



## *The Annual Merit Award Exhibition was held on 9-11 November....*

This event was very generously sponsored by Gordon Harris Art Supplies with prize vouchers and posters, for which we were most grateful.

There were a total of 32 artists, who entered 117 works which were judged by David Sutton, a respected artist from Howick. The results were as follows: -

### Category 1 - Oils and Acrylics

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Juliet Powell  | Kohimarama Trees |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mirene Gebbie  | Seagulls         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Moira Marshall | King Protea      |

### Category 2 - Watercolours

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Gailene Marsden   | Tongli Village Canals China |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jennifer Peryer   | Stillness                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Beverley Herridge | Church of the Good Shepherd |

### Category 3 – Mixed / Dry Media

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Serge Souslov | Sailfish (Wood/metal/gemstone sculpture) |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Janice Napper | Tribute to Len Castle (Glazed acrylic)   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mary Nissen   | Closed Thoughts ( Part of set of 3)      |

David critiqued all prizewinners work and praised the high standard of works on display.

The show was well patronised, with many of the visitors returning after last year's show and sales were in excess of \$3000.

Guests enjoyed drinks and nibbles before the event and there was a very convivial atmosphere amongst artists and friends.

Our thanks to the committee and people who assisted with the huge task of setting up and organising signs etc. to make a success of the occasion.

*Report by Donne Jorgensen*

*Photos produced by Gailene Marsden*

**Coming events for the new year  
2019 .....**

**16 Feb 2019 at St. Thomas Church  
Hall**

**Life Drawing Workshop**

(Further details in the New Year)

**The Annual Costume Tableau will be  
announced soon, this will be held  
March/April 2019. Nearer the time  
contact Chris Seagar for more  
information.**

**Also in March we may be holding  
“March with Art” This exhibition was  
held in St. Thomas Church Hall and was  
organised on a “cash and carry” basis.**

**Our Jewel in the crown, “Artshowcase  
at Grace Joel” always a great favourite  
with all Members. This exhibition is  
always held on “Mother’s Day”  
weekend. So perhaps during our  
Holiday Break, we should be planning  
our next art projects for these coming  
events.**

**+++++++**

**The Tuesday Group (Do your own  
thing).**

**Has settled down into their new  
premises at the Orakei RSA. It does  
seem a little strange to be off to art of  
a Tuesday afternoon, but so far we  
seem to be concentrating more on  
painting and less on the “yummy”  
extended coffee breaks!**

*More photos from the Merit Award  
Exhibition...*



**St Heliers Library**

**Artists displaying their art work at St.  
Heliers Library**

**Judy O'Brien & Ian Richards  
December/January**

**To display your art work in the library  
contact – Judy O'Brien  
0276818821 or judynoel@hotmail.com**

# REPORT ON AUCKLAND EAST ARTS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES, 2018

## Exhibitions

Our 'March with Art' exhibition at St Thomas Church hall, 9-11 March, was 'cash and carry'. Twenty-five artists displayed a total of 99 pieces, six paintings were sold and one was commissioned. We made a small surplus.

Our annual 'Artshowcase at Grace Joel' was held over the weekend of Mothers' Day, 11-13 May. The opening speaker was Frances Davis of the International Art Centre. Our guest artist, Anita Madhav, exhibited 33 works. This was a very successful event, 57 artists exhibiting a total of 271 works. thirty-six were sold.

We held our Merit Awards exhibition over the weekend 9-11 November at St Thomas Church hall. The judge was David Sutton and prizes were awarded in the categories: acrylic or oil, watercolour, and mixed media or dry media.

Through the year our artists exhibited their work at St Heliers Public Library. The displays were changed each month. and this was organized by Judy O'Brien.

## Workshops

We held our annual Costume Tableau on Saturday 28 April 2018. The theme was '1930's, 'Ginger Rogers style'.

Yulia Zapisetskaya and Bev Herridge tutored workshops in semi-abstract acrylic palette knife painting on 21 July, and a watercolour workshop on 8 September, which all those artists who attended enjoyed.

On 2 October about twenty of our members attended a workshop Factory Frames Limited, at their premises in Lunn Avenue, Mount Wellington.

