



First Floor
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DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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**Collaborative Exhibition:
The Otago Art Society and
Ceramics Association NZ**

Above: Nicole Kolig addressing the audience at the opening of the exhibition, which was on view from 17 November until 2 December. Photos on this page are the category winners of the Ceramics Association of New Zealand Regional Members Exhibition.



CANZ Award – *Buddhist Monks* by Mitsuko McQueen; clay.



Sculptural Excellence Award – *Put On* by Kate Fitzharris; ceramic, linen, cotton.



Functional Excellence Award – *Lightcatcher-Shadowplayer* by Nicole Kolig; naked ceramic glaze. This piece also won the **People's Choice Award**.



Merit Award – *Fire Works* by Peter Gregory of Stuart Street Potters Coop (Affiliated Club); porcelain.



Exhibition judge, **Neil Grant**, pictured with Kate Fitzharris, was for many years head of the Ceramics Department at the Dunedin School of Art. Now retired, he is still mentoring students there.



President:
Doug Hart

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Back Issues of the newsletter are available on the website.

President's Message

Doug Hart

Christmas in the art world

With the beginning of the festive season, it seems appropriate to chart the rise and ever changing subject of the Nativity.

The earliest example of the Nativity scene is from 343 A.D., from a sketch of a now lost fragment of a sarcophagus from the catacombs in Rome. It depicted the infant wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a trough close to the ground, surrounded by an ox, an ass, two shepherds, and a tree. This would become the Nativity's standard composition from henceforth. Notably, Mary was absent and it was only with changes in Christianity that her status became an indispensable part of Nativity scenes.

Gentile da Fabriano's *Nativity*, painted between 1420 and 1422, shows Mary adoring the infant Christ, an image that shows her as the most important adult in the scene. Jesus appears in the centre in an incredibly life-like imagery worthy of a blockbuster cinematic presentation.

In The Renaissance, artists produced diverse depictions of the Nativity, ranging from nighttime scenes to daytime vistas portraying contemporary life in 15th century Europe. Carravaggio's painting entitled *The Nativity with St. Francis and St. Lawrence* was ground breaking at the time but troubling for the Catholic Church. Mary is depicted in the painting as a modern woman, wearing a sleeveless dress and chemise typical of working-class women of the time. Because Mary was shown weary from exhaustion after giving birth, it was perceived as not befitting her holiness at that time. The Christian theology held that Christ's birth was miraculous and devoid of pain.

Today the depictions of the Nativity are primarily 'sugar coated' and are almost consigned to the sidelines as the iconography of Christmas has moved into images of robins, snowmen, puddings and reindeer. Such is the increasingly technical and instant social world of the 21st century. In these days of popular culture, the Nativity still proves a challenging subject matter for contemporary artists. In 1961, using discarded objects and other mixed media, Edward Kienholz painted a provocative gesture for what is understood as the holiest and most timeless moment in Christian history. Other artists such as Colombian painter Berrio used a collage of sequins, acrylic paint and paper to create a fairy dreamlike landscape with all the elements of Renaissance art.

It may prove to be an interesting project to produce a nativity artwork ourselves. How would we portray it? Who would we include and what animals would be in the room?



OAS councillors and their partners at the end-of-year get together at Annie and Frank Pepers' home – an opportunity for new councillors to be welcomed into the team and to relax together after a busy year's activities.

Christmas in the summer!

Since moving to this wonderful country four years ago, I am still bemused about having Christmas in the summer. In the UK it's winter of course and all the images of Christmas are portrayed in everyday life. Dark evenings, cold and frosty, snow and robins, houses decked in sparkling electric lights, shops, supermarkets where 8 to 10 trolleys are impatiently wheeled towards the checkout and roads packed with cars. Central heating replacing log fires, packed pubs, turkeys and Christmas puddings in the supermarkets in September!

Here in Dunedin it's warm with barbecues, salads, beach life with lively grandchildren and leisurely glasses of wine on the deck. Glorious sunsets that paint the skies orange russet, majestic purple and smoky peach. It's strange for my wife and I, but at the same time, refreshing and we love it.

A New Year approaches

There's so much to look forward to in life. We must all grasp and cherish the opportunities that come our way. Our new sponsors, Ryman Healthcare, are showcasing some of their residents' artwork and memorabilia in the Ryman sponsored gallery. It's never too late to take up a brush, a pastel or a lump of clay to let your imagination run riot.

Painting and creating artwork is a passion of mine and we have so many events in 2019 to show off our skills and ideas. Get your thinking caps on for the Fringe Festival Nude Exhibition and the other shows coming your way.

New Arrival

Congratulations to past-president Nic Dempster and his partner on the arrival of a wee bundle of joy called Gethin. I'm sure he will bring so much fun into their lives and be sketching from his cot within a month!

Happy Christmas and Thank You

Finally, I wish all our members a very happy and meaningful Christmas and New Year. Thanks go to all the volunteers who give so freely of their time, our wonderful staff in the office and shop and to our council members who work tirelessly to make the OAS a dynamic unit.

Doug Hart
President

Photo
supplied by
Nic Dempster



Message from Nic Dempster: "Simon and I are happy to announce the birth of our son, Gethin George Dempster-Pointer. Born 6/11/18, weighing in at 7lbs 2oz. His Mum, Vicki, was a superstar and the home birth went off without a hitch (though his Dads missed his arrival by mere minutes). Although we are still working through the adoption process, we very much look forward to bringing him along to OAS events in the near future. Thank you for all the kind gifts and messages these past few weeks."

Ceramics Collaboration



Otago Daily Times

In a nice bit of publicity for the art society as a lead up to the Ceramics exhibition, artist and OAS councillor Anton Lambaart was featured in the ODT Arts page, mid-November. He is seen here with his exhibition entry.

