



First Floor  
Dunedin Railway Station  
22 Anzac Avenue  
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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otagoartsociety@xtra.co.nz

**OAS COUNCILLORS, 2020-2021**

*President:* Doug Hart

*Vice-Presidents:*

Annie Peppers, Anton Lambaart

*Immediate Past President:*

Nic Dempster

*Councillors:*

Jenny Longstaff, Geoff Adams,

Julia McNaughton, Raimo Kuparinen,

Mari Gomes-Bradford, Brenda Nyhof,

Lorna Allan, Lindsay Campbell,

Danielle Munro, Eleanor Girvan,

Anne Baldock.

*Hope and Sons  
Art Award*

This exhibition features many works of exceptional standard and is a wonderful opportunity to view a breadth of artistic ability in different mediums. It has been well supported by the public, with 52 paintings sold to date.

The show runs through to midday, Saturday 28th November. There are still many wonderful works looking for appreciative homes!

**Recognition for local artist**

The painting pictured below, by artist **Jonathan Cuming**, is a small oil titled *Existential Nightmare II: Double Self Portrait as Christ & Judas*. It was awarded 2nd Prize in the Hope and Sons Art Awards, judged by Sam Foley. It has been purchased to be part of the James Wallace Arts Trust's collection of New Zealand contemporary art, a cultural resource for present and future generations comprising more than 7,000 works housed in The Pah Homestead in Auckland.



*Collection reminder*

Local artists are reminded to collect their unsold works on Sunday 29th November from 10am to 4pm. The 'Ingredients' exhibition is scheduled straight afterwards. If you cannot collect your work personally on the day, please arrange for someone else to. We are not a storage facility. We really do need your cooperation!

**See p.3 for details of a pre-meeting Critique Session for artists.**

*Last Members' Meeting for the year*

**Thursday 19th November at 7.00 pm**

**Talks will be presented by**

**Jack Pritchard: Bhuddist Art on the Silk Road**

**and by Doug Hart: Andy Goldsworthy, environmental artist.**

*At right: Examples of environmental works by Andy Goldsworthy OBE, a British sculptor, photographer and environmentalist who produces site-specific sculptures and land art situated in natural and urban settings. He lives and works in Scotland.*



**PARKING FOR VOLUNTEERS** At the southern end of the station, between the public toilets and the train in the glass display shelter, there are 7 parking spaces reserved for art society members' use. Any OAS member may use them. (Number 16, over the railway bridge, is no longer available.)



President:  
Doug Hart

Phone 0211346252



Facebook:  
**otago art society**



Instagram:  
**@otagoartsociety**

**www.otagoartsociety.co.nz**

Back Issues of the newsletter  
are available on the website.

## President's Message

**Doug Hart**

**A warm welcome** to all our members, and in particular our new artists, as we move closer to the end of a very momentous year and look forward to 2021.

At the end of this month we prepare for our new exhibition, **'Ingredients'**, generously sponsored by Ryman Healthcare. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the initiatives of Kate Morgan and Mari Gomes-Bradford, plus the residents and staff of Ryman homes, who have worked hard to bring this event about. It's a different and challenging assignment trying to portray food recipes and ingredients in the form of an artwork. I am really looking forward to seeing the results hung and displayed in the gallery. Variety is going to be paramount, as our members can use a range of mediums such as photography, fabrics, jewellery, ceramics and painting to entertain the public.

### Art and Food

Going back hundreds of years, cavemen painted pictures of other people and animals on the walls of their caves because those two things were important in their lives. They painted the stories of the hunting trips and how they were victorious in getting food for their family. While painters and artists have continued to paint the important things in their lives, such as people and conflict, they have also incorporated food into their artwork. Food is a central aspect of society still today.

People often post pictures of their meals at their local eatery on their Instagrams, and restaurant owners filter and edit their culinary offerings to make their food look the most enticing in order to advertise their menu.

Our city of Dunedin has an array of eating establishments, from the humble cafe to high-end restaurants, and so it is fitting that the judges for this exhibition are the owners of **Ironic Cafe and Bar**, Julie and Steve, both of whom are art collectors.

#### *Symbolism in depictions of food*

In the past, artists included food and drink in their artwork to create subtle symbolism in their works. Just like with the majority of artistic messages, the audience had to search for and interpret these food-filled messages.

