

wsa art Art Connections

WAIKATO SOCIETY OF ARTS

P.O. Box 1018, Hamilton 3210. Website: www.wsa.org.nz

CREATING ART CONNECTIONS

President's COLUMN

This is my last President's Column. As many of you will have heard I have decided not to continue on the Executive, primarily owing to business commitments.

It was a difficult decision because I was in the midst of organising the Society's 75th Anniversary activities and embarking on a membership drive (particularly partnering with business) and I passionately wanted to see everything through.

At the August meeting of the Executive, Martha Simms was appointed Acting President until the AGM to be held on 14 October.

I have handed over all the projects that I was working on and wish the current, and incoming, Executive, all the best.

I will complete the end of year formalities and the annual report for presenting to the Annual General Meeting.

Thank you to the many people who have emailed comments, phoned or spoken to me at the Trust Waikato National Contemporary Art Awards – it was a magnificent evening.

It is wonderful to receive such positive feedback, and understanding, from the membership.

I certainly intend to be active in the arts sector and look forward to seeing you at future events.



It is with much sadness that I leave at a time when the WSA celebrates its history and future role in meeting the needs of the arts in the Hamilton community.

Long live art!

BRENDA SAYERS

THANKS BRENDA

In the almost two years as President, Brenda has made such a positive difference to WSA.

In fact she has focused so much on the needs of WSA that her business suffered and she has had to reprioritise her activities. In part because of Brenda's commitment to WSA we are in a better position to survive her departure.

Thanks to her initiative, drive and organisation skills, WSA is now, well set up. It has a better profile in the region, among the Hamilton Councilors and Hamilton businesses and we are in a strong position to celebrate our 75th Anniversary next year as a healthy society.

With the AGM coming up, bear in mind that we will need plenty of help for our coming anniversary year.

Thanks, Brenda, for all you have done for WSA over the time you've been our President.

BARRY SMITH, Editor.



TRUST WAIKATO NATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART AWARD 2008

This year, as usual, a good crowd gathered to enjoy the social occasion and see what was happening in contemporary art in New Zealand.

Our judge, Natasha Conlan, spoke about the preponderance of wall based visual art and the strong competition among the contenders. There were over 250 entrants and of the 33 finalists several stood out as potential winners.

Natasha was most impressed with the art of the winner, Patrick Lundberg with his 'Untitled' (Found paint and plasterboard). The work showed layers of paint and evidence of the past history of the board as well as additional paint. Natasha commented on the balance of old and new, rip and delicacy and the fragility of the work. Other works included sculpture, photography and video, DVD and watercolour. There are some excellent works here and at reasonable prices. WSA get commissions from the purchased works.

FLOOR TALK

At 10am the next morning about 40 people attended the judge's floor talk. In my opinion this is one of the best parts of the awards.

Natasha Conlan talked us through several of the entries, including the winning entry, and gave us a good insight into the state of contemporary art.

I jotted down just a few of the phrases and words she used. They give you an idea of what to look for in this and probably many other art forms; 'consider the wall', fragility, incisions, balance, gesture vs. dabbling, conceptual art, gung ho attitudes, articulation, consider where the artist is (inside a sculpture!), demure, delicate, celebrate - just a few. And from me - find out what is inside the judge's head!

CUPPA TEA

We work our judges hard in the Waikato. After the Floor Talk concluded we moved across to Arts Post where our judge talked in a more general sense about contemporary art and answered questions.

Here, over refreshments, we discussed permanence of art works, the purposes of collecting art, reproductive art forms (printing and photography), the relative values of drawing skills compared to conceptual thinking, the works of Andy Warhol and Billy Apple, fashion and time, and provocation and controversy.

What did we say? You should have been there! Martha closed the Saturday activities by thanking Natasha for her commentary.

BARRY SMITH



"Cambridge"



"Lest we forget"

MEMBER'S SHOWCASE ...

Margot Lee

I work mainly with pastel (I'm passionate about pastel) and acrylic.

My style is realism - my inspiration, life - from the ocean splendour to the human form depicting "little slices of life". I love what I do.

When I walk out into the world each day there is so much to see, so much to paint. I have exhibited throughout New Zealand receiving several awards along the way.

