

President's column: April

Martha Simms



It is sad to farewell one of the distinguished former members of the WSA, Ted Bracey. Those who remember him can appreciate what he accomplished for the arts in New Zealand.

The 75th anniversary art and history exhibition, "Action Front" opens April 4. The Action Front is representative of WSA history and art in three periods. Any effective story must focus to be successful. Instead of listing every initiative, project or artist, the exhibition illustrates selected episodes with representative works of art and artists. Not every accomplished artist could be included, nor every successful exhibition.

One of the themes of "The Action Front" is the effect of the Waikato Society of Arts on the culture of the city of Hamilton. The WSA was instrumental in creating those institutions that form the professional framework for visual arts in Hamilton. The first gallery and the nucleus of a city art collection helped develop awareness of the importance of the visual arts and create public support for a Hamilton museum. These civic efforts

Ted Bracey 1936 – 2009



Photo: Courtesy Campbell Smith

took a lot of passion, intelligence and energy. We honour our members who toiled in this endeavour. The next chapters of the civic story will be told at our hundredth birthday. I hope the story will include a permanent home for WSA with adequate room for our school, a community gallery and meeting rooms for lectures and seminars. This may be part of a community art centre or a stand-alone premise. WSA must have a home in order to continue to expand our support for artists and the arts in Hamilton.

This leads us to the second theme of our story: how WSA has supported and inspired individuals. The story of Margot Phillips is illustrative of the importance of WSA to an individual life. She escaped the Holocaust and in her new life in Hamilton she learned to paint through the WSA, becoming a distinctive artist. A production of "This Green Land," a celebration of her life by Campbell Smith will be performed 23-25 of July. We are hoping to receive sponsorship to have a matinee performance followed by an opportunity to hear and celebrate the stories of individuals who have been stalwarts of the WSA for many years.

This means **YOU**. There are so many people who developed their techniques, exhibited and enjoyed the fellowship with other art lovers through WSA. I have heard from some of them. This is your time to tell your story, meet old friends and share some sweet nostalgia. Let us know if you are interested in being part of this informal celebration.



Artistan in China

Stan Boyle



I first went to China twenty four years ago as a tourist, For the last thirteen years I have been returning annually, to Changsha, the capital of Hunan province, and for varying periods of time each year, lived and worked there. The political, environmental, and social changes I have seen in that short period time have been quite overwhelming. Chinese art, however, has a history of over five thousand years and in all its forms, reflects contemporary life and culture throughout the dynasties. Chinese art continues to do so today. I am a printmaker and many years ago I visited an Art School in Wuxi, Hamilton's Sister City, where both etching and relief printing were taught. Two years ago I met a brilliant young woman, printmaker and painter in a



Chinese art shop interior

Sculpture park and Art Centre near Guilin, but sadly have never come in direct contact with any printmakers in Changsha. Frustration with my lack of contact with Changsha printmakers has been heightened by the many contemporary woodcuts and etchings I have seen available in local art outlets in the city.

Last November, Jenevere Foreman (currently teaching at Changsha University) and I, received an invitation from a long time friend of mine, aware of my interest in printmaking, to come with her to one of the outer suburbs and meet a Mr Zao, and look at some woodcuts. As it turned out they were not woodcut prints as we expected, but wood carvings, in some cases hundreds of years old. The Cultural Revolution in China last century proved to be a disastrous period, during which hundreds of thousands of relics, and beautiful antique art works of all forms, including wood-carvings, were ruthlessly destroyed



Chinese carved ancestor figurine (see text)



WSA Events for 2009

APRIL:

Opening of WSA 75th Anniversary exhibition at the Museum – 4th April (Sat)

Business Membership Launch 24th April (Fri)

JUNE:

Speaker David Hyams, new CEO of Arts Waikato.

On turning visions into reality with limited resources

JULY:

This Green Land by Campbell Smith

AUGUST:

National Contemporary Art Award

WSA 75th Anniversary Celebratory dinner

SEPTEMBER:

Four weekend, four speakers, four workshops.

