



THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the

Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.

JUNE 2021

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Our Autumn Exhibition was a great success – what a fabulous display of art & crafts. The feedback regarding both quality of artwork and presentation was amazing. The crowd attendance was terrific. I am proud to be involved with such a wonderful and talented group – congratulations to everyone involved, too many people to thank individually – BIG BIG THANK YOU.

We had 135 hanging works, 100 cards and 14 card tables – I am told this was the biggest show to date. More exciting news about sales, etc, follows in the Exhibition Co-ordinator's report.

I must admit my knees were shaking at the opening of the Exhibition on Saturday morning, mostly because I Ben Franklin MLC and Jenny Ellenbroek, Paradise FM, were standing beside me, they are both brilliant speakers, as well as lovely people. Anyway, I did the job (my first speech, short and sweet!), and we were honoured to have both 'celebrities' at our exhibition.



Ben Franklin, MLC and
Jenny Ellenbroek, Paradise FM
open the BACCI exhibition

Monthly meetings are the 1st Monday of each month – next meeting:

Date: Monday, 7 June 2021

Time: 5pm (social)
5.30pm (meeting)

Location: Boardroom
Cherry Street Sports Club
Cherry Street, Ballina



I will be away for the next meeting, as I made plans 6 months ago to go to Carnarvon George with some friends, and I am really looking forward to it – it is my first big trip in my campervan! I will put some photos of my adventures in the next newsletter. Mary Richards is kindly going to take the reins in my absence.

LENNOX NEWS

There are still have 2 committee positions available – Exhibition Co-ordinator and Treasurers positions. The Exhibition Co-ordinators job is not difficult, so please consider it ... do not be shy. At the next meeting we are going to form an Exhibition Support Team, if you would like to be part of the team that would be great. Also, if you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to be on the team, please contact our secretary, Rosie Kaplan on 0438401716.

The Treasurer's position is also vacant, so if you have some bookkeeping skills or know of anyone in our community or a friend who might like to do it, please let us know – our not-for-profit group is only small so there is nothing overwhelming to do. Our previous Treasurer, Lyn Cole has set it up to simplify everything, Lyn is kindly staying on at the job until someone takes over and Mary Richards is also assisting, so thanks very much.

We would also like to have a member who lives locally to assist in our publicity.

Please think about your contribution to the group – let us keep it running strong.

Also, only one more exhibition for the year, so have a go!!

Renovations have been finished at Cherry Street Sports Club, which means the next meeting on Monday, 7 June, will be back in the Boardroom. Apologies to anyone who came to the last meeting and could not locate us ... we had to go out on the deck.

The next Exhibition is booked for 5, 6 & 7 November at the Masonic Centre, let us get all that creative energy pumping and produce some great pieces for that.

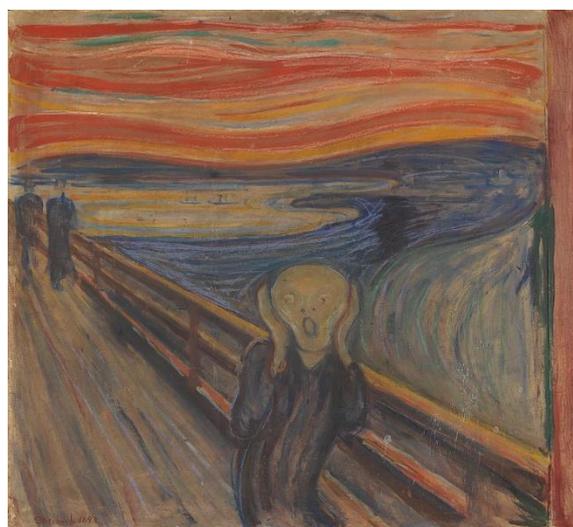
Cheers
Deb McFarlane

I decided to have a quick look at the artists who were affected by the original pandemic and how it impacted on their lives. One of my favourite artist Egon Schiele died at the age of 27, a victim of the Spanish flu which killed 50 million and infected over 500 million.

