



MOSMAN ART SOCIETY

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

Newsletter Issue 188 July 2023

SKETCHERS UNITE



Kate Rae, MAS Committee Member, is never without her portable kit – sketchbook, pens, watercolours – plus, on the practical side, a hat and plastic sheet in case of rain. “Sketching is liberating,” claims Kate, as she gave a demonstration to MAS members Melissa Sundborn and Hevi Mattini at Frenchy’s (above).

“It encourages a looser approach to making art, you can let go of formality. I like ‘diarising’ in the sketchbook, seeing how my work progresses.”

What began as a sociable way of spending time outdoors with her wheelchair-bound mother, also an artist, took on new impetus when she lost studio space a few years ago. A little online research and Kate found a whole new world of fellow sketchers.

Via [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com), a platform that enables people to hook up with others with shared interests, she joined Sydney Sketch Club, a group meeting twice weekly at venues around Sydney, always accessible by public transport. “It could be architectural or a public space, such as Burwood’s Chinatown. People disperse around the area, then regroup at 12.30 for a ‘throwdown’ to compare sketches and, if you can stay on, for lunch at a nearby pub or café.”

Urban Sketchers Sydney (Instagram @usksydney) is part of a global community of artists (urbansketchers.org) that holds an annual

international symposium. Kate attended the most recent in Auckland, New Zealand, earlier this year. Next will be Buenos Aires in October 2024.

A visit to lizsteel.com, a website run by a Sydney-based sketcher, will tell you almost everything you need to know about the subject. Which pens for what (Lamy Joy is highly rated), best brushes, great locations, as well as online sketching courses.

As for equipment, Kate recommends larrypost.com, an online store based at Brookvale (pick up only) for art and writing tools. Sketching heaven....

Kate’s sketch of an MAS Committee meeting...



STEP UP YOUR ART PRACTICE

How can you better promote your artwork? Write a confident artist’s statement? Know your audience? Looking to be represented? The challenges of moving from enthusiastic student or amateur to a practising, exhibiting and sustainable artist can be overwhelming.

Paul McDonald, who lectures on building a professional arts practice at the National Art School, will lead a WORKSHOP for MAS on Sunday 24 September in the Melody Room, Mosman Art Gallery, 9.30am-3.30pm.

Paul is a socially engaged educator, artist and curator. He holds an MA in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography with Distinction at the University of the Arts, London and worked at the Australian Centre for Photography as Associate Director, Creative Learning.

The founder of mentoring organisation Contact Sheet and Working Dog Gallery in St Leonards in 2014, he has curated over 40 exhibitions with more than 350 artists, public and community programs and is a member of the Cultural and Creative Arts Advisory Committee of Willoughby City Council.

What’s not to like? \$100 for members. Open to non-members at \$120 from 4 September. Contact secretary@mosmanartsociety.org.

LOCATION: MOSMAN ROWERS



Hanging our exhibition, *Location Location*, at Mosman Rowers was a challenge – the sheer beauty of the setting and views of the harbour through the windows almost in competition with the artwork. Space, too, was tight and sadly we couldn't squeeze in all the entries. But (we thought) the end result looked amazing.

Steve Jannar's *Chowder Bay* (above) rubbed shoulders with Kevser Ugurlu's *Closer to the boat* and Melissa Sundborn's *Afternoon light on Observatory Hill*. Richard Ward's *Bay of Fires – Binalong Bay* escorted us up the staircase, Elaine Romalis' *Dinner with friends* cheered the coffee corner, while 2023 Dobell Prize finalist Sue Field's charcoal, ink and collage drawing, *Oblivion*, offered food for thought.

And a big shout out and thanks to Gill Burke, organiser of Art@TheRowers, for her much-appreciated support and welcome advice.



Robyn Coleman with her painting *Geronimo* at the opening

SELL-OUT SEMINAR

Art and Mosman go hand in hand, so it was hardly a surprise that art lovers, artists and historians packed the Grand Hall at Mosman Art Gallery on 19 May for the Society's seminar, *The women who painted Mosman*.

Thanks to a Mosman Council Community Grant, we were able to open the event to a wider audience.

Denise Mimmocchi, senior curator of Australian art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, painted a vivid picture of the solace and inspiration found in Mosman and the lower North Shore after World War I by artists Hilda Rix Nicholas and Margaret Preston.

Claire Eggleston, senior librarian at the AGNSW, described how Grace Cossington Smith, Ethel Carrick Fox and others sought spiritual enlightenment at the Manor, the Australian Theosophical Society's community in Iluka Road.

An intriguing revelation was the Theosophists' establishment of Radio Station 2GB in 1926. GB, it transpired, stood for Giordano Bruno, a 16th century friar, philosopher and astrologer whose writings influenced the movement. Something to ponder if listening to Ben Fordham or Ray Hadley.



Above: Margaret Crane (MAS Vice-Pres), Lindie Treleven (Sec), Claire Eggleston, Denise Mimmocchi and Anne Woodham (Pres).
Below: The audience in the Grand Hall, Mosman Art Gallery



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

ARCHIE TOUR



How lucky were we. Sally Ryan, 2023 Archibald Prize finalist and MAS member, joined us at the Art Gallery of NSW to give a backgrounder to her portrait of fashion designer and presenter Claudia Chan Shaw, titled *Year of the Rabbit* (above) - also one of the works the Gallery has chosen to promote the Archibald.