My work has featured in Australian Artist and International Pastel magazines. One of my pastel paintings was chosen for the cover of an American art magazine.

I also tutor in the use of pastels. I sell worldwide from my website - www.margosart.vc.net.nz

WSA AGM

The WSA 2008 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Waikato Museum Lecture Theatre on Tuesday, 14th October at 7.30 pm.

Agenda: Apologies
Previous Minutes
President's Report
Financial Report
Art School Report
Awards Report
Membership Subscriptions
Election Of Officers
General Business.

The meeting will be followed by a social hour.

WSA COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

WSA, more than ever, needs your help to maintain the various initiatives now before us.

These include the 75th Anniversary activities for next year, the Community Arts Centre planning which we hope will involve WSA and the myriad of other exhibitions and awards which WSA plays a part in. These are exciting times for WSA and we will need a strong team.

Please look about for willing helpers (including yourself) for jobs on the Executive Committee and the various subcommittees that include Art Awards, Art School, Events, Exhibitions, Marketing and Publicity, Membership, Premises and Newsletter.

A nomination form is included. Please have your nominations submitted to Eriko at the WSA office by Wednesday, 8th October. Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of Sub-Committees is available from Eriko.

JOIN THE TEAM – HAVE FUN AND GET CREATIVE!

Like art, teamwork requires creativity, passion and commitment.

The WSA, like many organisations, suffers from the diminishing time people feel they can volunteer. We all know that many hands make light work and there are many rewards in working in a team to create plans and implement projects.

The WSA Sub-Committees develop their plans for the coming year and provide an outline (and budget where relevant) to the Executive. The Sub-Committees undertake the various activities with the support of the Executive and other volunteers ...

Exhibitions – Art Awards – Marketing & Membership
Art School – Funding – Events & Social.

If you can participate in any of the sub-committees, please contact Eriko in the first instance - ph 8394481 or email to wsa@wsa.org.nz.

We are calling for members to form an Exhibitions Sub-Committee now so that ideas for exhibitions for our 75th year can be formed and a plan prepared. Venues need proposals soon to secure dates. The first meeting of the new committee had many new ideas for the 75th that range further than exhibitions. There is a great energy and we welcome new members with ideas, energy, and prepared to work.

We also need to find someone or several members to co-ordinate events that reach out to groups within the community such as seniors, youth and ethnic groups. There may be a stipend connected with co-ordination of 75th activities. It is a chance to reach new people and attract new members to strengthen WSA for the future. Contact Martha to see what is involved.

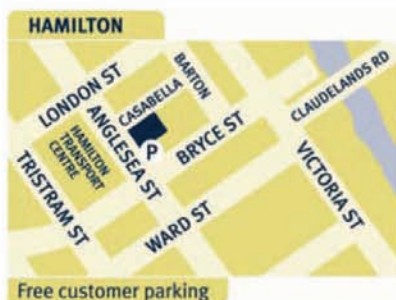
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JOAN FEAR – ARTIST

“Inspiration. You can’t wait for it to arrive, it must be earned legitimately, by hard work.” – Brahms or Liszt; we can’t quite place the quote, but it’s a good one and very pertinent to the work of Joan Fear, an artist whose work spans four decades and subtly documents Hamilton’s own transition in our ever changing environment.



For Joan, her first inspiration was the drive to create, to make a mark. As the “smallest” of nine children” it was her love of art that allowed her to be different. Growing up on a farm in rural Raglan Joan was inspired to document the life, the countryside and the characters that inhabited her world, which is not to say that art always came easily.

Later, as a young mother living in what was then the outskirts of Hamilton, it was a sense of isolation and a feeling of displacement, of coming to terms with city life that encouraged her to take up pencil and paintbrush with self-determination. Attending evening and weekend classes run by Campbell Smith she was introduced to visiting artists from further afield.

Joan was now painting in earnest but struggling to transfer the vibrancy of her drawings on to the canvas and soon realised that expertise in technique and something approaching satisfaction in outcome came only with hard work and time put in, and with that came the understanding that drawing and painting are two very different things. Joan says that she “ceased to colour in between the lines” and her confidence slowly increased.