Norwegian painter Edvard Munch well known for his painting "The Scream" found inspiration in the disease. The artist made a *Self-Portrait With the Spanish Flu* and *Self-Portrait After the Spanish Flu*, detailing his own experience contracting and surviving the illness. These paintings, characterized by Munch's obsession with existential drama, speak to feelings of trauma and despair that were widespread amid a pandemic. "Illness, insanity, and death ... kept watch over my cradle," the artist once said, "and accompanied me all my life."



Egon Schiele self portrait



Edvard Munch "The Scream"

It could be easy to think that these works are the only famous examples of the impact of the 1918 flu on the world of western fine art. Though the ongoing fight against COVID-19 has drawn renewed attention to the pandemic of about a century ago, the influenza pandemic has long been largely overshadowed by World War I — in public memory as well as contemporary thought — even though the flu had a higher death toll. In-light of wartime efforts, news about the initial spread of the 1918 flu was played down in many places. “Do not worry too much about the disease,” wrote the *Times of India*, in a country where 6% of the population ended up dying from the illness. In addition, many artists were sent to war during this time or died prematurely of the flu themselves.

Next month I will continue to explore the affects the Pandemic had on art and how art in 2020 has been affected in Australia.

Exhibitions:

The Tweed Gallery

In Quiet: Amelia Reid A series of paintings created during lockdown.
Date – 6th May til 11th July

Figura Subcinctus: Michelle Dawson
Date – 7th May till 11 July

Sons and Daughters: Trish Tail and Meli Axford
Date – 9th April to 13th June

This one is worth noting the Tweed Gallery is organising a tour cost \$50.00 to see the European Masters at the Queensland Gallery. This artwork is from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Turner, Van Goth etc. If you are interested in joining the tour, phone Bronwyn for bookings on 0412 809 639.

Lesley Ryan

PROFILE

Jenna Vos Artist Biography

I started my art journey after my retirement in 2015 under the auspices of some wonderful, inspiring and patient mentors; Jennifer Collins, Maria Heaton and Lesley Ryan to name a few.

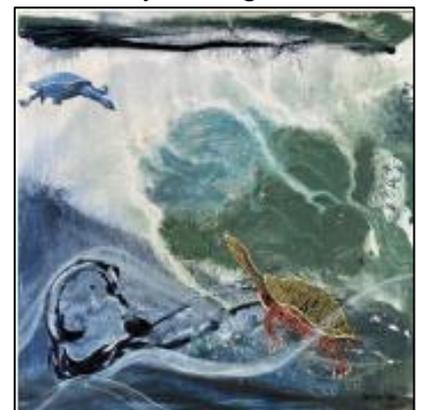


Initially it was pencil drawings honing my observational skills and slowly graduating to charcoal.

It was my attempt at gouache that exposed me to the delight of the colour palette. The love of exploring new mediums and ideas lead me to venture into acrylics, abstract and mixed media.

I have finally created my studio space at home in Uralba and am hoping to expand my experience and output in readiness for my first solo exhibition next year.

My art is becoming an expression of my love of nature, habitat plus the diversity of animal, bird, reptile, and insect species in Australia; portraying the abundance of life to be found in, on and around our own backyard billabong. My creative process is initially an image in my head, a visual impression of my surroundings and then finally an organic process of paint on canvas. I love light and shade, form and colour and find great inspiration from the works of Turner and Van Gogh.



EXHIBITION CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

A big congratulations to everyone on a great BACCI Autumn Exhibition. We sold 14 hanging works, 2 sculptures, 5 bat plants and lots of cards.



Visitors admire the artwork

Attendance was better than expected, and at times the front desk was a bit overwhelmed with people waiting, (which is something we really cannot complain about!!). The queue was mainly due to our first exhibition with Covid sign in and writing phone numbers on the lucky door prize tickets – this took a bit of time. In past exhibitions, the lucky door prize was simply drawn on opening night, and no contact information required – which means the blockage of people waiting to get in does not happen. We will discuss the entry door set up again before the next exhibition.