In support of 75th Anniversary Exhibition, "Action Front".

Youth Exhibition

OCTOBER:

Waiprint Exhibition

NOVEMBER:

Members Exhibition

WHAT'S ON

ArtsPost Galleries

From 3rd April - 4th May 2009, (Opening preview Thursday 2nd April at 5.30 pm)

The Trophy Room

Featuring a cornucopia of weird and wonderful creations made from recycled metal, wood and glass as well as paintings by Marti Wong and Kathryn Engebretsen.

Triump 650

Featuring work by Adrian Worsley of historic creations.

Reserved

Mixed media works on aluminium by Elsa Lye.

"Lest we Forget"

Acrylic paintings to commemorate and honour our ANZAC's by Mike Brown.

"Summer Right Bank Arts Festival

Our stand at this years Summer Festival will be remembered for the weather and the river of water flowing under our feet. However the usual stalwarts turned out and our stand looked good. Robin Cuff's new display boards made for us were a great success. The crowd numbers were down but we sold some works - we were at least lucky not to be outside in a tent!"



NZPPA Thanks

WSA Exec thanks all those responsible for making the NZPPA the wonderful event that it was this year and continues to be year after year. This year Maree Glass and Janet Knighton helped by so many unpackers, hangers,

packers, curators, helpers on the night (food and drink organisers, desk people, St Pauls students), and so many more. But most of all WSA's thanks go to NZPPA's sponsor, the Vela Family Trust without whose generous sponsorship we couldn't run this Award.

WAI ART AWARDS 2009

The Wai Art Awards 2009 are receiving artwork on 22 May. \$3000 First Prize, \$1000 Peoples' Choice Award.

Open to all New Zealand artists.

Exhibition runs from 30 May to 14 June.

Contact Anna-Marie Kingsley 06 379 9177

Email info@waiart.org.nz

Download entry forms from www.waiart.org.nz

COMPOSITOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER

The news letter editor need the help of a person to put the newsletter items and photos together for Art Connections.

WSA has a software program to do this but the Editor has the wrong computer platform. So if you have some computer skills and own a PC and can give WSA about three hours of your time each month (maybe four hours for the eight page issue and two for the flier) we'd be pleased to hear from you. All the newsletter content will be supplied to you and you can do it at home.



Exhibitors in WSA 75th

Anniversary "Action Front"

WSA and the Waikato Art Museum have had a very challenging task selecting a good cross section of works by WSA members representing the 75 years of our activities. The selection was made more difficult by the constraints of space and curation. Members not chosen for "Action Front" will have another chance to exhibit their work at the WSA Members Exhibition late in the year.

WSA BUSINESS LAUNCH

The WSA Business Launch will take place on Friday 24th April at Thornton Gallery at 6pm. If any members with business interests would like an invitation sent to them please let Eriko know. We will also need about five volunteers for the evening to help with the food, drinks and seating etc so please let Eriko know if you are able to help. Our major sponsor for this event is Sharp who have offered financial help to Art Connections and towards to launch expense WSA is indebted to Sharp and Alex at Thornton for their assistance for this important event.

WSA THANKS SHARP

Not only is SHARP assisting with the business launch but they have undertaken to print half of our colour edition for the next twelve months. If you or your business need a good copier or any of their other products – you know where to go!

2010 WSA MEMBERS EXHIBITION

It is time to plan for next year. How many exhibitions, what themes, where; we would like your suggestions.

WSA MEETING ROOM

Thanks to Eriko (yet again) for the excellent work done in getting our new meeting room looking neat and tidy and getting a number of artworks on the walls. Members are reminded that we can (by prior arrangement through Eriko or HCAC) use this room for meetings, discussion groups. We need some spreads for over our humble furniture if anyone has anything suitable?

AND THANKS TO THE PERRY FOUNDATION

Perry Foundation has helped WSA in this crucial year and at this needy time with a \$15,000 grant to be used to support the WSA Art School. Thanks to the Perry Foundation for this timely help.