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Brian Miller

Members' Meeting

Our last Members' Meeting for the year was held on 15th November. We were treated to a presentation by Brian Miller (writer, publisher, photographer, and past OAS councillor), who has just released his latest cycling guide book, *Alps 2 Ocean*. Along with information about the hard work involved in producing this "easy guide", Brian entertained and informed us on various other topics, from how to design and build the interior components of a campervan, a dissertation on geological matters, and also the visual delight of a glider flight over Mt Cook.

Members' Meetings aim to be convivial and informative, touching on many aspects of creativity. Next Members' Meeting will be held on 21st February at 7pm.



Featured Artists

Danielle Munro (left) and Kaori Jackson (right) were the demonstrating artists in November. Scheduled in the gallery for December are Marie Reid, then Doug Hart, and Lorna Allan. Artists in January will be Celia Duff, Anne Baldock, Allie Simpson and Julia McNaughton.



Opportunity for Central Otago Artists

Wanaka Arts Charitable Trust: Grant Programme 2019

The Wanaka Arts Charitable Trust (WACT) have three grants available to visual artists in the Central Otago region. Each grant will be between \$2,000 to \$4,000 and is to be used on a visual arts project.

The WACT is looking for practicing and engaged artists residing within Central Otago who are keen for an opportunity to extend themselves through the development and installation of a visual artwork project (although the project does not necessarily need to be displayed in Central Otago).

Grant funds can be put towards research for the project, materials to create the artwork(s), freight and delivery charges in relation to the artwork(s) and costs in relation to the installation of the artwork(s).

Applications will open on 14 January 2019 and close in late February 2019. The recipients of the grant will be announced in late March 2019.

Any interested artists may contact the Wanaka Arts Charitable Trust (wanakaartscharitabletrust@gmail.com) on 14 January for application forms.



Exhibition judge, Anneloes Douglas, pictured with Doreen Spittlehouse at the opening of the Art South Otago Trustpower Awards.

Out and About

Several OAS artists featured among the prize winners in the Art South Otago Trustpower Awards held in Balclutha last month:

1st - Lynley Van Alphen, *Full Tide at The Boat Club*.

2nd - **Doreen Spittlehouse** - *Kaka Point*.

3rd - **Judy Smith** - *Spring Poppies*.

Merit - **Annie Peppers** - *Golden Evening, Hoopers Inlet*.

Merit - Peter Linklater - *Early Start*.

O'Malley & Co Award - Ruth Mitchell - *Southern Scenic Land*.

Awamangu Contracting - Rural Theme - Lisa Winslade - *Sheep 1*.

Rosebank Four Square - Still Life -

Maxine Evans - *Is that One of Mine?*



Mari Gomes with one of the memorabilia items in the **Ryman Healthcare exhibition**, on until 10th Dec. The wedding dress, from 1940, belonged to Thelma Snow's sister Muriel. Thelma is a resident at Yvette Williams Retirement Village, where Mari works as a care assistant.

Promoting our Art at i-SITE

A wonderful display of Otago Art Society work has been arranged in a prime location – the shop window at i-SITE in the Octagon, from 3rd to 16th December. Our versatile Mr Fixit, Raimo Kuparinen, built the display plinths and ‘stylists’ Ness and Mari have chosen eye-catching items with the intention of tempting more visitors to our galleries. The TV screen will continuously show members’ paintings for the duration.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the holiday season and the busy cruise ship schedule, we need to have plenty of volunteers to run the shop. Help share the load! Do you have any spare hours to volunteer? We'd really appreciate it if you could be on the roster.

Exhibition

FORESTS AND FIELDS

Manu Berry and Luke Hancock
 BELLAMYS GALLERY
 Macandrew Bay.
 Until 14th December.

A banner draws attention to the art society's presence in the railway station.



Pottery by Riki Julin and Kathy Palenski was popular at the recent OpenArts Market at Macandrew Bay.

ART NIGHT CLASSES

Term 1 starts 18 February. All classes 6pm-8pm.

- NEW! Art History** – starts Term 2
- NEW! Sculpture: Modelling Animals in Clay** – Thursdays
- Darkroom Photography** – Tuesdays
- Introduction to Photography** – Wednesdays
- Photography** – Mondays
- Sculpture in Ceramics** – Wednesdays
- Life Drawing** – Mondays or Thursdays
- Drawing with Confidence** (Wanaka-based) – Wednesdays
- Introduction to Ceramics** – Tuesdays and Fridays
- Ceramics** – Thursdays
- Introduction to Printmaking** – Tuesdays
- Printmaking** – Wednesday, 10.00am-12.00pm
- Introduction to Painting** – Tuesdays
- Digital Painting** – Thursdays
- Painting** – Wednesdays
- Introduction to Jewellery** – Mondays or Thursdays
- Jewellery** – Tuesdays or Wednesdays
- Textiles** – Wednesdays

Cost: \$195 per term. For more information and to enrol online, visit www.op.ac.nz/art Ph 0800 762 786.

Please contact us if you're interested in our degree programmes. Visit www.op.ac.nz or phone 0800 762 786.



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 OF ART

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WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Editorial comment: Unless otherwise attributed, all items in the OAS monthly newsletters are compiled by the editor, Jenny Longstaff, Immediate Past President 2013–16. The newsletter is approved by OAS Council before printing and distribution. **Contributions are welcome:** stories, photos, news, exhibitions, tuition etc. Please email Jenny to discuss: j.a.longstaff@gmail.com or phone her on 021 1326 053. **Deadline:** information must arrive a week before end of month to appear in following month's issue. *The OAS Newsletter is printed by Hope and Sons.*