It was around this time that Joan came to the conclusion that as a full time painter it was time to address the thorny issue of calling oneself an ‘Artist’. Perhaps to distinguish herself from someone painting the garden shed but also as a title earned, albeit perhaps a somewhat dubious honour, for as Joan says “nobody but a fool would work such hours for such poor returns”. Art is also a time-consuming vocation, “I’m at the easel, and I’m enjoying working and then the time’s gone – it’s when you stop you realize that you are absolutely exhausted”. Solitude is another factor, Joan admits to spending hours of time staring into space, although she agrees that this is a necessary use of time as it gives one space to develop ideas and to move one’s art forward.



Despite the solitary nature of its conception and execution, for Joan, art must be about communication.

“Art is communication, or about communication. The artist tells of an experience, probably shared, it is our connections not our divisions which matter most.” Even when the subject is entirely abstract “the colours and the shapes still speak to us.”

The painters Joan admires exhibit the same sensibility to drawing that she herself espouses, Jim Dine, Larry Rivers, R. B. Kitaj; It is an art form that too often seems to be struggling to find its place in contemporary art. For Joan it is a foundation on which layers of ideas, expression and communication are built. Drawing is a good antidote to artists block, which afflicts most artists at some stage. Joan recalls the words of advice and encouragement she received from Adele Younghusband, a pioneer of modernist painting in New Zealand, ‘what do you do when you sit down to have a cup of tea? Flick through a magazine? – Don’t. - Draw!’

It may be cliché, but it’s the ‘hard work ethic’ that defines Joan’s generation, an ethic that we like to think still defines New Zealand. Her studio-cum-living room is packed with canvases for her forthcoming exhibition. Joan gets up in the morning and starts painting and the time disappears “sometimes I have to get out, leave the house, or I’d just keep on painting” she states

The new work was inspired by a trip to a grove of kauri trees. The trees standing alone and sentinel on bare ground, made a strong impact, a very different experience to the verdant tangle of native bush. This connection was reinforced by a walk through a stand of kahikatea, a more familiar sight to the Waikato observer.



Here the boardwalk not only wound its way around the trunks but by a series of platforms, up through the branches to give a true bird’s eye view. And of course the birds have their place in Joan’s work too, contented kereru amongst broad strokes of leaves, a line of kingfishers huddled against the autumn chill, the golden eyes of moreporks emerging from the woody gloom and a vibrant parade of fantails.

Other pieces require more space Joan muses.

Straight trunks create an abstract quality to the paintings. Stand back and allow the forms to advance and recede as one is drawn into the woods. Stand closer and we are drawn in by the rich painterly quality of the work, closer still and we can almost smell the bark – a seemingly effortless balance of skill and knowing born of hard graft and dedication.

To quote Brahms, “without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind.” **JANE SIDDALL**

CALLING ALL PRINTMAKERS

'Waiprint 2008' – Waikato Printmakers 19th Annual Exhibition

Thornton Gallery, 298 Barton Street Hamilton.

03 October – 24 October 2008

Guest artist: Stephanie Chalmers

This, the 19th annual Waikato Society of Arts, Printmaker's Exhibition will be hung at Thornton Gallery from 03 October - 28 October.

'Waiprint 2008' is a WSA, member's exhibition.

All members of the society and students of the WSA Art School can submit works for this selected show. There will be approx. 35-45 prints on show and these can include techniques such as etching, drypoint, mezzotint, woodcut, monoprint, wood engraving, screenprint, digital and mixed media methods.

Entries will be limited to two per WSA member. Artwork and entry form must be delivered to the WSA office NO LATER THAN 24th September (Wed) 3pm.

Stephanie Chalmers, our guest artist will be offering a one day workshop on 05 October at the WSA Community School of Arts.

For more information about 'Waiprint 2008' (or if you've lost your entry form) please call the Waikato Society of Arts 839 4481 or Joan Travaglia 850 9198.

Opening Celebration 5 30pm Friday, 3rd October. All Welcome.

Thornton Galleries, 298 Barton St, Hamilton, Ph 839 1325

Hours: 9 30am - 5 30pm, Mon – Fri. Sat & Sun 10am - 4.30pm.