Advertising

The Newsletter is down on advertising at present. If any members can direct us to advertisers please let Eriko know. Although our circulation is not huge, the ads do go to a target audience.



75th Anniversary Banquet

This special occasion for celebration will take place at Wintec Windows, Avalon on August 27th. Your WSA Exec Committee has chosen this venue because of its reputation and the ease of organisation for a stretched committee. The one drawback is that the numbers are limited to 60 so we are considering having two identical events. Martha might have to eat and speak twice! You will help us greatly if you could simply send an Email to Eriko to indicate your interest at this stage. Just send the Email with Banquet, Yes or No, and number you represent in the Subject line.

MEMBERSHIP AND THE NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to note that many of our members are now joining up again after the culling of the newsletter circulation list. Welcome back and don't forget the many perks of membership – you only need to partake of some of them to get your sub back! Read page seven!

PHOTOCOPIER USAGE BY WSA MEMBERS ONLY

WSA's new photocopier prints Arts Connections now and is available to members.

Casual rate (GST incl.)

B/W A4 10c

B/W A3 20c

Colour A4 \$1.00

Colour A3 \$2.00

Standard photocopier paper is supplied by the WSA. Photocopier (self) service is available 8:30am – 3pm (Mon-Fri) Contact Anne or Eriko for authorisation (need to enter casual ID number). Contact Eriko for the lead-time and quotation for bulk copying.



Campbell Smith Play "This Green Land"

We wish to advise WSA members that Campbell Smith's play "This Green Land" will be performed on the 23rd, 24th and 25th July. There may be a matinee on the last day to suit older WSA members and this may be accompanied by an early dinner. More later.

MEMBERS' SHOWCASE PAGE

Art Connections will run an occasional Members Showcase Page. This will give WSA members a chance to have their art profiled. Any members interested please send in a short bio (about 50 words) and a couple of images to Eriko headed "Members Page". The intention is to run the page, not every month, but occasionally as space allows and as material comes to hand. We **do not** promise to coincide it with members' exhibitions, birthdays etc.

TAX REBATE

The WSA would like to inform you that our organisation is a registered "Charitable entity". This means you can claim a rebate for income tax purpose for cash donations of \$5 or more made to the WSA. Please ask Eriko for a receipt when you make donations to the WSA.

OLD NEWSLETTERS

Just to remind members that if you are after information from old newsletters and have lost your copies, you can view the old newsletters on the WSA website www.wsa.org.nz, click on News, then Newsletters, and then chose the issue you want to view. All this, courtesy of our Secretary, Eriko.

Introducing New Tutors

Tuesday evening 6-8pm Painting for Beginners and Continuers

Tim Stewart

Has a Bachelor of Design in Landscape Architecture, has always been interested in art and enjoys drawing and painting as a hobby. One of his current design interests is integrating art into the landscape.



Monday and Thursday Children's art 4-5pm ages 5-7 years.

Lauren Stewart

Is currently doing her second year at WINTEC doing a Bachelor of Media Arts, majoring in Painting and Sculpture.

Autumn Term recommences May 4th, We are now offering five week courses as well as 8 weeks courses.

Anne Kalnins

The New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Award 2009

Barry Smith

Once again the New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Awards, one of the highlights of the WSA year, was a huge success. The fifty finalists from over 250 entries included about ten prints, and many WSA (and Waikato) artists were represented among the finalists and merit award winners. 500 attended the gala Award presentation, and a number of outstanding works were purchased on opening night and subsequently. Dr Robin Woodward, University of Auckland, selected well-known artist Frances Van Dammen, and WSA member, as the winner of the prestigious NZ Painting and Printmaking Award to a delighted audience at the Pavilion, Hamilton Gardens. For *Daisy: Acrylic on canvas*, Frances van Dammen received a cheque \$15,000 from Mrs Lyn Vela from the Philip Vela Family Trust, principal sponsors, who also undertook to purchase the winning work, set at \$3,500.

