

NEWSLETTER

Patron

*Her Excellency, Professor, the
Honourable Kate Warner, AM
Governor of Tasmania*

Australian Society of Miniature Art Tasmania Inc.
ABN 62 906 905 330 (Society not registered for GST)

April May June 2016



Dear Members,

It seems but a short while since Tasmanians were concerned by the drought and diminishing levels of our water catchments. We feared possible power cuts. The massive turnaround has created unbelievable trauma and flood damage, absolutely unprecedented in decades. It is sincerely hoped that none of our members or their families have suffered loss or been adversely affected by this deluge, either here in Tasmania, or down the east coast of northern States. Our hearts go out to those affected as they endeavour to gather their lives together again.

Since the initial flurry associated with the Annual Awards Exhibition, the ensuing hiatus has provided welcome "me time", allowing us space to produce "masterpieces" in readiness for January, 2017, without the urgency experienced when an exhibition is imminent.

Patron

Wonderful News! We are truly blessed, delighted and excited to announce that the Governor, Her Excellency, Professor, the Honourable Kate Warner AM has very kindly accepted our invitation to assume the role of Patron for the extent of her tenure. We thank Her Excellency most sincerely and look forward to meeting with her again. We hope she enjoys reading about our progress and that she might find time to participate in Society functions.

Reminders for Coming Months

Calendar

Carlene looks forward to receiving "original", unframed and well-packaged paintings (6x9cm) by the end of August. Once your image has been scanned by Xerox, it will be returned ASAP. It is hoped members will support our only fundraiser by entering an image and purchasing one or more of these top quality desk calendars. An order form is enclosed, to be returned by the end of September. Postage has been kept to a minimum by thoughtful packaging. Tasmanian members can save on postage by nominating a local member to hold your order for your subsequent collection or delivery at workshops, etc. The price remains unchanged at \$13.00.

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A.G.M.

As another Newsletter will not be issued early enough to enable timely returns, a nomination for Committee members form has been included. Please do not misplace this important form, but seriously consider what part you can play in support of your ASMA Tas. by perhaps nominating to share Committee duties for a time. Please return your form to the Secretary, Sandra Cumming, by August 13th. The AGM will again be held at Gill and Greg's Place at Evandale (the most central point) on Saturday, September 10th, beginning at 10am. A painting demonstration by Joan Humble will follow after a BYO lunch. Tea/coffee and nibbles provided. Please endeavour to attend and support your Society (no cost incurred on this occasion).

Ev Hales workshop (Watercolour artist)
Saturday 6th/Sunday 7th August, 2016

If you have not yet booked, but wish to participate, please do so ASAP, as numbers will be limited (contact Pat). Members and intending members welcome.

Where: Gill and Greg's Place at Evandale

Time: 10am –to 3:30pm daily

Price: \$80 for 2 days—\$40 deposit (unrefundable) to the Treasurer, Helen Eastley upon booking - remainder by Weds, 27th July. (Full amount may be forwarded when booking). This process ensures final numbers as booked and removes the hassle for the Committee on the first day.

Lunch daily: BYO or purchase from local café close by. Tea/coffee and nibbles provided.

Topics: Day I—florals, colour, brush work

Day II—dynamic darks, energetic mark making

Accommodation: available at B&B's in Evandale or in Launceston, a short drive away.

Janet Matthews Workshop

November 5th/6th at Bicheno

We are again delighted that Janet will tutor our major weekend workshop at Bicheno. The subject—"Portraiture" - has created excitement amongst our members, as we know Janet excels in this area. Included is information provided by Janet as a guide to what is in store for us! Members and intending members are welcome.

Booking: As numbers will again be limited, if you intend to participate, but have not yet ensured

your name has been added to Pat's list, please do so ASAP. Payment later. The price for the 2 days will be \$100.00. More information in next issue. Accommodation: As in previous years, we know early booking at the 'Beachfront' is essential. Phone: 6375 1111.

