

MOSMAN ART SOCIETY

Fostering the development, practice and love of art in the community



Newsletter Issue 191 February 2024

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'Seasons' Exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery

Last-minute bursts of creativity must be quick. Submission deadline is Monday 5 February for entries to the Mosman Art Society's biennial exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery, 23 February to 24 March.

The title, *Seasons*, offers scope for interpretation, whatever your medium. Times of the year obviously; spring, summer, autumn, winter. Flowering and harvesting. Time in general; moments, days, epochs. Occasions and opportunities; terms and holidays. Stages in a lifespan; growing, maturing, ageing.

Or think food and cooking. Salt, pepper, spice. Eating out, eating in. Just googling 'season' and 'synonyms' will keep you busy for... a season.

The submission form and full conditions of entry can be found on the website (mosmanartsociety.org.au) under 'Exhibitions'. Each fully paid exhibiting member can submit one artwork in any medium except installation. It must be original and not previously shown at the Mosman Art Gallery.

Maximum size (excluding sculptures) is 1 metre squared, including frames. The obvious example is 100cm x 100cm, but equally it could be 180cm x 55cm, if using a square metre calculator. Name, title, price, phone number and medium must be on the back of the work, and (essential) two D rings approximately 6cm below the top edge of the back.

We'll do everything possible but can't promise to hang all works submitted. If entries exceed available space, the exhibition will be selective.

Receipting day at Mosman Art Gallery is Monday 12 February, 10am to 5pm. Please arrange for someone to deliver your work if you can't do so in person. The opening night party is on Thursday 22 February 6pm to 8pm, after our Annual General Meeting at 5pm in the Melody Room.



The Lucky Door Prize of a Harris Farm gift box was a huge hit

Christmas Party

It was a scorcher of a day that hit the high 30s, but 80 of you braved the Society's Christmas Party and Pop-Up Art Show in Mosman Art Gallery's Grand Hall on Saturday 9 December.

'Braved' as the Hall has no air-conditioning (lots of fans though) however we did benefit from the festive decorations and fairy lights left over from Mosman Council's Christmas party earlier that week.

Too hot to stand around, so we set out café tables and chairs. Great idea. The pop-up art show was a new idea too, though rather experimental. Members were invited to bring an A5-sized artwork on paper to pin on display boards. At the party's close, contributing artists drew lots to take home another's work; a twist, it must be said, that may have caught some by surprise.

The Harris Farm gift box Lucky Door Prize went to a happy winner. Our Patron Paul Delprat, a Mosman treasure, made one of his inimitable speeches and President Anne Woodham wrapped up the year's highlights and gave huge thanks to our wonderful Committee: Lindie, Margaret, Kate, Shah, Isabel and Linda. A good, if warm, time was had by all.

Conversation with Mosman Art Gallery's Kelly McDonald

At our last Mosman Art Gallery exhibition in April 2022, Assistant Director and Senior Curator Kelly McDonald was as new to her job as the freshly elected MAS Committee. All of us on a learning curve and rather enjoying the experience.

Two years in and Kelly is totally at home, with a couple of Mosman Art Prizes under her belt and stand-out exhibitions such as sculptural ceramicist Yasmin Smith last year and the current Imants Tillers retrospective, before overseeing the Society's biennial exhibition, *Seasons*.

"We're very conscious of Mosman's place in Australian art history," she says. "The artists' camps in Sirius Cove and Balmoral, for instance. Looking ahead, the Gallery wants to commission artist residencies to respond to original Curlew Camp artists like Tom Roberts. We're thinking of artists with traditional and contemporary backgrounds, intergenerational and multicultural."

Kelly is a local girl, born at the Mater Hospital, growing up in Lane Cove and educated at Monte St Angelo in North Sydney. After embarking on an art history degree at Sydney University, she switched to photography at Sydney College of the Arts (then at Callan Park but now part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University), topping it off with a Master of Art in Curating.



Kelly McDonald, curator of the Imants Tillers retrospective

Her first job was at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, researching the 2008 exhibition on legendary Sydney photographer Harold Cazneaux. Later she worked on major AGNSW shows such as the Terracotta Warriors from China, and gained wide-ranging experience across a swathe of departments.