Six merit certificates were also awarded. The artists receiving Deutz to celebrate, and Gordon Harris gift vouchers: They were:

Tracey Black, Auckland, *Untitled etching*; Matthew Browne, Auckland, *Wonder: mixed media on canvas*; Jan Kaywood Hamilton *Through a glass darkly: inkjet on canvas*; Janice Meadows, Hamilton, *Avatar: lino cut/digital print*; Glenys Ng, Auckland, *May 21 1960: digital photo on board*; John Oxonbrough, Auckland, *Towards Scott's Landing: acrylic on canvas*; Rebecca Wallis, Auckland, *Emergence: Marker pen on board*

Pam Nash commented: "Our aim is to assist the country's artists to showcase their work, and this exhibition provides an excellent opportunity to view a fascinating cross section of the best of New Zealand's contemporary painting and printmaking. Every year we find the number and standard of entries is raised."

This is the ninth year of the award.

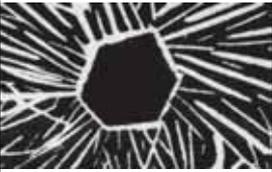


WSA ART SCHOOL 2009 Autumn TERM*Open to everyone - No experience necessary - Discover art- Community based*

WSA Art School, Level 1 ArtsPost Building, 120 Victoria St Hamilton

WSA members / high school students: \$15 discount

ENROL BY PHONE (07) 8394481 or FAX (07) 8393869**CLASSES START WEEK May 4th - (All courses are 8 weeks unless otherwise stated below)**

	MONDAY Classes start 4 May	TUESDAY Classes start 5 May	WEDNESDAY Classes start 6 May	THURSDAY Classes start 7 May	FRIDAY Classes start 8 May	
MORNING	Oils and mixed media Untutored 9.30am-12.00pm \$72 (members) \$62	Oil painting For beginners/continuers . Learn skills 9.30am-11.30am \$127 (members \$112)	Painting and Drawing techniques for Continuers +experienced 9.30am-12pm \$ 137 (Members \$122)	Creative Watercolour or acrylics Going further 9.30am-11.30am \$127 (members \$110)	Painting for Beginners + continuers In acrylics 5 weeks Learn skills for better painting 9.15am-11.15am \$75 (members \$ 60)	
	ART for the absolute beginner Draw,Pastels,Watercolor Oils Acrylics 5 weeks Materials supplied 9-30-11.30 \$80(members\$65)	Experimental Printmaking Woodcuts etc. Includes materials 9.30am-12.00pm \$138 (members \$123)	NEW DISCOVER YOUR CREATIVITY 5 weeks 10.00am-12.00am \$75 (Member \$60)	NEW MAKE YOUR OWN TRAVEL JOURNAL Designing own book 9.30-11.30 5 weeks \$75 (members \$60)	Creative Watercolour Beginners + Continuers Further exercises for better painting 9.30am-11.30am \$127 (members \$110)	
	Learning to draw Exercises to get you started 5 weeks 9.30-11.30 \$75 (member \$60)			Etching Includes materials Beginners/ continuers Fun to try 9.30am-12.00pm \$138 (members \$123)		
AFTERNOON	Children's Art 5-7 yrs 7 wks Variety of art materials supplied 4.00pm-5.00pm \$80	Children's Art 8-13 yrs Paint, draw and more Materials supplied 4pm-5.30 \$80	Young Adults 11-14yrs Skills to improve drawing and painting 4.00 pm-5.30pm \$75	Children's Art 8-12 yrs Paint, draw and more Materials supplied 4-5.30pm \$80	<i>Materials are supplied for the first lesson of adult classes, except for life drawing – please bring large sketch book etc. Art in the holidays for children. April July Sept, Jan.</i>	
	Children's DRAWING 8-13yrs Improve+ gain skills 4.00pm-5.15pm \$77			Children's Art 5-7 yrs 7 wks Variety of art, clay painting etc 4.00pm-5.00pm \$80		
EVENING	Experimental Printmaking Includes materials Woodcuts etc, 5.30pm-8.00pm \$138 (members\$123)	Painting for Beginners + Continuers in acrylics Good skills 6.00pm-8.00pm \$127 (members \$112)		FEES TO BE PAID BEFORE CLASS START <i>(or by prior arrangement) Places are not secure until paid. We accept the following payment types:Cash/ Cheque/Direct credit/Eftpos/Credit card. A materials list will be given at the first class.Fax your enrolment to: (07) 839 3869 (on white paper),post to: WSA Art School, PO Box 1018, Hamilton 3240, or deliver to Level 1, 120 Victoria St, Hamilton</i> Class Day/time Name..... Ph(day) Ph(evng)..... Address Ph(mob)..... Amount Credit Card (circle one) Visa Mastercard Holders name.....Exp.Date...../..... Card number <i>Children - does your child have special needs? yes / no</i> Signed Date		
	Drawing for beginners Ideal for beginners etc. 6.00pm-8.00pm \$127 (members \$112)	NEW HANDMADE BOOKS Simple book structures suitable for a variety of things 6-8 pm 5 weeks \$75 (members \$60)	DRAWING THE HUMAN BODY Beginners/continuers 6.00pm-8.00pm \$127 (members \$112) + model fee \$5 per session			
	Oil painting for beginners + continuers Learn skills to paint with 6-8pm \$127 (members\$112)	Art for the absolute beginner Pastels, Draw Oil, Acrylic Watercolour Materials supplied 5 weeks 6.00pm-8.00pm \$80 (members\$65)	Etching Beginners/continuers Fun to try Includes materials 5.30pm-8.00pm \$138 (members\$123)			

