

#315

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"PAINT 'N PALETTE"

Members' 66th
Annual Art
Awards
opened by
John Green
(Bezzina House)

November 2010

- 4th** SGAS Awards Judging
- 5th** SGAS Awards Presentation
- 11th** Life Drawing (F)
- 18th** Demonstration: Painting Creatively (Don)
- 25th** Still Life / Creative
- 28th** Plein-Air: Kogarah Bay, details on page 4

The Measure of Success.....

is how well one lauds the achievements of one's peers. And, equally, how well also one offers constructive criticism.

Our annual parade of 'the best' from members' works of the past year is more than an opportunity to win recognition for the not-so-small-amount of effort.

Here is what some famous people have said about criticism; and from whom we might learn a thing or two.

Somerset Maugham... "I didn't expect you to understand me," he answered. "With your cold American intelligence you can only adopt the critical attitude. Emerson and all that sort of thing. But what is criticism? Criticism is purely destructive; anyone can destroy, but not everyone can build up. You are a pedant, my dear fellow. The important thing is to construct: I am constructive; I am a poet."

Michael Kilian... "Actually, my artistic knowledge is so tiny it could fit into the brain of an art critic."

Henry Louis Mencken... "Painting is the art of protecting flat surfaces from the weather and exposing them to the critic".

Oscar Wilde... "Technique is really personality. That is the reason why the artist cannot teach it, why the pupil cannot learn it, and why the aesthetic critic can understand it. To the great poet, there is only one method of music -- his own. To the great painter, there is only one manner of painting -- that which he himself employs. The aesthetic critic, and the aesthetic critic alone, can appreciate all forms and all modes. It is to him that Art makes her appeal."

Tom Stoppard... "Skill without imagination is craftsmanship and gives us many useful objects such as wickerwork picnic baskets. Imagination without skill gives us modern art".

Claude Monet... "Lots of people will protest that it's quite unreal and that I'm out of my mind, but that's just too bad."

What does this all mean? It means that once a year we come together for two things.

1. Our work is judged by an acknowledged expert.
2. Our work is judged again by ourselves. Whatever someone says may or not be warranted; may or may not be correct. Often a casual remark may say more about the person making the comment than the artwork.

Let's celebrate the differences of vision and the honest effort so many members have made.



The Profiler

RON STANNARD

Fellow - Australian Society of Marine Artists.

Born Sydney, 1934. Painter in oil and watercolour.

Commenced work in advertising in 1949, graphic design, illustration, art director. Studied part time at National Art School, 1951-54. Painting and study tours to Central Australia, 1966, 68, 83, 84, 88; to Tasmania in 1988, 1990; France, Italy, 1989; Britain and France 1994; Canada 1998.

Member of the Royal Art Society of NSW since 1969, elected to Fellow 1983. Two terms as RAS Vice-President 1984-86 and 1989-91. President RAS 1992-96. Elected member AWI, 1988.

Has been an exhibitor for many years with all group shows with RAS. Also with RAS, solo exhibition, 1981; two artist exhibition, 1993; three artist exhibition, 1994.

Invited as one of eight artists 'Celebrated Artists Exhibition', Blue Mountains, 1991. AWI group exhibitions to Canada and Mexico.

Commissioned to paint 'Australia II, Defence of America's Cup' 1983; commissioned to paint 'HMS Sirius', for Bicentenary, 1988. Won the 'Will Ashton' RAS Medal 1989; Watercolour Prize, Blackheath, 1991; commended Doug Moran Portrait Prize, 1988, Finalist in Doug Moran Portrait Prize, 1992.

Invited to judge competitions in Sydney and country areas of NSW. Tutor at workshops and painting demonstrations to many NSW art societies. Teacher of oil and watercolour, RAS, NSW. Appointed Director of the Art School in 1996.



Our three monthly awards for October are shown below. Big congratulations to all. The competition gets more intense every month with so many great works being presented. It bodes well for our Annual Awards which promises to be a treat for all who attend the award presentations.