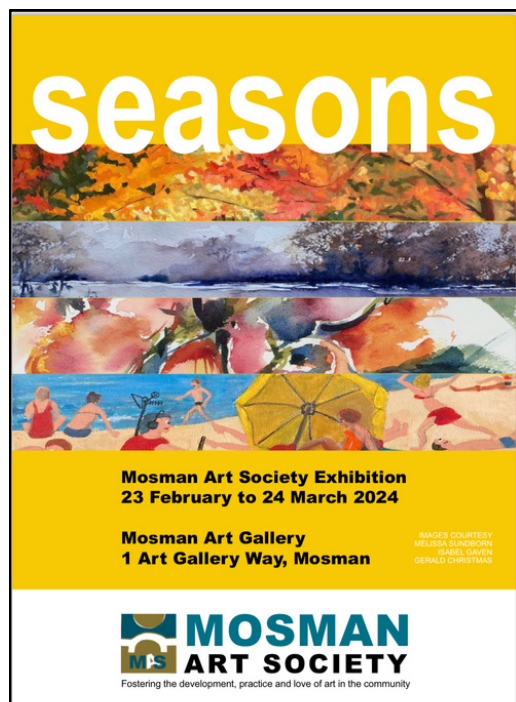
She took time out from AGNSW to work as an intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Gallery in Venice and London's White Cube, preparing displays for Frieze Art Fair and the Armory Show in New York.

In 2012 Kelly joined the Museum of Contemporary Art as an assistant curator, with particular soft spots for shows by Swiss visual artist Pipilotti Rist, Sulman Prize winners Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro, and English art star Grayson Perry. She moved to Carriageworks in 2017, followed by a stint at the State Library of NSW as creative producer of exhibitions and in late 2021 arrived at Mosman.

What's ahead for 2024? In May a show by Studio A, the Sydney-based arts company providing professional development for artists with intellectual disabilities; the Mosman Art Prize of course; and later *Borrowed Landscapes*, photographs from another perspective. "Our early landscape photography is all grand scenes, male, heroic, adventure, claiming the land. Now there's a return to telling stories of country itself. Among contemporary photographers there'll be First Nations artists like Danie Mellor," she says.

She is sad that so little is left of Mosman's Indigenous people, the Cammeraygal and Boregegal. "There are numerous archaeological sites in the area but virtually nothing remains of their cultural heritage," she says.

Meanwhile the Gallery keeps the local community at its heart. "Our priority is local artists, with really good shows and programs that will also attract people from outside," says Kelly. "Art is for everyone."



*Poster
Design
by
Isabel
Gaven*

MAS Annual General Meeting

In a break with tradition, our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 22 February at 5pm in the Melody Room, Mosman Art Gallery, prior to the opening of our exhibition *Seasons*.

In past years the AGM preceded the Christmas party, but due to reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission, we must complete our financial year to 31 December 2023 prior to the meeting.

This is your opportunity to have a say in what Mosman Art Society offers its members. We need your feedback. Opportunities to exhibit work are obviously an important part of our remit, but what else would you like us to provide?

The Society has organised demonstrations by visiting artists, but attendance has fallen away in the last couple of years. While the pandemic may be partly responsible, there still seems little appetite for this kind of event. Workshops proved more successful. In particular, John Haycraft's watercolour masterclass in March, Jessica Ashton's life drawing workshop in May and Paul McDonald's *How to Grow Your Art Practice* in September.

These are aimed at practising artists, but art history could interest a wider audience. Our seminar on *The Women Who Painted Mosman* in May filled the Grand Hall, but we opened it to the public and invited members of organisations such as Mosman Historical Society and U3A (University of the Third Age). It was also, thanks to a Mosman Council grant, free.

Jonathan Falk organises a twice monthly En Plein Air group and there is a regular monthly get-together over coffee at Frenchy's Café at Headland Park, Mosman. Membership also allows a 10% discount at ArtSmart Art Store and Picture Framing, Seaforth.