WSA wishes to acknowledge the support of the following organisations:



Members on WSA Website

WSA is investigating increasing the capacity of our website so that members can each have a page to promote their art. We're considering a template that would let you display up to 10 images (of up to 250 kb each) and would let visitors to the page contact you directly. This would mean a small increase to our monthly cost for the website. To begin with, we would cover this under our regular operating budget, but if the pages become so wildly popular that the costs blow out, some of the cost would be met by page holders.

If you think you might be interested in having your own page, please contact Barry Smith at 2smiths@wave.co.nz or Janice Meadows at j.meadows@niwa.co.nz

BECOME A MEMBER

Download a membership form: www.wsa.org.nz
Pick up a form from the WSA Office or ArtsPost
Phone (07) 839 4481 to get one sent to you.

MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES

WSA Art School \$15.00 off class fees (Full year subscribers only)

NZPPA Discount on Entry Fees (\$15 off per entry)

Whitcoulls Hamilton 10% on art materials

Resene Paint Colourshop 20% on art materials

Victoria Cinema \$9.00 tickets

The Museum Café 10%

Poppie's Bookshop 10%

Canvas Restaurant 10%

Gordon Harris The Art & Graphic Store 10%

Hillcrest Fine Wines 10%

Thornton Gallery 10% framing

Auteur House 10% rental DVDs, Video and purchase of books.

Free 50 words of promotional notice in **Art Connections** per year.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Double \$65 (Seniors \$50)

Single \$45 (Seniors \$40)

Student \$20 (Current Student I.D. required)

You can make donations (and pay your subscription) to WSA by post or via the internet.

WSA Account is: Westpac 03 0306 0217827 00

GRATEFUL

The WSA is grateful to:

- Trust Waikato for funding towards WSA Administration and Development.
- Warehouse Stationery, Ulster Street for providing the paper for this newsletter. Art and Craft Supplies in -store
8.30a.m. - 6.p.m. Mon-Friday
9a.m. - 5p.m. Saturday & Sunday.
- Sharp for printing half the colour of Art Connections and for ongoing help



- Perry Foundation for funding support for the WSA School of Art



DONATE

You can make donations (and pay subscriptions) to the WSA by post or via the internet. Our WSA Account is Westpac 03 0306 0217827 00

MEMBERSHIP

As an Incorporated Society, members who wish to 'resign' should notify the society in writing rather than just stopping payment of their subscriptions. We have been contacting several people to remind them of their overdue subscriptions. **Art Connections** newsletters, and all the benefits of participating in the WSA now only go to those who have paid their subscriptions.