Food has consistently appeared in European art throughout time. But why? Food is a huge part of their culture, so were these European artists really hungry when they painted, or did they have another agenda? Some artists may include food in their paintings to highlight the hunger and starvation that people felt, such as in Picasso's *The Blind Man's Meal*. The simplicity and sadness in the painting sends the message that the blind man was very poor and could not afford much more than bread. It is an allegory of

the social injustices of the time. In other instances, such as the food portrayed in many still-life paintings, comestible items serve no obvious allegorical purpose.

Artists can use food to demonstrate strengths or weaknesses in a gender. For instance, in Diego Velázquez's *Old Woman Frying Eggs*, the irony appears in the fact that an elderly woman, who is now infertile with no eggs to conceive children, is cooking eggs. In contrast, Francisco de Goya paints a still-life depiction of raw meat in order to insert a sense of manliness. For centuries red meat has been associated with strength, power, aggression, and sexuality.

Artists like Goya, Dalí, and Velázquez included bread in their paintings to demonstrate wealth, peace (or lack of), and simplicity.

Many artists, like Dalí, include fruit in their paintings, which often symbolise abstract concepts. The symbolism of food and drink has roots in classical literature, such as the pomegranate and its relation to the goddess Venus. Did you know that cherries and strawberries represented the souls of men? Fruit, vegetable and meal still-lives were often imbued with religious symbolism. The Dutch painter Pieter Aertsen featured Biblical motifs in his market and kitchen scenes as a warning against excessive consumption. Catholics would recognise lemons, oranges and a rose as a reference to the Holy Trinity.

To sum up, it is important to look at food in art on a deeper level. While it is the source of energy and life, it can also symbolise much, much more. This applies both to food in artwork and food in our everyday lives. Perhaps the chef or cook at your nearby restaurant also wants you to see more than a pile of beautifully stacked potato gratin in front of you.

Does your artwork for this exhibition have a symbolic meaning or does it represent a certain event in your life that has had an unexpected impact? Alternatively, is it just a bit of fun that will make people smile?

I can't wait to explore your submissions.

*Doug Hart*



*The Blind Man's Meal*  
by Picasso



Detail from  
Diego Velázquez's painting,  
*Old Woman Frying Eggs*

*Our next exhibition...*  
*'Ingredients'*

**A themed exhibition  
inspired by recipes from  
Ryman Healthcare residents.**

**Sponsored by**



Entry forms are now available for December's exhibition. Check the available recipes on the OAS website or at the office, or create a food-themed work yourself.

**Critique Session for Artists, Thursday 19th November, 6-7pm.**

**Facilitated by Lorna Allan**

In the hope that this can be a regular opportunity prior to each Members' Meeting, on the 3rd Thursday of each month, we urge artists to bring along something they would like to gain feedback about, in a relaxed and friendly group discussion. Work in any medium and artists of any ability are welcome. This is aimed at being a supportive, helpful forum, where you can get advice or suggestions on such things as composition, colour, technique, framing, presentation for exhibitions etc. Take advantage of knowledge and skill offered in a non-judgemental critique session. Don't be shy! We want you to be successful!



**Thank you for your involvement, Allie!**

**Allie Simpson** has resigned from her role as an OAS councillor due to time demands with work commitments in Auckland.

We have been fortunate to have had Allie on the committee for the past few years – she brought enthusiasm backed by knowledge, as well as a marvellous artistic ability, and her friendly presence will be missed. We wish you good luck and successful outcomes for the future, Allie.

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**Jewellery exhibition by Tony Williams – 11th to 20th December.**

"Since I 'retired' I keep finding exciting stones in my safe which demand to be made into jewellery. Once made, of course, they must be shown – and sold, or else I can't keep making. I have, for instance, a rare marquise Chrysoberyl ring with enamel and diamonds, and a lovely green tourmaline and diamond 'Spring Ring'. Also, a statement silver ring in amethyst crystals and further pieces in the CZ and silver costume series I showed earlier in the year... and sundry other pieces, some old, some new. Oh, and I hope to have the pearl fly with the moving wings....! See you at the exhibition!"

**ART WORKSHOPS**

**Dunedin Community Network  
278a King Edward St., South Dunedin.**

**Nancy McLennan Hughes  
and Ron Esplin** tutor classes in  
Drawing and Watercolour.  
Other reasonably priced courses  
are also available.

Enrol online at  
[southlandeducation.org.nz](http://southlandeducation.org.nz)  
or phone Lesley: 0272188180  
or Mary: 0210777956



**Farewell Ian Bartlett**

We note with sadness the passing of our friend Ian Bartlett on October 14th. Ian was notable for the fine example he set through his staunch support of OAS activities. While not an artist himself, he appreciated the companionship of attending members' meetings and exhibition openings. His philosophy was: "If you're going to be a member, you should support the events that are organised."

