



Newsletter

Issue 187

April 2023

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

SEMINAR: THE WOMEN WHO PAINTED MOSMAN



MOSMAN ART SOCIETY SEMINAR

**Friday 19 May, 10am–1pm, Grand Hall,
Mosman Art Gallery**

Stand aside, chaps. These are the women who changed the story of Australian art.

Margaret Preston (pictured above), Hilda Rix Nicholas (right), Grace Cossington Smith and Ethel Carrick Fox were leaders in the artistic hotbed that was the lower North Shore after World War I, rivalling their male colleagues in inspiration, experimentation and technique, especially their innovative use of colour.

Denise Mimmocchi, senior curator of Australian art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and curator of the 2017 exhibition *O’Keeffe, Preston, Cossington Smith – Making Modernism*, will describe how Preston and Rix Nicholas found healing and creative renewal in Mosman after devastating war experiences in Europe.

Preston worked with shell-shocked soldiers in Devon, but for Rix Nicholas the war years were particularly tragic. Leaving France in 1914 to take refuge in London, she lost first her sister, then her mother, and finally her husband Captain George Matson Nicholas in battle only five weeks after their marriage.

Claire Eggleston, senior librarian at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, will explore the transformative influence of the Mosman-based Theosophy movement (still headquartered at the Manor in Iluka Road) in the work of Grace Cossington Smith, Ethel Carrick Fox and other Australian artists.

Both speakers are passionate about their subjects so it will be an **unmissable occasion**.

Made possible by a Mosman Council Community Grant, entry is **FREE to members and non-members but booking required**.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CHFGQ>

Or contact secretary@mosmanartsociety.org.au





WATERCOLOUR MASTERCLASS WITH JOHN HAYCRAFT

Popular workshop leader and artist John Haycraft demonstrated what he calls the four stages of watercolour painting to a sell-out class at Mosman Art Gallery on March 12 (see above). Decisions. Early washes (lots of water). Shaping washes (more pigment). And finally detail (little water).

Watercolour is a notoriously difficult medium to control. But everyone – from novices to experienced painters looking to brush-up their techniques – benefited from the day.

John, a former student of Lloyd Rees, is a principal of the architectural illustration firm Haycraft Duloy. A practising artist with three solo shows to his credit, he teaches throughout Australia and overseas. Check him out at www.johnhaycraft.com.

ARCHIE WITHOUT THE CROWDS

It's that time again. Enjoy a **private out-of-hours expert guided tour** of the Archibald Prize on **Wednesday 31 May at 9.30am**.

Those who joined last year's MAS members' tour will know what a treat it is to have the Gallery to ourselves for a little while.

Cost is \$35 (adult), \$27 (concession) and \$23 AGNSW Members. Contact secretary@mosmanartsociety.org.au



COMING UP: LIFE DRAWING WITH JESSICA ASHTON



Sunday 7 May, 9.30am-3.30pm,
Melody Room, **Mosman Art Gallery**

It's the skill that underpins artistic practice and one that many experienced artists return to again and again.

Jessica Ashton (pictured above) studied fine art at the Julian Ashton art school where she taught for ten years. She currently teaches illustration and life drawing at the University of Technology, Sydney. She was an Archibald Prize finalist in 2017 and 2019 and several times a Mosman Art Prize finalist.

Our MAS workshop is for all levels – from beginners to advanced artists who enjoy the opportunity of drawing from a live model.

\$120 for MAS members and \$140 for non-members who can book from April 17.

A materials list will be available beforehand.

Contact secretary@mosmanartsociety.org.au

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DAVID WIGGS



Most days of the week David packs up paints and easel and heads from his Deewhy home to a favourite haunt. Freshwater perhaps – “I’ve been painting there for over twenty years, the water movement and the crowd”.

Maybe the Harbour Bridge, or, lately, Taronga Zoo. “Especially the last year or so, though I’ve done stuff there since the ‘90s,” he says. “The animals and the landscape.”

Weekends from 11am to 5pm you’ll find him at his studio in the North Head Arts Precinct, next to the Australian Bronze foundry. Catching up on arty bits and pieces, tinkering with his website (www.dwiggsart.com, for the record), a little painting and the chance to show his work.

David is one of our most prolific and successful members. His renderings of bush and beaches, rolling waves and surging tides, are distinctive for the use of impasto – oil paint laid on thickly with brush or palette knife until it erupts from the canvas.