Please ensure you have renewed your subscription for the current year and remind friends that they may not have paid their subs if they haven't received **Art Connections**.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Inserts \$80 per page (printed and delivered to WSA)

Full Page \$240 (available only if space available)

Half Page \$120 Colour, Black & White \$70

Quarter Page \$70 Colour, Black & White \$40

What's On and Members short adverts – up to five lines are free.

WSA Art Connections is every two months. In the intervening months we will do a smaller B&W flyer with only quarter page B&W advertisements.

WSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patron: Joan Fear

Hon. Solicitor: Warren Scotter

Auditor: Grant Mackintosh

Treasurer: Maiqing Zhou

President: Martha Simms (07) 856 6981

Committee: Alex McPherson, Barry Smith,

Carril Karr and Paula Spiers.

EDITOR

Barry Smith

Phone: 07 8558296 Email: 2smiths@wave.co.nz

ECO-NEWSLETTER –

Getting ART CONNECTIONS

Your Executive Committee is always looking at ways to reduce WSA expenditure so we can keep the subs down. We are looking to reduce printing costs, reduce our carbon footprint, and reduce the postage costs. So if you would like to get your newsletter by Email (and earlier) rather than by post, please let Eriko know (839 4481) or Email wsa@wsa.org.nz.

WSA Office and Art School
Level 1, ArtsPost Building,
120 Victoria Street, Hamilton.
Open 8.30-3.00pm Monday to Friday
Phone Anne or Eriko on 839 4481



Continued from P.1

by Red Guards under Chairman Mao's exhortation "Out with the Old, Bury the Past, Look to the Future and the New Society"

After a long drive through the city we arrived outside a very uninviting shop front in a very nondescript street. On entry, we were immediately stunned by the beauty of the wood carvings. I was immediately conscious of the simi-



Chinese wood carvings

ilarity of the craftsmanship embodied in these first carvings we saw, to the wonderful wood carving in the Hamilton Gardens Pavillion. Indeed the very first thing I noticed was almost exact replicas of small carved flowers in a Chinese carving, to those on the wood carving back here in Hamilton.

Carvings, ranging from some quite small to some huge panels, all beautifully restored, hung on the walls in the reception area, and in the rooms behind through which Mr Zao led us. There were literally hundreds of other pieces

of all shapes and sizes stacked against walls and on benches in a back area and in a room upstairs, waiting to be restored. I couldn't begin to describe the subject matter of the carvings covering as they did, small delicate cameos, simple engraved panels depicting wind swept bamboo, wonderfully complex sculptured figures reminiscent of European medieval cathedral cornice pieces, panels depicting events in past times, even carved furniture with mother of pearl inlays. One of the most intriguing pieces, was a very old carved figurine of a seated man which would once have been on a household altar venerating family ancestors. In the back was a little hidden cavity. Inside was a manuscript detailing in tiny Chinese characters, aspects of this particular ancestor's life and accomplishments.

Mr Zao has a passion for the preservation of these often lost and now valuable examples of exquisite craftsmanship of unknown artists. A private tutor and teacher of English, he has journeyed to other cities and back country villages all over Hunan, and other parts of China, talking to peasant farmers and unearthing these often cast aside and unvalued pieces of work. In his spare time he lovingly, cleans, polishes and restores these works himself, to as near as possible their original state... His work is known and acknowledged, and eventually these carvings will be handed over to the Changsha Municipal Government or some other authority, to be held and exhibited in a central venue, for future generations to appreciate and treasure.



The Revolution Begins...

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An important New Paint for:

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- Oil painters who would rather use acrylics for safety and convenience, but find it difficult;
- Artists and instructors who value the versatility, ease of use, and low waste.

OPEN is a new type of acrylic paint and is **NOT** intended to replace the existing Golden Heavy Body range.

For more information on Golden OPEN visit us instore, or view our website www.gordonharris.co.nz
OFFER ENDS 15 May 2009. Offer available while stocks last. Products may vary between stores.

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