AOM
Marlene Weaver

PC
Mitzi Tilley

PEA
David Belinfante



"You don't understand" said the gentleman who rustled a chocolate wrapper as he spoke. "Art is not about light and shade any more, or drawing, or composition, or little pictures of landscapes. That's dead," he said. "Art is now about shock and awe and protest and making a statement. The greatest artist living today is Banksy."

Have you heard of Banksy?"

"Who's Banksy?" Since the question was directed at me, I told them Banksy is the guy who arrives quietly by night in various big cities and puts up fresh graffiti, generally in the form of life-sized stencils such as a valise-carrying businessman with a sign that says "Will work for idiots." Another of Banksy's images is a stern policeman leading a muzzled dog that happens to be made of pink balloons.

"Some property owners get upset when they arrive in the morning and see what's been done to their wall," I said. "Some will have someone come and paint over the Banksy art. On the other hand, some Banksys are put under plexi to protect them from defacement. Some are put under 24-hour paramilitary guard. One property owner reportedly took down his Banksyed wall and sold it to an art gallery for a couple of hundred grand."

A guy said, "It's bull shit." He said it just loud enough for everyone to hear. Scattered laughter rippled. "But is it art?" asked a girl in a yellow frock.

Andy Warhol said, "Art is anything you can get away with." Yes, the world of art is big enough for all flags to fly.

So much of the art that many of us like to make is "skilled" art. For most, it's difficult to do. Certainly, it's difficult to do well. Skilled art may take a few years of private effort, studentship, technique development etc.

Talk about Portraiture..... how's this little fella.



"Humour is very important in my life, it's the only reason for living." Marcel Duchamp

Art Tuititon available from SGAS members

Yvonne Ferguson Home Studio, 130 The Promenade, Sans Souci
Phone Yvonne 9529 5536 **Monday 6.30 to 9pm \$25**

Don Kibble Ramsgate Life Saving Hall, Ramsgate Beach
Phone Don 9547 2237 **Wednesday 10am to noon \$25**

Ros Psakis Kogarah Bay Progress Hall, Park Rd. Kogarah Bay
Phone Ros 9587 8857 **Wednesday 10am to 2pm \$25**



Free Tuition!
for new members, is available on Still Life and Creative e Sketching evenings. Just mention when signing in that you would like some help.

STGEORGE Art SOCIETY
FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ART

EXHIBITIONS

Kiama Art Show

Show 23rd October

SGAS Members' Awards

Entry by 21st October

WetlandCare Australia

Entry by 3rd December

SAMPLE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE
AT THE FRONT DESK ON
1ST/3RD THURSDAY MEETINGS

All Members should have information about the CASS 'Art of Sydney' Awards which will open on Friday 21st January at the Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park.

This is an interim location while the National Maritime Museum is being renovated. That being the case, it is imperative that artists from all member societies make an extra effort to help make it work. John Perkins, who critiqued our work in October will be the judge for this too.

The Crow & The Pro discuss...

FOCUS -what *are* we doing?

The Crow says

Making artwork is a terrifically fun thing to do. In fact it can be so much fun that it is easy to forget what we start out to do. Quite apart from the act of 'painting', it is a matter of keeping to the 'vision' of the first brush of inspiration. For example, if we want

St. George Art Society Incorporated
Kogarah School of Arts
Cnr. Queens Ave & Bowns Rd Kogarah 2221

President Don Kibble
Secretary Jillian Jessen
Treasurer Liz Wellings
Public Officer Emil Dan
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to paint a landscape, there must be something about the view that impresses most. In the process of mixing colour, design can get left behind. In the process of painting the background, the foreground can be left wanting.

Art should have some meaning, as well as beauty, that comes through to the viewer. Your picture should say "This is what life means to me".

One of the most important things that can be focussed on is not the likeness to reality, but the atmosphere of the scene or subject. The *feeling* of the thing.

