

ROYAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

NEWSLETTER

April 2024 No. 505

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From the desk of the President – John Perkins FRAS

The first of our two major exhibitions for 2024, the Annual Autumn Exhibition incorporating the Thora Ungar Memorial Award, was judged and officially opened by Mal Damkar, BA Fine Arts Graduate and Production Manager of Beagle Press.

The major award was won by Desiree Prinsloo, Highly Commended Susan Sheridan and Commended to Robyn Colman and Kath Wallace. Our Congratulations to the artists.

We increased the prize money for this exhibition from \$1,000, the amount since this exhibition was first staged in 2006, to \$1,500.

The repairs to the Preston Gallery and Engine Room have finally been completed.

A big thanks to Sue Sharpe, who spent considerable time pulling out weeds and putting in new plants in the rear garden carpark, and to Deb and Greg Morgan for assisting to rewrap paintings in the collection. We are currently investigating quotes for some maintenance, guttering, air conditioning and railings.

The next exhibition is the 'Just Drawing' for members and the Painters and Educators (Earle Backen, Cameron Sparks and Tom Thompson) curated by Daniel Pata. Both should be outstanding exhibitions and not to be missed. Opening night is Friday 19 April 2024 and I look forward to seeing you all on the night.

The Fellows' Meeting and morning tea was enjoyable, interesting topics and discussions and members were nominated from Exhibiting to Associate.

Happy Painting

Members' News:

Freda Surgenor FRAS won 1st Prize in the Watercolour Section and also Best Exhibit – Royal Easter Show.

Marlene Weaver FRAS won 2nd Prize in the Still Life Section – Royal Easter Show and 2nd Prize for Small Works in the Tumut Art Exhibition.

Dee Jackson won 1st Prize in the Figurative – Royal Easter Show.

Elizabeth Yaffe ARAS has advised details of the upcoming exhibition for the Stables Contemporary Art Gallery. Works from RAS members will be featured: Fellows Ann Cape, Yvonne Langshaw Felicity Unwin and Susanna Chen Chow and myself, an Associate Member, as well as 3 other Contemporary Artists: Vanessa Ashcroft, Ana Young and Greta Morrison. Further information: <https://stablesgallery.com.au>

2024 Annual Autumn Exhibition and Thora Ungar Memorial Award



Desiree Prinsloo Winner of the Thora Ungar Memorial Award with Judge Mal Damkar



Mal Damkar, Robyn Coleman, Commended with John Perkins



Mal Damkar, Kath Wallace, Commended with John Perkins



Julie Simmons, Melissa Read Devine and Lyn Burns



Left: Hilary Hatfield enjoying the Exhibition



Genevieve Crocker with her painting

Judge's Comments – Mal Damkar

Commended

Robyne Coleman's Tumut Sunset, with some great mark making with earth pastels, showing the detail where needed, defining the various trees and creating the dusk sunset feel I found to be very enticing and made me look at all the subtle detail in the tree lines in the distance.

Commended

Kath Wallace's self-portrait – The painterly surface, and composition and detailed study of the face, the large striking yellow on the right-hand side help to make this a portrait and a painting its not just a document of how one looked on the day, without it trying to be a 'makeover' it's a portrait of a model that all students rely on – **oneself**.

Highly Commended

Susan Sheridan's Braidwood Bush – Great composition, wonderful bold colours and glowing white centre, the deep red at the lower of the picture with the black expressionistic brush strokes – make for a very strong picture.

The Winner of the Thora Ungar Memorial Award of 2024 is a work that immediately caught my eye when I saw it and as I spent my morning looking at all the pictures, I was constantly drawn back to it. It's simple, yet right composition – the very narrow tonal palette very much appealed to me. I felt the figure had the pent-up tense energy required for the pose. But the painted surface was what made me ultimately drawn to it. **Desiree Opiat Prinsloo's Archer – Alla Prima**

Mal Damkar BA (Visual Art)

Mal Damkar is a College of Fine Arts Graduate. Although his arts education was largely via osmosis, growing up in an art world where art was considered the most important past time, and creativity was championed and critiqued. Mal started working fulltime in 2010 at The Beagle Press (a family business), the longest running art book publishing house in Australia. Mal has diverse experience in industries including photography, software, brand management, graphic design and interior design – where he designed and manufactured fabrics and wallpaper, winning two awards for his designs.

The Beagle Press' most recent publication, Greg Hansell, The Purity of Australian Light is due out in March. Mal is currently working on books on Bernard Ollis and Roslyn Kean.



Stay Connected

Have you "liked" the Royal Art Society of NSW on Facebook? If you want to keep up to date with news and events at the Royal, simply "like" our page and invite your friends to "like" it too. Supporting us in this simple way helps to get the message out that we are continuing our tradition of great art and exhibitions, exciting classes and life-time friendships.

RAS EXHIBITOR'S ENTRY FORM

"JUST DRAWING EXHIBITION"

SEND IN DAY: MONDAY 15 APRIL 2024 BETWEEN 10AM AND 3PM ONLY

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

CONTACT NUMBER: _____

STATUS: FELLOW ASSOCIATE EXHIBITING

GST REGISTERED YES/NO

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Two entries per member allowed.

All work must be for sale.

\$15 entry fee for each painting

All works must be signed.

All works must have standard hanging cord.

Each painting must have a luggage tag on which the artist, title of work and price is written, tag to be attached by string to the cord.

Old and damaged frames not accepted.

Works to be delivered between 10am and 3pm on the stated Send in Day or the Sat/Sun just prior.