Membership

It is that time again! Please find enclosed a membership form. As passed at the last AGM, the cost of membership across the board has risen by \$5.00 for the first time since the inception of the Society. This is understandably necessary due to rising costs and is still very reasonable, considering the value received by members over the year. Our Membership Secretary, Carlene Vickers, will issue a receipt upon payment.

Annual Awards Exhibition—"Through the Looking Glass"

Opening: Thursday evening, January 12th, 2017

Where: School House Gallery, Rosny

(How very fortunate we are to be invited back after such a short time.)

Categories: early information to enable members to paint accordingly.

1. Landscapes
2. Seascapes/waterways
3. Buildings—Interior/Exterior
4. All Creatures Great and Small
5. Faces and Figures
6. Florals/Still Life
7. Micro Minis

A Viewer's Choice Award

Gentle Reminder: Entries will need to be in by December 1st, 2016.

(Final information in the next issue.)

Hobart Show: Oct 19th—22nd, 2016

(An opportunity to exhibit)

Miniature Art Section—Tasmanian members only (sorry far-flung members!)

Entry Fee: \$15.00—one entry only due to limited hanging space. Entry by Sept, 30th—work produced in past 2 years

Delivery Date: October 10th—10am to 2pm

Collection Date: October 24th—10am to 2pm

Entry Form Included: (not to be sent to us) - post to the Show Committee as per entry form.

If you wish to support the Show by entering, but are unable to deliver and collect your entry, Sandra and Claire have very kindly offered to provide this service. When sending your painting, please ensure correct packaging and appropriate return packaging, stamps and labels as required for any of our exhibitions.

Cyril Turner

Sincere thanks have been extended to Cyril Turner for the very generous package received from him for the benefit of our members. The items included will be available for members to

Many of our long-time members know that Cyril resides in England and has often exhibited with us in the past. He has been a very talented and highly respected member of our society for many years and is a well-known advocate, teacher and creative miniature artist.

Recovery

Our thoughts are with you, Enid, as you continue your long road to recovery.

Retiring Editor

Our thanks are extended to Helen Eastley for the wonderful work she has done over the past four years as our very talented Editor. Helen has "passed the baton" to Ruth, who has kindly accepted this not so easy task. We feel sure with Ruth's skills, the high standard of our Newsletters will continue to bring pleasure and timely information to our members.

Thank you, Ruth!

Portraits in miniature

Coloured pencils with Janet Matthews



African Princess 2

Throughout history, portraits have been a significant portion of the art created. Even today, whether full-sized paintings or miniatures, portraits continue to be an important genre that many artists produce to a very high standard. Portraiture is one of the more exacting artistic disciplines, but it is also incredibly rewarding. Attention to detail is very important, as capturing the exact shape of an eye, for instance, will accurately depict the person, or, failing that, maybe only achieve a faint resemblance.

It doesn't take much to capture a likeness, really - just the correct line in the right place to get the eyes or mouth right. Enjoying detailed drawing or painting is an advantage. Those of us who usually work in miniature are used to looking for those minute changes of line that capture a shape accurately. This ability can also be learned. It is a skill, just like riding a bike!! It

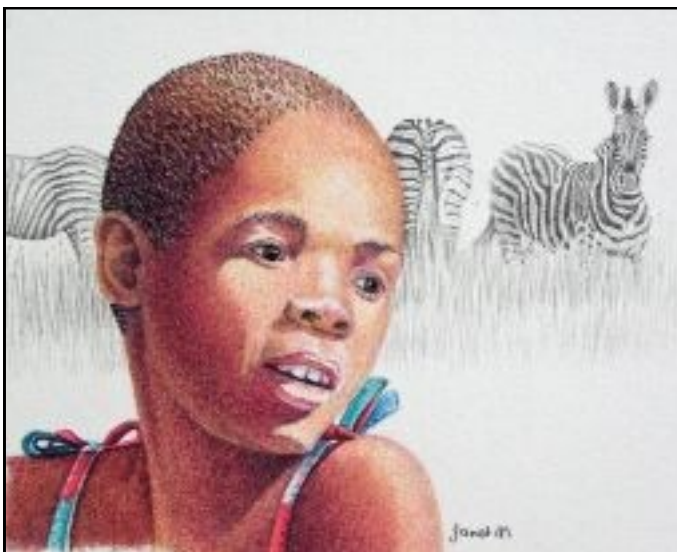
isn't as daunting as it seems, as the portrait artist is usually so engrossed and absorbed by the shapes and the colours that he suddenly realises that he has drawn a face, without becoming overwhelmed by the complexity.