Focussing on those two aspects will give meaning to your work and say something to the viewer above and beyond the likeness. In this respect, it can be seen that accurate drawing is subjugated to effect. It does seem to be the modern way, as artists have been freed by the camera to concentrate on creating images of impressions.

(kibbleart@optusnet.com.au) Don



The Pro says

One would think that the excitement of beginning a new painting would hold our attention firmly in place. But I have been known to 'wander off' mentally to plan meals and make shopping lists, leaving the brush to wander around the painting unaccompanied and on automatic. It's not until I step back to view the progress that I see what a mistake it is to let a brush potter off on its own. (much like the concentration of yours truly.)

The scrubbing-in stage at the start of the painting can mostly take care of itself and be a bit willy nilly if it likes. But the further into the painting, each brushstroke should mean something. The closer to completion, no brush stroke should be put down unless it is planned and put for a reason. A powerful stroke should only be applied once as each additional stroke loses the power of the first. So, in the first stage of painting, plan meals, make shopping lists, visualise new curtains or outfits if you must.....BUT when the serious brushstrokes are needed, so is the concentration. Undivided and absolute.

(rospsakis@optusnet.com.au) Ros

NEXT MONTH:

'Holiday Art'



FEEDBACK

What colour are you? Tell the rest of us, even if it is wet, weird and wild...

ST. GEORGE Art SOCIETY INC
FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ART



Foundation Member

Combined Art Societies of Sydney www.combinedartsocieties.com



S
O
M

A lovely feel to this Sketch of the Month. Beautifully under-done with more art in the background than on the figure. The sweep of the hair, the strength of the pose, the softness of the working, all serve to present a very feminine effect. If the artist would come forward and identify him/herself, we can all know next month, who dunnit.

Achieveing (but not in spelling)

A number of members were successful in off-loading some artworks at St Marks, namely Don, Jan, Angela and I think a few more. Selected artists for Hurstville's first St George Art Awards include William, Jan, Jenny and Mitzi. Congratulations to all and best luck in winning the big prize. Your Society has a good representation in this new event. Yvonne Ferguson has done it again with a 1st Place in Watercolour at the Goulburn Art Show.

The Book Nook review:

'MOODS OF LIGHT' by RACHEL RUBIN WOLF

This book is organised into the work of 9 artists, revealing how each conveys the use of light and its moods. Each artist discusses the subject matter, methods and purpose of their art. They give step by step demonstrations and the little tricks that they use. This is followed by suggested exercises that you can do for practice.

The whole theme is how to master light in a variety of subjects using different mediums- watercolour, acrylics, oils and pastels. Light in the landscape is explored- after a shower of rain, sunset on still water, creating artificial sunrays, morning fog, dappling on foliage. Indoor light on objects and flowers, including a window and its light is also explained.

Thanks to Susan Severino for this reveiw. Be sure to check the Society's web site for more. Look under 'Activities - Library' where you will see the fruits of Susan's efforts in cataloging over 150 books, videos and dvds. Also, members are encouraged to contribute a review thru the Society's web site.

Your committee decided it was high time the Society had some first hand knowledge of what's so great about the home of the impressionists and accordingly have allocated \$16,000 to send itself on a fact-finding mission to France and Italy. Committee members have very generously voted to buy their own lunches on the trip.*

Other decisions: 1. The Society's Public Officer, Emil Dan, has been asked to MC the proceedings at the Awards evening. 2. A fold-up type ladder is to be purchased. 3. Declined invitation to participate in Rockdale's 'Food 'n Groove Festival. 4. Investigating government change to Incorporation rules. 5. Donation of \$500 to be made to 'Debra NSW Inc', plus artworks for auction by Don/Ros/Merle/Jill/Mavis, and others to be invited, at function on 29th Oct.

* just kidding



Plein -air for

November 28 is the beautiful Carss Park. Lots of views, parking, facilities and even a heated pool if you mind. A great spot for studying lighting, colour and design. You will probably have a few 'observers' here. From 8am.

