

President's Report

It's lovely to see so many of you here, and all in party mode. I appreciate that the later date and change of venue are not what we've been accustomed to, but due to reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission, we are obliged to complete our financial year to 31st December 2023 prior to the AGM.

So rather than combining the meeting with the Christmas Party, we've re-scheduled the AGM as a precursor to the opening of *Seasons*, the Society's biennial exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery.

It's been a busy twelve months but thankfully I'm incredibly fortunate with our wonderful Committee. Margaret Crane is Vice-President, a voice of reason and in-house techie, managing the website and all things digital. For many of you, Lindie Treleaven, our Secretary AND Treasurer, is the face of Mosman Art Society, dealing with queries, sending out information and handling all the other administrative tasks with enormous efficiency and great good humour.

Unstinting support comes from the indefatigable Kate Rae, with her insider knowledge of the art world, from Shar Jones, always enthusiastic, and Linda Gold. Sadly Isabel Gaven has resigned from the Committee, but not before bringing her impressive skills in graphic design to transforming our newsletter and publicity material. An enormous vote of thanks to them all.

As ever, our Patron Paul Delprat offers expert advice and guidance. Thank you, Paul. Thanks too to former President and Honorary Life Member Bryan Besly, our eminence grise, for his much-appreciated words of wisdom.

Events

2023 seems to have flown by. In May the Society's seminar, *The Women who Painted Mosman*, packed the Grand Hall at Mosman Art Gallery, thanks to a Mosman Council Community Grant that enabled us to open the event to a wider audience for free. Guest speakers from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Denise Mimmocchi, senior curator of Australian art, and Claire Eggleston, senior librarian, painted vivid pictures of women artists in Mosman and the lower North Shore after World War I – notably Margaret Preston, Hilda Rix Nicholas, Grace Cossington Smith and Ethel Carrick Fox.

Exhibitions

Picturesque Archie Bear café at Mosman Rowers was the venue for the Society's exhibition *Location Location* in June. Space was tight and sadly we couldn't squeeze in everybody's work, but the final hang looked amazing.

Seasons, our biennial exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery opens tonight. We received 88 submissions, more than our previous show, and you'll be thrilled to know that we've hung them all.

Workshops

Popular workshop leader and artist John Haycraft shared his considerable expertise in a watercolour painting masterclass at Mosman Art Gallery in March. And former Archibald Prize finalist Jessica Ashton led a well-attended life drawing workshop in May, also in the Melody Room at the Gallery.

Marketing yourself is an important part of being a successful artist. Paul McDonald, lecturer on professional arts practice at the National Art School, Sydney, encouraged members to become the artist they want to be in a sold-out workshop on *How to Grow your Art Practice* in September.

Excursions

MAS member and Archie finalist Sally Ryan gave a backgrounder to her portrait of fashion designer and presenter Claudia Chan Shaw at the private out-of-hours tour of the Archibald Prize in May for MAS members and friends, led by AGNSW volunteer guide Les Moseley.

Members and friends also enjoyed private out-of-hours tours of the Kandinsky exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales with volunteer guide Annabel Baxter in December, and of *Louise Bourgeois: Has the Day Invaded the Night or Has the Night Invaded the Day?* in January, led by MAS President and volunteer guide Anne Woodham.

Solo shows

Congratulations to those members with solo shows in 2023: Inta Charteris and Vittoria Viecelli at the Thienny Lee Gallery; Tony Belobrajdic at M.C. & Shelly; Kassie Dummett, also at M.C. & Shelly; Ishbel Morag Miller (Thienny Lee Gallery), Erika Beck (Thienny Lee), Sue Gaston at Mosman Art Gallery, and Gerald and Rosemary Christmas at the Bathers, Balmoral. Inta Charteris' new exhibition, *Simple Pleasures*, opens at the Bathers on 5th March.

On-going

The regular get-together at Frenchy's, Headland Park, Mosman, on the second Tuesday of the month has proved a wonderful way for members to meet each other for coffee and an exchange of news and ideas, plus a little sketching, a little swapping of publications and even a little show-and-tell of work.

Loyal followers of the *en plein air* group meet twice a month. A big thank you to its leader Jonathan Falk who does a fantastic job of finding scenic venues with nearby refreshments – essential for artistic comfort.

Mosman Art Society joined forces with ArtSmart in Seaforth again to present an encouragement award in the Mosman Youth Art Prize. And as in previous years, we presented the \$1000 Viewers' Prize at this year's Mosman Art Prize.

(Treasurer's Report

Election of Executive and Ordinary Committee Members)

Looking ahead to 2024

I'm pleased to announce that there will be a Mosman Art Society exhibition at Mosman Rowers in August (dates). This will probably be a 9x5 and 9x7 show, a longstanding tradition of the Society, which it is hoped will accommodate the maximum number of works by members.

Sydney artist and Julian Ashton Art School teacher Rob Dujin will lead an en plein air weekend workshop at a date to be confirmed. A workshop on acrylic painting is also under discussion.

Private tours for Society members and friends of the Archibald Prize, Alphonse Mucha, Art Nouveau artist, and other gallery exhibitions are on the agenda.

As always, your comments and suggestions on what the Society can offer members are very welcome. One proposal is for lectures on art historical subjects, with an emphasis on local artists.

Other business

I invite Jonathan Falk to report on the en plein air group.....

Conclusion

Overall, I'm glad to report that Mosman Art Society is in excellent health. Numbers are buoyant and our members continue to do what they do best – make art.