



Society of Mountain Artists inc.

Featuring the Works of Artists from the Blue Mountains in New South Wales, Australia

Oct 2017

Newsletter

Issue No. 321

**Mail P.O. Box 76 Wentworth Falls 2782—Email secretary@mountainartists.org
Monthly Meetings at Wentworth Falls School of Arts Great Western Hwy Wentworth Falls
Website / Gallery www.mountainartists.org**

Management Committee

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| President | Peter Ayres | 4758 9005 | Committee Member | Heather Skarratt | 4784 1746 |
| Vice-President | Marie Morris | 47871257 | Committee Member | Lia Johnston | 4782 4408 |
| Secretary | Pat Carruthers | 4758 7172 | Committee Member | Shirley Williams | 4759 2238 |
| Treasurer | Ron Anderson | 4757 2423 | Committee Member | Fred Blakers | 4751 6359 |
| | | | Committee Member | Vacant | |

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Articles required by 2nd Monday of month

President's Message

Our Spring exhibition and Painting in the Gardens is over for this year and in terms of sales -37 paintings sold-was probably the best in our 30yr history. Original Card sales were also very strong. Very well done to those new members and first time exhibitors, many of whom received an award and made sales. It is a big effort putting on the two exhibitions so a big thank you to everyone involved, the committee, helpers and exhibitors. Heather Skarratt and Shirley Jones organised food and drinks for both opening events which certainly add a touch of professionalism to both events so a big thank you to them and their helpers.

Please have a look on the treasurer's table to see if there is a badge for you to collect or perhaps someone you know? Wearing your badge lets people know who you are and hopefully makes new friends and contacts. If you see someone new say hello and if you are new, introduce yourself to others. Please also remember to keep John Finnerty informed if you have changed your email address otherwise you will not get a newsletter or hear about trips etc.

On the social scene the sheet is out for the Christmas lunch on 30 November at Mt Victoria. Our new social secretary Irene Miller will be happy to collect you \$35 for this but we must get a good idea for our booking asap so if you are not on the list .please do so today or let us know.

Also out for interest is the list for Dennis West's watercolour techniques workshop on Saturday 25 November at St Andrews church hall. You can pay your \$30 on the day but don't put your name down unless you know you can go otherwise it just takes a place someone else could have.

In a similar vein we are considering having the occasional weekend plein-air trip where fellow artists will be around to help you if necessary.

Last but not least don't forget to sort out those surplus art materials for our November meeting when we will have our library book and DVD sale as well. All proceeds to the SMA. This is the last meeting of 2017 so bring a small plate of food to share.

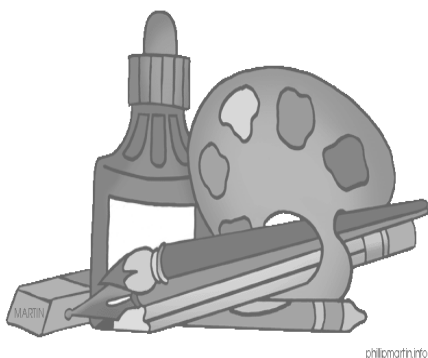
Thank you

Peter Ayres



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Yvonne de Haan | Woodford | Gillian Pym | Wentworth Falls |
| James Peters | Leura | Maryanne Bell | Hazelbrook |
| Dorothy Price | Woodford | Angie Volmenschky | Lapstone |



November Christmas Meeting 16th November

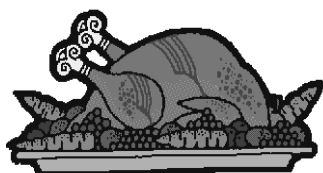
Sale of Members unwanted art equipment, paintings, etc. with all sale proceeds

donated to SMA

Library book sale and includes less used SMA Library DVDs for sale at \$10 each.

