receive support and encouragement from a community that celebrates your achievements and growth.

Inspiration: Immerse yourself in an environment

that fosters creativity, motivation, and inspiration.

Renew or Join Today:

Renewing your membership or joining our art society is easy! Visit parra-artsociety.com/joinus and complete the online membership form. Alternatively, you're welcome to drop by our gallery in person and fill out a membership form with the assistance of our friendly volunteers.

Gallery Address and Opening Hours:

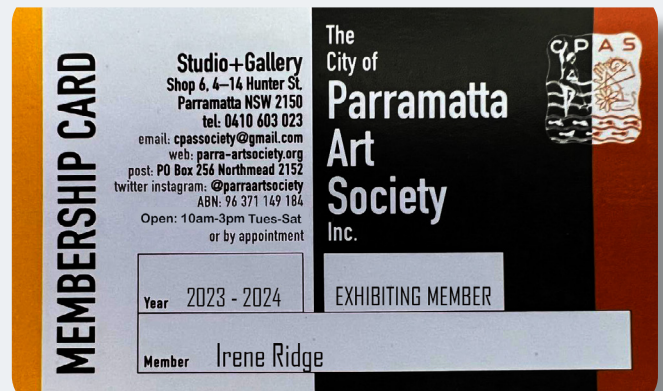
Hunter Street Gallery of Fine Arts

6/4-14 Hunter St

Parramatta

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM



Thank you to our Sponsors & Partners

TOPMILL CALENDARS

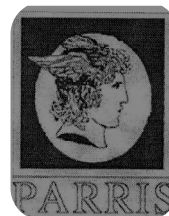


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