TITLE	MEDIUM	AUS \$

I AGREE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET OUT ON THIS FORM:

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

ENTRY FEE \$15 PER PAINTING

- Artists are advised that the paintings to be hung are selected by the Council of the Royal Art Society based on quality of work and space limitations and that their decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The Royal Art Society cannot accept responsibility for paintings, sculptures left on the premises.
- The commission rate for members is 30%.

RAS Artists in the Landscape

En Plein Air

We are featuring artists of the RAS painting 'en plein air painting.

In England, too, painting outside became a prevailing practice amongst landscape artists. Many in England believe that John Constable was the first pioneer of the *Plein air* painting approach in around 1813. In England in particular; painting en plein air was a fundamental part of the development of Naturalism. In the late 19th century, the Newlyn School was a strong proponent of the *en Plein air* techniques.

Next in the series is of Fellow, Lyn Burns and her artist statement is:

It is a joy to sit in the landscape and become part of it for the time I am painting. Because I sit in one place for hours, I notice things I may not otherwise see, like the way water ripples over rocks, the movement of shadows on the ground, the effects of wind, the beauty of a shower of falling leaves or the creatures that may be around. Once I watched a small snake appearing every now and then as I drew beside a creek. I remember landscapes that I have drawn, though always there is constant change. Drawing the same tree every time I visited a friend's property, over years, was a great experience of this. Being able to distinguish what is important to me in a particular place, how I feel about it, and how I will remember it are all a part of the experience and inform my painting.

I have recently spent a week painting at Arkaroola in awe inspiring landscape, and I know that my strongest memories of this amazing place will be of those parts of it where I have sat in the landscape and painted.



the art scene
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The Society wishes to thank The Art Scene

ROYAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

“1940’s at the RAS”

It was a time to celebrate the end of WWII – nurses, soldiers, airmen all back from the war, the music is swing and Noel Coward, so put on the red lipstick and dress up to the 9’s or come in uniform – you are limited only by how far your imagination will stretch.



An exclusive evening for those members who donate a painting or paintings to the major fundraiser, The Art Ballot, and our fantastic hard-working volunteers.

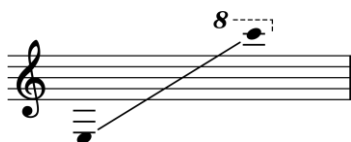
Tuesday 16 July 2024 5.30 to 8pm RSVP essential



A night for members to socialise, enjoy music, food and wine. Prizes for the most fun and creative costumes.

Noel Coward’s *‘What a swell party this is’*

RSVP is a must to Christine on 9955 5752 or lavender@royalart.com.au



2024 Program of Events

April

Sunday 7 Term 1 Finishes
Friday 12 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
Sunday 14 Annual Autumn Finishes at 3pm
Monday 15 **Send-in** Drawing Exhibition (features works by Earle Backen and Cam Sparks) also Daniel Pata Private Exhibition
Friday 19 **Opening** Drawing Exhibition and Private Exhibition
Monday 22 Term 2 Commences
Thursday 25 Anzac Day RAS Closed

May

Friday 17 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
Sunday 19 **Finish** Drawing Exhibition and works by Earl Backen, Cam Sparks, Tom Thompson 4pm
Monday 20 **Send in** Beagle Press Limited Edition books, posters, lithographs (Whiteley, Storrier, Lloyd Rees)
Friday 24 **Opening** Night Beagle Deluxe Limited Edition, Lithographs, Books, Prints 6pm-8pm

June

Monday 10 King's Birthday RAS Closed
Monday 24 Last Send in day for Ballot Paintings
Friday 28 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
Sunday 30 Term 2 Finishes

July

Monday 1 **Last Send-in** day for Ballot
Saturday 6 1st Viewing Ballot Fundraiser
Monday 15 Term 3 Commences
Tuesday 16 Ballot Cocktail Party 6-8pm
Friday 26 RAS Council Meeting 4pm

August

Sunday 4 Ballot Draw 12 noon
Wednesday 7 **Send-in** 'Flair and Form' Exhibition 1-3pm
Friday 9 **Opening** 'Flair and Form' Exhibition 6-8pm
Monday 5 RAS Closed
Tuesday 6 RAS Closed
Friday 30 RAS Council Meeting 4pm

September

Sunday 1 **Finish** 'Flair and Form' Exh.
Monday 2 **Send in** Annual Spring (Medal of Distinction Award)
Friday 6 **Opening** Annual Spring 6pm
Tuesday 17 Fellows Morning Tea 11am and Meeting at 11.30m
Sunday 22 Term 3 Finishes
Friday 27 RAS Council Meeting 4pm

October

Sunday 6 **Finish** Annual Spring Exh.
Monday 7 Closed Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 8 **Send-in** CASS Exhibition (private)
Friday 11 **Opening** CASS Exhibition (private) 6-8pm
Monday 14 Term 4 Starts
Friday 25 Council Meeting 4pm
Monday 28 **Send-in** RAS Art School Exhibition 10am-3pm

November

Friday 1 **Opening** RAS Art School Student Exhibition 6pm-8pm
Friday 15 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
Sunday 24 **Finish** RAS Student Exhibition
Monday 25 **Send in** Christmas Exhibition 10am-3pm
Friday 29 **Opening** Christmas Exhibition

December

Thursday 12 RAS Council Meeting 4pm
Sunday 15 Term 4 finishes
Monday 23 RAS closes at 2pm

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Art School Director: Greg Hansell FRAS

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Deadline for the next Newsletter is 28 April 2024