Clearly label items with price

Unsold items must be taken home by donor



November Thursday 30th 12noon

Christmas Luncheon

11 Montgomery St

MOUNT VICTORIA MANOR
2017

MAIN COURSE

ROAST PORK & ROLLED TURKEY BREAST BALLOTINE
WITH HERB & WALNUT STUFFING

ROASTED VEGETABLES & PESTO GREEN BABY BEANS

DESSERT

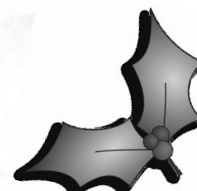
PLUM PUDDING WITH VANILLA CUSTARD CREAM, BRANDY SAUCE
WITH MACERATED BERRIES

\$35 PER HEAD

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS CAN BE CATERED FOR



OTHER BEVERAGES AT BAR PRICES

MOUNT VICTORIA MANOR
HERITAGE WITH A TWIST WWW.MOUNTVICTORIAMANOR.COM.AU



\$35 per Head by October 19th Meeting

Activities Diary

| DATE | ACTIVITY | Location | Booking |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| Oct Thur 19th | Monthly Meeting Digital Art Demonstration Nina Lipscombe | 1.00 pm Wentworth Falls School of Arts | NO |
| Oct Thur 26th | Plein-air Painting Blackheath Campbell Rhododendron Gardens | 10am gardens Bacchante St Blackheath Lodge Open for Teas etc | No Gold Coin Donation |
| Nov Thurs 2nd | Paint Together & Cuppa | 10am St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall Falls Rd Wentworth Falls | \$5 cost |
| Nov Thurs 16th | Christmas Meeting <i>Bring a small plate of Food to Share</i>  | 1.00 pm Wentworth Falls School of Arts Sale of Members unwanted art equipment, paintings, etc. with all sale proceeds donated to SMA Library book sale and includes less used DVDs for sale at \$10 each. Details Page 2 | Unsold items must be taken home by donor. |
| Nov Sat 25th | Dennis West's Watercolour Techniques Workshop | 10am St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall Falls Rd Wentworth Falls | \$30 on day or Before List at Oct Meeting |
| Nov Thur 30th | Christmas Luncheon  | Manor House 11 Montgomery St. Mt Victoria Details on Page 2 | YES By Oct Meeting |
| Jan 2018 Thur 18th | Start of the Year Picnic | Venue to be advised | NO |



Spring Exhibition Main Raffle prize of
Dixie Willmott "Egret Wonders"
was won by Dennis West

Exhibition Calendar

AGNSW, Sydney; Victorian Watercolours until 3 December. Archibald, Wynne and Sulman prizes until 22 October

Australian art and the Russian avant garde until 29 October

SH Ervin gallery Observatory Hill, Sydney;

Portia Geach Portrait prize. Portraiture by women artists starts 20 Oct until 26 November

Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour; The Art of Science; Baudin Voyages 1800-1805. Over 300 original drawings and paintings from France. Until 26 November.

Australian Museum Sydney; 200 treasures of the Australian Museum opens 14 October until

Braemar Gallery Springwood; Rex Livingstone Gallery Katoomba; 'All over the place' exhibition of Jane Canfield works til 25 Sep

Redbox Gallery Herbarium RBG Sydney. A celebration of Australian flora-illustrations from Curtis' Botanical magazine until November

Lion Gate lodge, Sydney Botanic Gardens; Artisans in the Gardens; 10am -4pm until 22 October

RAS of NSW, Walker st N Sydney; 2017 National exhibition Australian Society of Marine Artists until 29 October

State Library of NSW Macquarie st; Nikon Walkley Press Photography exhibition until 26 November

NSW Parliament Macquarie st; Plein air Prize 2017 until 27 October

Lost Bear Gallery Lurline st Katoomba; Warwick Fuller –new paintings until 23 October.