ONE DAY DRYPRINT WORKSHOP

Stephanie Chalmers

Sunday 5 October 2008 10-4pm.

WSA School of Art at ArtsPost in the Basement Printmaking Studio.

Drypoint is a printmaking process of the intaglio family. It is a very accessible, economical and immediate kind of printmaking that does not require plate ground or acid.

In this class we will scratch clear PVC sheeting with a variety of tools including pointed scratchers, scrapers, burnishers and differing grades of sandpaper.

We will also make use of plate tone when inking the plate to print: using rags, cotton buds and toothpicks to remove surplus tincture: effectively monotyping parts of the plate.

We will also look at printing on canvas and vinyl, as well as paper.

All tools, plate, printmaking paper and ink will be provided.

If you have etching tools please bring them.

You will need:

To bring along an image such as a drawing or photo etc to work with

To wear old clothes

To bring food/drink. Tea and coffee will be provided

Fee: \$70. All enrolments to Anne Kalnins Phone 839 4481 WSA Art School.

Stephanie Chalmers:

Bachelor of Fine Arts 2001 (Majoring in Printmaking)
Otago Polytechnic School of Art, Dunedin.

Working mainly with dry point methods of printmaking
Stephanie's art works have been in numerous group exhibitions and Art Awards in New Zealand and overseas.



"The Owl and the Pussycat" – Stephanie Chalmers

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WSA TREASURER NEEDED

Elsewhere you will have found that Brenda, our President, has resigned because of business demands.

So also has Belinda, our Treasurer. So we also need someone to step in and take on the role of Treasurer now and through next year.

This does not involve regular 'hands on' involvement in preparing accounts. Thanks to Belinda, Brenda and Eriko excellent systems are in place and the because of the wonderfully efficient Eriko the job only requires overview, budget planning and attending to funding applications.

So if you feel you can help, or know someone who can help please let Martha (07 856 6981) know ASAP.

FROM THE WSA ART SCHOOL...

Our new cartooning class has proved very popular. Maybe this is trying to tell us to laugh more!

Classes this term are doing well and as always students/ artists enjoy their classes. Despite the weather or because of it numbers have been good. Next term we will be offering a Saturday Screen Printing class.

We will also be offering a Cut and Spray stencil Sunday workshop, more on these classes in the next newsletter.

Our sincere condolences go to Jane Finch and family. Jane's mother Zoe Ireland recently passed away. We wish Paula Spiers and Graeme Henry speedy recoveries.

A very big thank you goes to our two anonymous donors. This is very much appreciated.

ANNE KALNINS

THE ACTION FRONT – MUSEUM EXHIBITION FOR 75th ANNIVERSARY

We need photos and memorabilia from 1980's to 1990's – specifically around the times of the shift from Studio Gallery (Clarence St) to Ward St Park and WSA Gallery Victoria St.

If you have items such as posters, notices of exhibitions, or souvenirs that could be incorporated in the exhibition, please phone Joan Fear on 07 855 9592.

MORE CHANGES!

It is with regret that we find that Prue Butler who has done such a magnificent job as the leader of the Art Awards Subcommittee team has found it necessary to resign.

WSA owes Prue so much for her work and we thank her warmly. As one who helped occasionally I was amazed at the lengths to which Prue went to get things done properly and how she always followed up with a thank you note. People like Prue made volunteering such a pleasure.

Janet Knighton and Maree Glass have been officially appointed as Art Award co- coordinators.

PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

In the July issue of Art Connections we inserted a membership renewal form for you to pay your subscription for the year 1 Sept 08 to 31 Aug 09. Several people have made payment and the new membership cards are being printed and will be issued shortly.

The membership subscription is real value for money. Not only do you get all the benefits of belonging to the Society, if you take advantage of the discounts you soon get your money back!

2008 Empire Arts National Youth Art Award

New Zealand's best Visual Artists aged 27 and under

Finalists Exhibition

28 September to 10 October 2008

THE EMPIRE GALLERY
Empire Street, Cambridge
www.empiregallery.co.nz

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PHOTOCOPIER USAGE BY WSA MEMBERS ONLY

WSA has a new photocopier, which represents a big improvement in quality as it prints colour photographs beautifully.