We're all aware of the demands on our time in our busy lives these days, but Ian's attitude was heartwarming – a true gentleman member, committed to participation in the OAS programme of events.

*Ian Bartlett, pictured in festive mood in September 2017, celebrating his 90th birthday at an OAS members' meeting.*



**Artistic Success**

*'Flower Confetti', by Anneloes Douglas, was featured on the front cover of the October Journal of Pastel Artists of NZ (Inc.) as the pastel challenge winner for the month.*

## Events Calendar

### Hope and Sons Art Awards

The exhibition is on until 12 noon, 28th November.

Local artists, please collect your works on Sunday 29th from 10am to 4pm.

### Members' Meeting

Thursday 19th Nov. 7.00pm

Jack Pritchard

### Buddhist Art on the Silk Road

Doug Hart

Andy Goldsworthy,  
environmental artist

### Forthcoming exhibitions

Ryman Healthcare:  
'Ingredients'

Receiving Day:

Sunday 29th Nov. 10am to 4pm

Opening Night:

6.00pm Friday 4th December

Collection of works: Sunday  
10th January, 10am to 4pm

Tony Williams  
Goldsmith

11th to 20th December

A jewellery exhibition  
of exceptional artistic  
craftsmanship.

Items will be for sale.

### Affordable Art

Our regular holiday exhibition  
will follow the 'Ingredients'  
exhibition in January.

### Good luck – fly the flag!

Wishing success to our OAS artists who will be selling their work at the **Dunedin Art Show** at the Edgar Centre from 19th to 22nd November. Remember to recommend a visit to our galleries at the railway station!

### Stay tuned for change

Forward planning is key to keeping relevant and interesting to our members and the public. The impact of Covid-19 means that OAS has some serious issues to address regarding generation of income. You may dislike the term, but we are a 'brand' – we're a business in the marketplace, and how we are perceived is crucial to success. Initiatives are being developed to enhance our profile, under the marketing guidance of OAS councillor Anton Lambaart, who has international experience in this field.



OAS councillors discussing poster design options for next year's Cleveland Awards.

### Shop Report by Ness and Sarah

"It's been lovely to come out of winter and see the gardens blooming and the sun shining... sometimes!

Support for the Sales Gallery has been steady – great to see kiwi travellers popping in as well as locals. Our new signage is making us much more visible so we are looking forward to a busy summer.

A huge 'THANKS' to all our volunteers for your continued support when you can... we wouldn't manage without you!"

(And thanks also to Sarah and Ness for keeping the shop display looking so appealing with regular changes.)

### Update from Jan Ingram

When Jan became ill last year and had to take leave from her position as Sales Gallery Co-ordinator, the job was kept open for her for a year. Jan feels her recovery will take more time, so regretfully we won't be seeing Jan behind the desk on a regular basis. The good news is that she is back to painting again; and we may see her in the Sales Gallery when she fills in from time to time.



Hayley Rata Heyes, left, and her sister Ida Keith, beside Hayley's painting 'Sisters' in the Hope's exhibition.

### Some inspiring news from Marie Reid

(Marie is now living in Owaka.)

This glimpse of the life of an artist should give hope to anyone who has not had their work selected when entered for an exhibition. It's easy to feel dejected about being rejected – remember, it is one person's opinion and the next person might think it is brilliant.

Over Labour Weekend, Marie was the guest artist at Manapouri Art Exhibition. Here is a message from her: "I had a great weekend at Manapouri, selling three big works and lots of prints... also got Best Overall Artist Award and People's Choice Award for my painting "Drawing Straws". This was a real pick-me-up after it was rejected from the Hope and Sons awards."



Drawing Straws, by Marie Reid

### PROMOTION OPPORTUNITY

Have you seen the **Hot to Trot** advertisements featuring works by OAS artists on page 2 of the ODT's weekend Mix? (They appear on the first Saturday of each month.) You could have your 'hot to trot' work featured next time! There are spaces available over the next few months. Several participating artists have already had successful sales due to the exposure.

If you would like to be involved in this opportunity it will cost you \$40.

Please contact our administrator, Ngaire, if you are keen to do this.

Phone 477-9465. Email: otagoartsociety@xtra.co.nz

**Editorial comment:** Unless otherwise attributed, all items in the OAS monthly newsletters are compiled by the editor, Jenny Longstaff (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.*