Below: Members enjoy Second Tuesday coffee at Frenchy's



MAS tour with Louise Bourgeois' cell, 'Spider' 1997

Members and friends enjoyed three out-of-hours private guided tours this year, to the Archibald Prize, Kandinsky and *Louise Bourgeois: Has the Day Invaded the Night or Has the Night Invaded the Day?*, all at the AGNSW. What about tours of other exhibitions? Commercial galleries in inner Sydney perhaps, or further afield to regional galleries such as Hazelhurst or Campbelltown arts centres?

We would love to hear your thoughts before our AGM. What are we doing right and what would you like us to offer? Email secretary@mosmanartsociety.org.au

Make a difference and join the Committee

There are spaces on our team for anyone interested in taking the Society forward. No particular skills required, though digital and design experience would be nice. Just a willingness to rock up to a meeting every six or eight weeks (tea and biscuits provided), have bright ideas and be prepared to carry them through. Or just lend a hand when needed.

You'll need someone to nominate you and a seconder, both Society members. Nominations should reach the Society secretary before the AGM.



WHAT'S ON

24th Biennale of Sydney, *Ten Thousand Suns*, 9 March to 10 June, at Art Gallery of NSW, Artspace, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chau Chak Wing Museum (University of Sydney), UNSW Galleries, and newly restored White Bay Power Station. Innovative and thought-provoking art from Australia and around the globe.

The Other Art Fair

16 to 19 May. White Bay Cruise Terminal, Balmain. Over a hundred independent artists, thousands of art works for sale, this claims to be an art fair like no other. Applications for would-be exhibitors closes **12 February**. More info: www.theotherartfair.com

Art Space on the Concourse

1 to 25 February. *Passage of Night: Luminary Rising*. Group show examining significance of the moon. Artists include Lindy Lee, Emma Hicks, Sangeeta Sandrasegar. 409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/arts

2024 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize

Still time to enter if you're quick. All media accepted and an open theme, just submit an artwork that best reflects your practice. Awards include \$35,000 Professional Art Prize, a \$5,000 Indigenous Emerging Artist Prize and a \$5,000 Emerging Artist Prize. There is also a People's Choice Award consisting of \$2,000 and a \$500 Derivan art pack. Entries close 14 February. Learn more: www.ravenswoodartprize.com.au/artprize/entries

2024 Burwood Art Prize (NSW)

The Burwood Art Prize invites artists across Sydney to engage, consider and reflect upon one or more of the following themes: Visibility, Ritual, Legacy. Open to all Sydney-based artists, the Burwood Art Prize features a prize pool of \$14,000 and accepts painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, still and moving digital artworks (maximum duration 10 minutes). Entries close 8 March. Learn more: www.burwood.nsw.gov.au

Reimagine Art Prize 2024

Held in partnership with the Hornsby Art Society since 2009, Reimagine Art Prize has a focus on waste, sustainability, and the environment. This year's theme is 'Crossroads of Consumption'. Total prize money \$11,000. Open to digital art stills, sculpture, mixed media, painting, photography, print making, ceramics and drawing. Entries open 11 January to 21 March. Learn more: www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members

Karen Brock
Peter Hannan
Lyn Sarsfield

EN PLEIN AIR

Led by Jonathan Falk, the group meets twice a month from 10am to around 12pm. Just turn up!

Tuesday 6 and Thursday 22 February

Clark Park, Lavender Bay

Tuesday 5 and Thursday 21 March

Milson Park, McDougall Street, Milson's Point

Tuesday 2 and Thursday 18 April

Chinaman's Beach

FRENCHY'S SECOND TUESDAYS

Coffee, arty conversation, show and tell, and maybe some sketching, every second Tuesday of the month, 10am at Frenchy's Cafe, Headland Park, Mosman. Look for the table with the pot plant.

Save these dates: 13 February, 12 March, 9 April, 14 May, 11 June

SOCIAL MEDIA

Add your artwork and bio info to the Artists' Gallery on our website www.mosmanartsociety.org.au
Visit us on Instagram [@mosmanartsocietyinc](https://www.instagram.com/mosmanartsocietyinc)
Contact secretary@mosmanartsociety.org.au to come on board

MAS COMMITTEE

Patron: Paul Delprat

President: Anne Woodham

Vice-President: Margaret Crane

Secretary/Treasurer: Lindie Treleaven

Committee Members:

Isabel Gaven

Linda Gold

Frances (Shar) Jones

Kate Rae

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