It was necessary to lease a new machine in order to print the newsletter ourselves and now we can all benefit.

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. (The machine can take up to 210 g/ M2 paper – check with Eriko about fancy papers)

Photocopier (self) service is available 8:30am – 3pm (Mon-Fri)

Contact Anne or Eriko for authorisation (need to enter casual ID number).

Bulk photocopier service is also available. (Casual rates + Service charge is applicable)
2-3 working days may be required, depending on the volume.

Contact Eriko for the lead-time and quotation.

MEMBERS' TESTIMONIALS

The Executive Committee would like to obtain from Members, short Testimonial statements, which can be used in funding applications and general publicity and promotional work for WSA.

If members would like to help please send your statements about the value of WSA to you and/or the wider community to our Secretary, Eriko Hulse, at WSA, P.O. Box 1018, or by Email.

Longhand written statements are quite acceptable.

WHAT'S ON?

ARTSPOST GALLERIES

Preview and Opening Thursday 31 July at 5.30pm.

Arts Post

29 August – 22 September 2008

Preview and Opening Thursday 28 August

Indigenous Birds and Trees

New works by Joan Fear is opening at the Chartwell Gallery.

5.30pm 28th August

There should be no need to introduce Joan to WSA members. She is our WSA Patron, a WSA Life member, ex-President and has been a WSA member since 1962. See this issues centre pages for an article about Joan's journey in art.

Sharing the Spirit: A journey around my Grandmother

Textiles by Christine Pattullo

Thread Bare: An Exhibition of Unruly Quilts

A collaborative exhibition of textiles by Joyce Stalker and Dee Wood.

Fault Line: From Rock to Stitch

Textiles by Yoke Helwes-Martens

AT THE MUSEUM

Cursive Line: Adele Younghusband

16 August - 30 November

Curated by Whangarei Art Museum Director Scott Pothan, the exhibition explores Adele Younghusband as a significant figure in the history of New Zealand Modernism in the 20th Century. Adele was a co-founder of WSA with Ida Carey so this exhibition can be considered a pre-cursor to the 75th celebrations. The catalogue is very clear that she was significant also because she was an early exponent of Art Deco. She conceived of new ways of painting Maori themes and many illustrators are indebted to her.

Trust Waikato National Contemporary Art Award

23 August - 30 November

An exhibition featuring the work of the talented finalists in this year's prestigious, national award. Selected by renowned judge Natasha Conland of the Auckland Art Gallery, this year's selection of New Zealand's finest contemporary art will amaze, intrigue, amuse and inspire.



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)
The Empire Gallery 15% on art materials
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

* New Subscription Rates (1 Sept 2008 – 31 Aug 2009)
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.
Our WSA Account is:
Westpac 03 0306 0217827 00 Hamilton North Branch.

GRATEFUL

The WSA is grateful to:

- Trust Waikato for funding towards WSA Administration and Development.
- Bennett Advertising for the design and production of **Art Connections**.
- 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 the August issue of **Art Connections** and for ongoing help.



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 Hamilton North Branch.

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**.

EDITOR

Barry Smith phone: 07 8558296
Email: 2smiths@wave.co.nz

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Inserts \$75 per page (printed and delivered to WSA)
Full Page \$160 (available only if space available)
Half Page \$80 Quarter Page \$50

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

ECO-NEWSLETTER –

Getting **ARTS CONNECTION**

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.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Art Connections monthly newsletter welcomes articles and images relating to the arts, and listings of upcoming art events. All contributions need to be provided by 20th of each month to Eriko Hulse at the WSA office, email wsa@wsa.org.nz. Please type "Newsletter" in subject line.

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.

WSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patron: Joan Fear
Hon. Solicitor: Warren Scotter
Auditor: Grant Mackintosh
Treasurer: Belinda Dorrington
Acting President: Martha Simms
(07) 855 6289

Committee: Alison Gray, Alex McPherson, Barry Smith, Carril Karr, Mark Curtis, Paula Spiers and Sharryn Franklin.



WSA Office and Art School
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