The art materials manufacturers have created sets of 'skin colour' pencils, paints, pastels, etc. But these are often disappointing to use. Skin colours change dramatically, depending on the person's background, from the palest of creamy white skins that my grandchildren have to the dark rich brown skins of the children I have drawn in Africa. Mixing an exciting range of colours to achieve the skin's hue and luminosity is engaging. Instead of using the pre-mixed 'skin tone' colour pencils, I like to use purer colours, like purples, reds, oranges, greens and siennas. They mix together to make a skin colour that glows.

In our class, I am planning to do studies of key features, life-sized, then once we've mastered those, we'll put them into our miniature



Reece and Chad



Who's watching who

format. We'll also do studies of different skin colours, as a 'palette' to work from for any portrait you may wish to do in the future. We'll talk about how to add personality, and how to do teeth in a smile. We will cover how to take the basic formula for a portrait and adapt it to an individual person. Drawing a stranger is easier than drawing someone you know. A photograph won't capture all a subject's personality, unlike when you know all his quirks and expressions. Hence, I would like everyone to bring along a photo of someone dear to them to draw as our final portrait. I will supply the images for the studies, etc. This workshop promises to be very rewarding and fun.

Looking forward to sharing the weekend with you all,
Janet M

ARTIST PROFILE - SUSAN JOYCE

From Warrawee in NSW

Susan began painting nearly twenty years ago - after finding some paints that one of her children had left lying around. She attended classes and collected enough art reference books and magazines to fill a library. She concentrated on acrylics and started exhibiting. In 2004, Susan had her first solo exhibition. It was a great success. One of the visitors was Philippa Stewart-Hall, an ASMA (NSW) member, who was impressed by some of Susan's smaller works. She suggested that Susan apply for membership of the Australian Society of Miniature Art. This she subsequently did, and was very pleased when accepted following her first application! She is now also an exhibiting member of ASMA (Tas.) and ASMA (Vic.).



“Look at me”
Acrylic on recycled plywood cheese box lid
Diameter 10.2cms,
circumference 38cms

Having become a member of ASMA, Susan felt it only right that she learn more about miniatures and their history, and how she could further her development in this particular field. She enrolled in “miniature” classes with graphic designer and miniaturist, Tina Spira. Susan still attends these classes as and when she is able. She finds it is good to get out of her comfort zone and Tina excels in helping her achieve that. It is very positive for Susan's work. She now works in a variety of media: graphite, charcoal, watercolour, and collage, in addition to acrylics. She still paints the odd big

picture; big being a full size sheet! Susan collects many odd items for future reference - dead flowers for one - and uses her own photographs as “aide-mémoires”.

Among some of Susan's most memorable achievements are first prize for art at the RAS Easter Show for her painting, “Kinsale”, and then first prize and the Joan Irwin Prize for Miniatures at the Ku-ring-gai Art Society Annual Awards in 2010. In 2011, she won The Yvonne Perrin Memorial Award for best traditional work at the ASMA Annual Awards for “Little Wych's Spare Bedroom”. Susan received third prize in the miniature section of this year's RAS Easter Show.

Susan stopped work in 2012, and now concentrates on her family, including two granddaughters, which is very time-consuming; and her painting.



Susan Joyce has enjoyed considerable success with her paintings



“The Miner's Shack” - Watercolour on paper,
5 x 7cms (Actual size)



“Memory” - Acrylic on board, 10 x 20 inches (obviously NOT a miniature!)

ASMA Tasmania Inc. is a member Society of the World Federation of Miniaturists which includes Societies in the USA, UK, South Africa and