Artist and sitter met when Claudia interviewed Sally for her Arts Friday radio program (Eastside 89.7FM), and the glamorous art deco dress and shoes in the portrait are self-designed.

The bunny peeking around the corner at bottom left refers to 2023, the Year of the Rabbit – also the year of Sally's birth, and her signature is on the tiny red ribbon around the bunny's neck.

Les Moseley, our wonderful volunteer guide – now on his 20th Archie – gave a 90-minute tour that brought portrait painters and sitters alive. Thank heaven we had headsets however and could hear every word. Our 9.30am start in the empty gallery was blissfully quiet but by 11am the exhibition was packed with visitors.

You'll also have seen Sally's colourful painting of oranges, *Vitamin C*, on MAS posters for *Location Location* at Mosman Rowers and on our new membership invitation leaflets.

SECOND TUESDAYS AT FRENCHY'S

Coffee and arty conversation every **second Tuesday of the month**, 10am at the table with the pot plant, Frenchy's café, Headland Park, Mosman. Next: July 11, August 8

TONY BELOBRAJDIC

MAS member Tony Belobrajdic describes his spontaneous style of painting as 'contemporary impressionism.' *Segmented Reality*, his exhibition of lively figures and portraits at recently opened M.C. & Shelly Gallery, 1/934 Military Road, Mosman, runs until 3 July.

Opening hours: Tues–Sat, 10.30am–4.30pm, Sun 10.30am–3pm.



Tony with gallerist Shelly at the exhibition opening

JESSICA ASHTON

In a well-attended workshop on life drawing techniques, Jessica Ashton (*below*) demonstrated the Glenn Vilppu basic figure drawing method, and techniques used by Michael Hampton, as well as the interplay between cool shadows, reflected and centre light and highlights.

Participants were initially guided through short, one-minute sketches of a life model. Gradually, these became two minutes and finished with ten-minute studies. In the afternoon session, participants were eventually producing half hour drawings.

This approach to drawing and Jessica's talent at teaching resulted in a very successful workshop where participants gained a lot of new skills and knowledge, reports Lindie Treleven.



MOSMAN YOUTH ART PRIZE



Winner of this year's Mosman Art Society Award in the Mosman Youth Art Prize is Hayley Bennett for her video and textile work *My latio dissonante vulgari (My cacophony)*. "Simple forms in a short dynamic video with escalating complexity," says Kate Rae, who made the choice on behalf of the Society Committee. "A young artist who deserves encouragement."

EN PLEIN AIR

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

Tuesday 4 and Thursday 20 July:
the Spit (east side)

Tuesday 1 and Thursday 17 August:
Clifton Gardens, Chowder Bay

Tuesday 5 and Thursday 21 September:
Bradley's Head

WHAT TO SEE

Mosman Art Gallery

1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman. Thurs-Tues 10am-5pm, Wed 10am-8pm. mosmanartgallery.org.au

Yasmin Smith (to Sept 10). Smith's artworks are a visual manifestation of the combined environmental and human history of a particular site, here focusing on Mosman's landscape.

Khaled Sabsabi: Unseen (to Sept 10). Immersive artwork questioning ideas of the 'other', utilising evocative scents of coffee amid anonymised and veiled portraits.

Maddison Gibbs (to Sept 10). Gibbs (Gunu Baakandji) focuses on environmental damage and Menindee fish kills to examine past and present Aboriginal societies and spirit.

Manly Art Gallery & Museum

West Esplanade Reserve, Manly. Tues-Sun 10am-5pm. magam.com.au

Blak Douglas: Inverted Commoners (to July 30). Dhungatti artist and 2022 Archibald Prize winner *Blak Douglas* examines Australian identity through Gayamay/Manly Cove as a site of first contact.

Ink in the lines (to July 30). Photographic exhibition shares the stories of Australia's military veterans through their tattoos. An Australian War Memorial Touring Exhibition

Environmental Art & Design Prize 2023

(Aug 4 to 27) New works by artists and designers across Australia focused on the climate emergency and environmental regeneration. Also at Curl Curl Creative Space and Mona Vale Creative Space Gallery.

S.H. Ervin Gallery

Observatory Hill, The Rocks. Tues-Sun 11am-5pm shervingallery.com.au

2023 Salon des Refusés: the 'alternative' Archibald & Wynne Prize selection (to 23 July)

Did the judges get it wrong? You decide...



Jennifer Keeler-Milne, Golden Beech (Mt Wilson)

ART PRIZES

Mosman Art Prize 2023

Longest running and most prestigious municipal art prize in Australia. Exhibition 23 September – 29 October. Acquisitive award of \$50,000 sponsored by Mosman Council. Entries close Friday 4 August, 11pm. mosmanartgallery.org.au

Hornsby Art Prize

Sponsored by Hornsby Shire Council in partnership with Hornsby Art Society. Prize pool worth \$23,000. Categories: painting, drawing, printmaking, digital art stills and sculpture. Finalists' exhibition 20 October – 5 November. Entries close 5 September. hornsby.nsw.gov.au/artprize

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Lynette Armstrong
Vanessa Doyle

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

PO Box 343, Spit Junction, NSW 2088
secretary@mosmanartsociety.org.au
www.mosmanartsociety.org.au

Newsletter Editor: Anne Woodham