## Other Activities

Tuesday Morning 'Do Your Own Thing' Painting Group is going strong and our Thursday Outdoor Painting Group is not venue dependent enjoyed some fine weather.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 22 June, and at their first meeting our new Executive Committee appointed the following officers: Chairperson Christopher Seager, Vice Chairperson Mary Nissen, Secretary Gailene Marsden, Membership Secretary Mary Nissen, Treasurer Elaine Law, Accountant Joy Hudson. Other Committee members are Donne Jorgensen, Colleen Stewart and Janet Mitchell.

Thirteen people attended our Mid Winter Luncheon held on 5 July at Wellingtons Restaurant, Waipuna Conference Centre, Panmure. This was a convivial gathering.

Twenty of our members donated a total of 27 paintings to the Selwyn College Secret Art Sale, 3-4 August, a fundraiser to help underfunded students.

On 10 October Christopher Seager lead a group of six Auckland East Arts Members on a tour of eight commercial art galleries in Newmarket and Parnell. These were listed in the programme for Artweek 2018 and we found it most interesting and informative about the commercial art scene.

Auckland East Arts Council's new website is running and members may make arrangements to add their contact details and images to the Gallery page.

*Report Written By Chris Seager*

## Oil Pastels, An Interesting Medium.....

Oil pastel (also called wax oil crayon) is a painting and drawing medium with characteristics similar to **pastels** and wax **crayons**. Unlike "soft" or "Japanese" pastel sticks, which are made with a gum or **methyl cellulose** binder, oil pastels consist of **pigment** mixed with a non-drying oil and wax binder. The surface of an oil pastel painting is therefore less powdery, but more difficult to protect with a **fixative**. Oil pastels provide a harder edge than "soft" or "French" pastels but are more difficult to blend.

Oil pastels can be used directly in dry form; when done lightly, the resulting effects are similar to oil paints. Heavy build-ups can create an almost **impasto** effect. Once applied to a surface, the oil pastel pigment can be manipulated with a brush moistened in **white spirit**, **turpentine**, **linseed oil**, or another type of **vegetable oil** or **solvent**. Alternatively, the drawing surface can be oiled before drawing or the pastel itself can be dipped in oil. Some of these solvents pose serious health concerns.<sup>[2]</sup>

Oil pastels are considered a fast medium because they are easy to paint with and convenient to carry; for this reason they are often used for sketching, but can also be used for sustained works. Because oil pastels never dry out completely, they need to be protected somehow, often by applying a special **fixative** to the painting or placing the painting in a sleeve and then inside a frame. There are some known **durability** problems: firstly, as the oil doesn't dry, it keeps permeating the paper. This process degrades both the paper and the colour layer as it reduces the flexibility of the latter. A second problem is that the stearic acid makes the paper brittle. Lastly both the stearic acid and the wax will be prone to **efflorescence** or "wax bloom", the building-up of fatty acids and wax on the surface into an opaque white layer. This is easily made transparent again by gentle polishing with a woolen cloth; but the three effects together result in a colour layer consisting mainly of brittle stearic acid on top of brittle paper, a combination that will crumble easily. A long term concern is simple **evaporation**: **palmitic acid** is often present and half of it will have evaporated within 40 years; within 140 years half of the stearic acid will have disappeared. Impregnation of the entire art work by **beeswax** has been evaluated as a **conservation** measure.

### Surface and techniques

The surface chosen for oil pastels can have a very dramatic effect on the final painting. Paper is a common surface but this medium can be used on other surfaces including wood, metal, hardboard (often known as "masonite"), **MDF**, canvas and glass. Many companies make papers specifically for pastels that are suitable for use with oil pastels.

Building up layers of colour with the oil pastel, called **layering**, is a very common technique. Other techniques include **underpainting** and **scraping down** or **graffito**. Turpentine, or similar liquids such as **mineral spirits**, are often used as a blending tool to create a **wash** effect similar to some watercolour paintings. Commercially available oil sketching papers are preferred for such technique.

### Brands

There are a number of types of oil pastels, each of which can be classified as either *scholastic*, *student* or *professional* grade.