Kim-Michelle Toft shows off her beautiful silk art

We must thank Rosie Kaplan for kindly letting us use her square reader, at the Autumn Exhibition, as our BACCI eftpos machine refused to work – we understand the problem

and will rectify for next time. It was a challenge for Rosie as she had a very busy craft table. It was a test for her patients, and she passed with flying colours.

We were thrilled to donate a cheque for \$1,000 to our community radio station Paradise FM. Apologies to anyone who was unaware about Ben Franklin attending the opening of our exhibition, it was a last-minute surprise!



Jenny Ellenbroek, Deb McFarlane and March Richards

The lucky door prize, the equine sculpture donated by Sue Fraser, was won by a lovely visitor from Sydney. The winner was so happy and phoned me to thank us, I told her everyone was very jealous of her as we all wanted to win such a beautiful piece.

Next exhibition will be early November, and I would like to suggest we sell raffle tickets prior to the event. We always have great prizes due to the generosity of the local businesses – the tickets just sell themselves. Many thanks to Bunnings, Northern Rivers Seafood, Coles, Woolworths Ballina Fair, Kmart, and Zumba and CHEGS exercise classes (Julie Walsh), for their donations of gift cards for our raffle. We hope they will support us again for the next exhibition.

We need some ideas for a deserving local charity to support for our next exhibition. Suggestions are welcome – come to the next meeting and have your say.

Another suggestion for our next exhibition is to have name badges. I personally think this is a wonderful idea, as we get to know each other, and the public get to know us as artists. This used to be undertaken in past exhibitions, but simply has been overlooked ... I think?

I would like to mention that one of our members, Maria Heaton, had an interesting article about her personal history and artwork in the 'Country & Coast' Lifestyle Magazine, Autumn edition – congratulations Maria. Worth a read.

PUBLICITY REPORT

Would Members please support Northern Rivers Times and Talking Turkey in Kyogle for assisting us in the promotion of the Autumn exhibition.

I have been speaking with a local magazine who are after a regular columnist to offer painting or craft tips. **Please let me know asap if this could be you!**

In other news Tweed Regional Gallery - Margaret Olley Centre has seen unprecedented crowds for their recent exhibitions in Murwillumbah. The Gallery downtown will close for good in June ... sad but true folks, I'm sure something good will fill the space.

Also, I'm collaborating as a photographer with an online book to highlight saving Bungabbee Forest and the book launch is this coming Sunday at the forest weather permitting.

Lastly, my exhibition is currently running in the solo space at lovely Blue Knob Gallery north of Nimbin if you would like a country drive. The cafe food is very good and reasonably priced. Tell them I sent you!

Until next time
Jenny

WHATS ON AT THE CREATIVE ARTISANS' GALLERY?

FEATURED ARTIST – MAY

Our featured artist during May has been Tad Slufinski ... this exhibition ends 31 May 2021.



Tad's interest in Art started from a very early age and has remained with him for most of my life.

He studied Art at High school, completed a major in Fine Arts degree at Sydney University, and has participated with Ballina Art society activities for over 20 years.

Artists like Leonardo Da Vinci, Titian, Raphael, Rembrandt Caravaggio, and others and their narrative in Art have always been of great interest to Tad.

Tad has tried to include thoughts, ideas, and painting techniques from the early masters through to later Artists like Etty, Fuseli, the Pre Raphaelites, Turner, Frederick Watts, Bouguereau, Zorn, Singer Sargent.



FEATURED ARTIST(S) –JUNE

Our featured artist(s) in June will be Jennifer Unwin, artist, and Rosemary Brambrook, Potter

Also, we have been able to obtain Joseph Zbukvic, a world-renowned watercolourist to do a 4 day workshop here in Ballina at the end of June – this is a real coup!



Reminder ... if you have anything to share, eg art info, travel adventures and photos etc, ... please email or text to me with information:

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