But he doesn’t limit himself to oils. Acrylic, gouache, whatever dries quickly. “It depends where I’m working, how much gear I’m carrying.” And always straight in – no preliminary sketches.

He’s a local boy – Mosman High School, then Seaforth TAFE Art College for a Diploma in Fine Art, a post graduate certificate in drawing - surfing when not studying - and later Ryde School of Horticulture. For years he has run a landscape gardening business in tandem with painting. “It’s art as well.”

The artists who matter for him? “Probably Arthur Boyd to begin with. His heavy oils, amazing lines, out in the landscape. Then Brett Whiteley and Nicholas Harding.”

“The only thing I ever wanted to do was be a good painter,” says David, “and evolve – and keep evolving.” Amen to that.



David Wiggs: Crowd -Freshwater

MAS EXHIBITION AT MOSMAN ROWERS

Picturesque Archie Bear café at Mosman Rowers Club, overlooking Mosman Bay, is the venue for the Society’s mid-year selective exhibition, **Location Location!** June 5 – 15.

The setting is idyllic but space is tight so entries will be limited to one square metre and two dimensions. The image below of *Art@The Rowers*, the club’s March exhibition (opened by Ben Quilty no less) will give you some idea of the setting and the hang.

MAS members who showed with great success in this show included Marshall Phillips, Peter Twiney, Linda Gold and Cheryl Richardson.

Submission conditions and receiving dates for *Location Location!* to follow but meanwhile paints, pastels, pens and pencils at the ready.



Add your artwork and bio details to the Artists’ Gallery on our website

www.mosmanartsociety.org.au

Visit MAS on Instagram -
@mosmanartsocietyinc

Contact secretary@mosmanartsociety.org.au
to come on board

'OF LAND AND SEA'

Seaside images filled the Thienny Lee Gallery, Edgecliff, in Inta Charteris and Vittoria Veceli's recent exhibition. Lots of red stickers too.

John Perkins, President of the Royal Art Society, opened the show on March 18 (pictured). "It was a wonderful event with shoulder-to-shoulder attendees despite the furnace-like heat and humidity," says Inta. "We really appreciated all who braved the conditions and came."



ARTISTS OF MOSMAN: 2088

Still time to catch this year's exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery, closing on Sunday 23 April.

MAS members in the show include Elaine Romalis (pictured below with her painting *A place apart II*), Steve Jannar, Dobell finalist Sue Field, Hevi Mattini and Lindie Treleaven.



EN PLEIN AIR

Led by Jonathan Falk, the group meets twice a month from 10am to around 12pm. Just turn up!
Thursday, 20 April - Chinaman's Beach
Tuesday, 2 May & Thursday 18 May – Cremorne Reserve (west side) Cremorne Point
Tuesday, 6 June & Thursday 22 June – Balmoral Beach (Rotunda)



SECOND TUESDAYS AT FRENCHY'S

Coffee and arty conversation every **second Tuesday of the month**, 10am at the table with the potplant, Frenchy's café, Headland Park, Mosman. Next: May 9, June 13

WHAT TO SEE

The National 4: Fourth edition of the biennial survey of contemporary Australian art, on show now at four participating venues: the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Carriageworks and Campbelltown Arts Centre, until July 23.

Zampatti Powerhouse: First retrospective of renowned Australian designer, Carla Zampatti, with five decades of fashion and material. Harris Street, Ultimo, until June 11.

ART PRIZES

Northern Beaches Environmental Art and Design Prize

Call-out closing date: May 14.

Artists are invited to interpret our unique Australian landscape, respond to our climate emergency and advocate for our planet. The prize pool is \$42,000

www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Hazelhurst Art on Paper Award 2023

Awards include the \$15,000 major award, the \$5,000 Young and Early Career Artist Award, the \$5,000 Friends of Hazelhurst Local Artist Award, and the \$1,000 People's Choice Award.

Entries close: 30 June 2023

www.cms.ssc.nsw.gov.au

Wyndham Art Prize

Applications deadline: Friday 16 June

Wyndham Art Gallery, Victoria

www.wyndham.vic.gov.au

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Austin
Barbara Kitto
Maria Ramos
Katarina Maksimovic

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

Mosman Art Society

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