Rex Livingston Gallery Katoomba St, Katoomba; Margaarita Georgiadis, Paintings from the artists residency in France. 2017 til 30 Oct

Blue Mtns Cultural Centre, Katoomba; Picture Gallery –contemporary Aust. Childrens Book Illustrations until 10 November

David Hockney- Words and Pictures selected by John Hockney until 3 November

Prints 'n' Frames Min Street Lithgow; Leonarda Kovacic; A THOUSAND PETALS photo exhibition until 30 October

Society of Mountain Artists Website Analytics for Sept 2017.



Each month the Website Sub-Committee undertakes the task of capturing a summary of SMA website usage statistics to report to the membership through the Newsletter.

Because the Spring Exhibition crossed both the latter part of Sept and the first eight days of October we have included analytics which reflect both periods.

Firstly, the Website Analytics picture for the 30 days in **Sept 2017** were as follows:

There were **165 (116)* Users** over the Sept period that had at least one session or visit. This figure includes new as well as returning Users.

There were **202 (149)* Sessions overall**.

Sessions are the number of times a user is actively engaged with our website. They may for example, be a visitor looking at the On-line Gallery or Events.

Traffic to our site was through the following devices: Desktop **66% (71%)***, Mobile **22% (23%)*** or Tablet **12% (14%)*** over this period.

The SMA website had **116 (116)*** new visitor sessions or **70.8% (65%)*** of all users during Sept.

The visitor sessions included a total of **626 (559)* Page Views**, some of which were repeated views of a single page.

The average number of pages viewed during each session was **3.10 (3.75)** which may have also included repeated views of a single page. The international average is > 2 page views.

The Average Session Duration i.e., the length of each session or time a visitor or user is engaged was **02:25 (03.09)*** minutes.

Finally, the Bounce Rate which is where a visitor left the SMA site after landing on an entrance page but did not choose to interact with that page.

The bounce rate in Sept was **52.97% (65.10%)*** Generally speaking < 50% is what is acceptable internationally.

* Indicates previous months

ALL THE PRIZE WINNING PAINTINGS FROM THE SPRING EXHIBITION ARE ON THE WEBSITE [CHECK THEM OUT](#)



SMA Spring Exhibition 2017 Winning Paintings and Judge (Sanja Zemljacenko Herrmann)
comments on winning paintings (Photographs of All Prize Paintings are now on Website)

Overall comments on the exhibition

Congratulations to all the participating artists on a diverse and engaging exhibition. With so many high quality, technically proficient, and aesthetically appealing works, the judging process was not an easy task. The works range from traditional subject matter and meticulous techniques, to expressive depictions, and to boldly unconventional themes and experimental execution. From delicate colours, forms, and intricacy, to vibrant palettes, energetic brushwork, and beautiful atmospheric effects.

While I had a list of criteria to go by, my choices for the awards were ultimately subjective and determined by the initial visual impact of a piece, how the visual elements, the subject matter, and the techniques combined to create a striking work.

Thank you for inviting me and trusting me in this process.

Best in Exhibition: Lia Johnston "Hippo Beach, Lazyriver Winery"

Lia has captured a timeless and alluring scene. A beautiful sense of place and space. One is drawn into the landscape by the meandering direction of light through the composition. While there is a feeling of stillness and calm depicted by the tranquil composition, and the naturalistic colour palette used, there is also a vibrant energy felt through the dynamic brushwork.

Oils

1st Prize: "Sunset" by Ruth Dengate

A magical time of day has been captured. Ethereal qualities, softness of warm light and colour, and very confident, spontaneous brushwork, make this a stunning impression of a moment in time.

2nd Prize: "Seascape" by Lia Johnston

A luminous painting. Awe inspiring light and sense of vastness. Serene and sensual colour palette. A passionate, painterly, depiction of nature's forces.

Highly Commended: "Morning Glow" by Phillip Budge

A lovely, honest aesthetically pleasing painting. The simplicity of subject matter is treated with accomplished brushwork and subtle colour mixing, with a perfectly balanced composition, leading to a distant focal point of the illuminated hill and a warm glowing escarpment.