*Scholastic grade*, for example the Lowe Cornell brand, is the lowest grade: generally, the oil pastels are harder and less vibrant than higher grades. It is generally meant for children or people starting out with oil pastels, and is fairly cheap compared to other grades, often about **US\$5** for a large box. The middle grade, *student grade*, is meant for art students and can be much more expensive but softer and more vibrant than scholastic grade. They are usually more expensive and cost around \$1 to \$2 each. An example of a student grade oil pastel is *Van Gogh*, manufactured by Talens. *Professional grade* is the highest grade of oil pastel and can be very expensive, often costing \$3 to \$5 per oil pastel, but are also the softest and most vibrant. Professional quality brands of oil pastel include Sennelier, Holbein, Garich, and Sakura Specialist.

## NOTICE BOARD

### **NORTHART Exhibitions**

#### **THE CHRISTMAS SHOW**

*10 to 21 December*

*Opening event 5pm Sunday 9 December*

Northart's annual Christmas show will focus on three-dimensional works. Ceramics, jewellery, wood, glass and other small mostly craft pieces, all at affordable prices, provide a perfect gift purchase opportunity for art-lovers. This is also a cash and carry show.

### **Gallery 1, 2, 3**

#### **POCKET EDITION. SMALL WORKS FOR LARGE WALLS**

*3 to 21 December*

Described by many visitors as their favourite show of the year, in 2019 'Pocket Edition' sees 31 artists, from emerging to established, each display up to 10 postcard-sized original artworks on Hahnemühle paper provided by the gallery. Various painted or drawn in oil, acrylic, pastel, pencil, gouache, watercolour and ink, the style and subject matter is equally varied, from landscape, cityscape, still life and portrait to studies of nature, abstract works, and those that defy easy categorisation.

The unframed works are sold on a cash and carry basis or can be left with the gallery to arrange framing at a small fee. A stencilled photocopy replaces the sold pieces so that each series and the overall show remains intact over the period it is in the gallery. An individual illustrated brochure on each artist provides background and context.

*Yvonne Abercrombie, Karl Amundsen, Martin Ball, Matthew Carter, Siobhan Crowley, Garry Currin, Shane Foley, Aroha Gossage, Fiona Gray, Heather Grouden, Craig Humberstone, Benedict Keeley, Lindsey Kirk, Jude Lambert, James Lawrence, Patrick Malone, Malcolm McAllister, Salama Moata McNamara, John Nicol, Jonathon Organ, Joon Hee Park, Jessica Peerless, George Ritchie, Ross Ritchie, Frances Rood, Barry Ross Smith, Rosemary Theunissen, Sharon Vickers, Clare Young, Janelle Wills*

### **NORTHART continued.....**

#### **CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS**

*4 to 22 February*

*Opening event 5pm Sunday 3 February*

Northart will re-open after the summer break with an exciting programme of performances and music to launch two exhibitions celebrating Chinese New Year. 'Accept Each Word Spoken with Love' curated Miao Xu will showcase the work of twelve young Asian artists and 'Hometown' by members of the New Zealand Institute of Fine Arts will include work by well-known Chinese artists Bangzhen Deng and Lu Bo.

#### **Members' Summer Exhibition**

The Members' summer exhibition will open on Sunday 24 February. Entry forms can be downloaded

### **MAIRANGI ARTS CENTRE**

#### **WOMEN & WAR: VOICES FOR PEACE**

Opening Saturday 12 January, 12pm

This exhibition and series of events seeks to remember and honour the survivors of military sexual abuse during the Imperial Japanese colonisation of the Asia-Pacific, also known as 'Comfort Women'. *Women and War: Voices for Peace* highlights the survivors' transformation from victims to peace and human rights activists and aims to amplify their voices as they continue to advocate for a world without war and gender-based violence.

There will be two events to complement the exhibition:

Film Screening of *The Apology* - Saturday 19 January, 11am

Public Talk followed by Wednesday Demonstration - Wednesday 23 January, 3.30pm

12 Jan to 29 Jan – 9:30am-4pm Mon-Fri

10:00am – 2:00pm Sat/Sun