



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)



January February March 2018

Dear Members,

The New Year is moving along rapidly, with March in full swing and the best of our long summer days behind us, with thoughts of the upcoming winter not very encouraging.

The Painting Day at Evandale on Saturday, 17th February, planned to ease our members into painting after the long holiday season, sadly was not very well attended, mainly due to health issues and several still holidaying. However, those who attended agreed they had used the day well, being motivated by the group working together.

May 19th was to be the next Painting Day, but please change this date in your diary to **Saturday, June 23rd, at Gill and Greg's Place - Evandale**. It will still be a "Bring whatever you are working on" day.

BYO lunch - Cost \$10.00 - Time 10am-3:30pm

We do hope to see you there.

Annual Bicheno Workshop - Nov 3rd/4th

Tutor - Rikki Fisher - Scratchboard Artist - Classed as "Fine Art"

Cost - \$120 - covers 2 days

Meals - \$5 daily for lunch of sandwiches and fruit (Painters friends/partners welcome - much cheaper cost this year, as Committee members are preparing the food)

- Tea/Coffee (endless). Nibbles provided.

"Kit" - Rikki will supply kits at \$25 each - contains the requirements for the workshop

- A list of other suggested useful supplies provided with this issue

Final Payment - must be made to the Treasurer by October 19th, please

E.g., Cost/Meals/Kit - \$155

When booking in, please indicate your wish to purchase a "kit".

Numbers in Class - Rikki has agreed to tutor 18 participants. As this class is filling rapidly, potential participants need to contact Pat A.S.A.P. Information concerning the workshop included with this issue. (No doubt the workshop will prove to be as enjoyable as always. Don't forget that pleasant dinner together on Saturday evening.)

Accommodation at the "Beachfront" - comfortable/onsite—ph 6375 1111
Rikki's website: www.rikkifisher.com

Calendars/Cards

Calendar sales were excellent again and we only have 2 remaining for sale. The cards sold very well at their "first outing" at the Bicheno workshop and will be available at all gatherings or when members wish to purchase (contact Pat). The cards are available for \$3.50 each with images depicted being those featured on the calendar. If members wish to have cards produced using their images (must be 6x4cm or close in size), this service is available also.

Archives

We now have 4 albums of photos from 2008 onward, featuring members, tutors and dignitaries participating in many events over the ensuing years. It is a very interesting history of our Society that we don't want to lose, and to be continued in years to come.

Profile

Many of our members have not yet provided Chris with a short history of their art journey and a small photo of themselves, along with an image of a piece of their artwork. This book creates interest for visitors to our exhibitions, particularly when they purchase a painting. Please consider providing your profile - everyone has a story.

Annual Awards

As our Annual Awards Exhibition is not to be held until Saturday, September 8th, 2018 at the Derwent Sailing Squadron in Hobart, we have plenty of time to prepare prize-winning "gems" to exhibit. The Categories are reduced to 4 due to the smaller venue.

Limit - 4 entries per artist (the 4th may not be hung due to venue size).

1. Landscapes, Buildings, Streetscapes
2. Seascapes
3. Portraits - Faces and Figures (including Animals)
4. Florals and Still Life

More information at a later date.

Website/Facebook

John has re-designed our website and Ruth has organised our Facebook page . We would like to have more members participating in either or both of these initiatives - you may acquire potential purchasers of your work. Contact John or Ruth, please, to contribute.

Joan Humble Exhibition - "New Horizons"

Joan's exhibition will be opened at 6:30pm on Wednesday, 28th March by Professor Frank Kimble at The Lady Franklin Gallery, Lenah Valley. Joan hopes to be present each Saturday and Sunday, when the exhibition will be open, until 29th April.

Joan recently won the Landscape Category in the Annual Awards Exhibition of the Miniature Art Society of Florida with her painting, *Snow on Mt Gould and the Guardians, Tasmania*.
Our Society is well represented internationally!



Snow on Mt. Gould and the Guardians, Tasmania

Membership

If you missed the December "cut-off" for renewing your membership, our membership secretary will receive your payment, ensuring you continue to receive your newsletter. Financial members, please pass on this message to any who may no longer be receiving a newsletter, but would wish to.

Good painting,
Pat

A contribution by our Victorian member, Janet Matthews:

The 1/6th rule

Many of the Miniature Art Societies strictly follow the miniaturisation rule that the subjects must be reduced to 1/6th of their actual size. Our society has been very flexible with this rule, which means that we are not accustomed to thinking about the size of our subjects. This becomes a shock when we exhibit with other miniature societies (Ed. As our work may be rejected for failing to adhere to the rules). It also eliminates a lot of subjects that our members like to paint, for example, insects, small birds, and even some flowers and still life subjects. I suggest that before you design your next miniature artwork, just do a check on the sizing. You'd be very surprised how small the drawing of many objects, flora and fauna needs to be.

Inspiration

Where do artists get their ideas from? Do they have mental blocks that mean they can't think of what to do next? Or is it the complete opposite? Are there just so many amazing things to draw that you flow from one work to the next without a moment of hesitation?

The basis of inspiration for an artwork can come from so many different angles. Some artists are inspired by and want to capture the beauty and changing face of nature, just to share that experience with others. Some artists want to capture light, and they see this in so many different places, whether it's on a building, a landscape or a portrait. Other artists have a subject matter theme, for example, wildlife or botanical. They want to share the beauty of their subjects with others. Some artists have an environmental message, wanting to warn everyone of the destruction of our world. Other artists have a story to tell, based on their own experiences, which they tell through their chosen subject matter, as in my case, using birds and animals to share moments in life that are amusing, engaging, comical, or sometimes serious.

There are so many reasons for inspiration for an artwork, but one way to keep yourself inspired is to go out and experience the world. You need to look with your artist's eye, and see what is around you that makes you react - or engages you.

I find that looking to other artists to see what inspires them can create an easy circumstance to adopt their philosophy, rather than speaking from your own soul. Since this is very easy to do, you end up trying to be them, rather than creating your own style, and capturing your own message.

Art really has no rules, there is no style, subject, technique, or medium that determines whether a work is art or not. It is an individual response to the world, using our own language and story.

Snippets

There's something really magical about seeing people come up close to a miniature artwork to become absorbed into the scene that is painted. Detail and all the painting 'rules' for depth, distance, perspective are all relevant and important, but that close scrutiny is most important.

Negatives spaces - that's the gaps of 'empty' space between and around the main subject - are just as important as the positive elements. Keep that in mind and make them interesting and varied, so there is never a feeling of emptiness.

Having adventures and experiences are all part of keeping yourself inspired.

Cheers,
Janet M

Painting Day

Greg and Gill's Place, Evandale - Saturday, 17th February, 2018



Chris uses the latest technology for her painting reference



James painting in oils, Claire in gouache and Sandra using coloured pencils - all mediums acceptable!



Claire painting a cormorant



Pat and Marilyn reminisce over the archives



James and Helen discuss James' work



Joan achieving very fine work with magnification