Commended: "Track to Lake Hume, Victoria" by Carole Massey

A fresh, direct, uncomplicated depiction of a place and time of day. A sense of being there and of journey is felt.

Acrylics

1st Prize: "Over The Rise" by Annie Joseph

A dynamic, captivating painting. Strong presence of the enduring landscape, powerful composition, dramatic tonal and colour contrasts. Expressive and confident technique.

2nd Prize: "Through The Trees" by Yvonne de Haan

Explosive, joyous painting symbolic of nature's creative life forces. Very bold and brave use of pure contrasting colours, softened by the textural, undefined brushwork. In parts subtle and gentle and in other parts vibrating with full force.

Highly Commended: "Home Game" by Shirley Williams

A very nostalgic and comforting scene. A sense of lightness, fun, and belonging. Sensitive mixing and blending of colours, delicate tonal variances and brushwork.

Commended: "Still Life" by Helen Keegan

Gently atmospheric and comforting interior scene. Lovely use of complementary colours and their subtle blends. Loose, fluid brushwork creates soft textural effect.

Watercolour

1st Prize: "Country Charm" by Mara Jordan

A glorious, illusory painting, with an enchanted atmosphere. Exceptional handling of the medium, subtle mixing and layering of colours, and superb water reflection. Gentle, dappled path of light directing flowing movement through the composition.

2nd Prize "Blue Mountains Bushland" by Esther McFarlane

A vibrant, expressive, distinctly local bush scene. Crisp and clear colour and light. Fluid, loose paint application, and a dynamic composition creates a sense of movement, inviting participation. Skilful technique.

Highly Commended: "Afternoon Light" by Ruth Dengate

An exceptional, refreshing small painting. Minimalist paint application and mark making, placed deliberately, and seemingly effortlessly, by a skilful artist.

Highly Commended: "Springtime" by Dixie Willmott

A most delicate, graceful, perfectly balanced, and incredibly detailed study from nature. Exceptional use of the medium.

Commended: "Steps Back in Time, Troyes, France" by Peter Ayres

A striking, dramatic composition. Use of subdued colour softens the imposing structures. Effective use of perspective techniques.

Works on Paper

1st Prize: "The Albert Bridge" by Dennis West

An exquisite depiction of a majestic structure, and a memorable, much loved place. Impeccable detail, and accuracy achieved with pastels. Beautifully composed and atmospheric.

2nd Prize: "Woman In Profile" by Richard Grammer

An engaging study of a woman's face. Use of strong tonal contrast and subtle tonal variations, creating bold emphasis of structure and gentle softness of form. Skilful, unlaboured use of the medium.

Highly Commended: "Sheep In Paddock" by Maggie D'Heureux

A beautiful, atmospheric sense of place and distance. Strong and competent compositional devices used. Gentle and harmonious colours with complementary mauve and gold highlights, adding vibrancy. Accomplished technique and use of pastels.

Small Paintings

1st Prize: "Narrowneck - Katoomba" by Helen Hudson

A beautiful and astonishing depiction of a vast, monumental landscape, in a small painting. Skilful use of the medium, and of atmospheric perspective.

Highly Commended: "Wearing The Trespass" by Dixie Willmott

A playful and humorous work. Meticulously painted by an exceptionally skilled artist. Expresses a richness of colour, detail, subject matter, and calories.

Highly Commended: "Untitled" by Jen Ross Brown

A gorgeous, tiny, mosaic like painting, depicting a frog. Demonstrates a unique and unexpected use of watercolour, delicately and systematically applied.

Beyond Reality

1st Prize: "Fantasie" by Rosemarie Ringhof

Intriguing, abstract painting. Strong organic composition and monochromatic tonal mixing. Delicate blending and rendering of form in contrast to hard edges. Striking focal point.

Highly Commended: "Spring Camellias" by Yvonne de Haan

A daring, unconventional mixed media work. Richness of colour, texture, pattern and technique.