



NEWSLETTER

May 2023

President's Message

Brenda Nyhof

Well, It's great to finally see the Cleveland National Art Awards up and running! The work and organisation behind the scenes was pretty impressive leading up to the opening and the finished result is a credit to all the hard work put in. With so many out-of-town artists in the show, just seeing so many unfamiliar styles and approaches to art was an absolute treat and very refreshing. I loved that I found some of the works challenging to my ideas about art, and will certainly be spending more time looking at the show. We've got a full calendar for the rest of the year, so stay tuned and keep up the art making!

See pages 2 to 5 for Cleveland National Art Awards Results and Judges' Comments.

Photos show some of the work necessary in preparing the Cleveland National Art Awards. Thank you so much to all those who assisted in these and the many other jobs involved.



Painting plinths, cleaning display units, checking details, arranging the entries, numbering the works.... just some of the many tasks undertaken by volunteers leading up to the staging of this major exhibition. Paid staff also have been dedicated in their roles (Ngaire, Nina, and Leanne – thank you.)

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22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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otagoartsociety@extra.co.nz

OAS COUNCILLORS, 2022-2023

President: Brenda Nyhof

Immediate Past President:
Doug Hart

Councillors:

Anne Baldock, Jennifer Belt,
Ingrid Dunckley, Peter Hurst,
Tash Hurst, Raimo Kuparinen,
Jenny Longstaff, Stacey Roughan,
Rose Shepard, Mary Jane Sneyd.

WE NEED YOU!!

Looking to the future, several current OAS councillors will not be continuing next term. Our AGM is in August, so please think now about offering yourself as an OAS councillor to join the team helping us to present our many activities. **We need new blood!** (It may involve sweat and tears as well.)

Members' Evening, 18th May

At a well attended, lively meeting, artists Danielle Munro, Hayley Rata Heyes, Tony Williams, and Anne Baldock talked about their Cleveland Exhibition entries.

We also appreciated comments and question and answer time with the exhibition judges: Justin Spiers, Simon Palenski, and Scott Eady (pictured below).



President:
Brenda Nyhof

Phone 027 489 0360



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otago art society



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Back Issues of the newsletter
are available on the website.

2023 Cleveland National Art Awards results and judges' comments

To enable as wide a range of artistic expression as possible, entries could be submitted in three categories.

Category 1: Painting/2D Media

Judged by **Simon Palenski**, writer, curator and Director of the Blue Oyster Gallery. He recently completed a curatorial internship at Dunedin Public Art Gallery.

Category 2: Printmaking/Photography/ Digital Graphics

Judged by **Justin Spiers**, photographer and a previous winner of the Cleveland National Art Awards.

Category 3: 3D Media/Sculpture/Jewellery/ Homeware/Textile

Judged by **Scott Eady**, artist and Principal Lecturer in Sculpture at the Dunedin School of Art.

Sponsorship partnerships are essential in staging a national art award's running costs, as well as for the prize pool. We are grateful to the businesses, at right, who have given financial support towards this exhibition. Thanks also to Ironic Cafe's tasty catering contribution.

THE CLEVELAND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



THE NAYLOR FAMILY



Some of the large crowd at the Awards function on Friday 5th May.

Category 1: Painting/2D Media

Judge's Comments by Simon Palenski

Excellence Award

Te Kahuwhero Alexander-Tu'inukuafē
Rangi II (Pen on Paper)

Simple, sustained drawing, quietly poetic and evocative of sand drifts and weaving patterns. A standout work. Congratulations!

Merit Award

Greg Maynard

Kiwi in Ferns (Oil & Acrylic)

I really like this painting, with the Kiwi's flashing yellow eye – the painting of the tieke/saddleback is also excellent. It was a tough choice between the two. Would love to see more!

Special Mentions

Jude Ansbacher

Cacti (Oil on Canvas)

Great subject matter and use of paints to pick out the prickly bits and greens.

Weiyang Wang

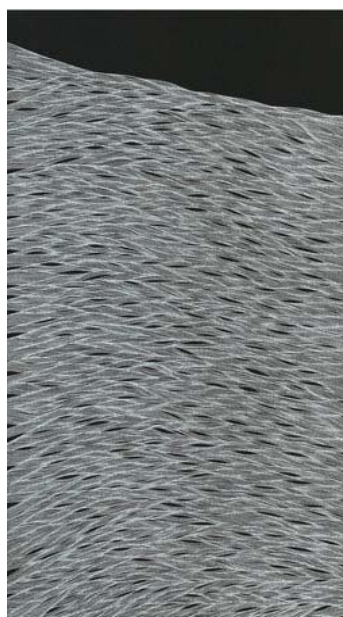
Mascot (Chinese Painting)

Expert use of watercolours to capture the tumble and rush of these wind and cloud borne cats.

Stephanie Archer

Lindis View (Acrylic)

Almost postcard sized, though a good feeling for the elements. I particularly like Archer's clouds.



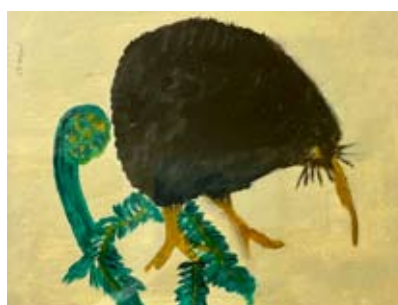
Te Kahuwhero Alexander-Tu'inukuafē
Rangi II



Jude Ansbacher *Cacti*



Weiyang Wang *Mascot*



Greg Maynard *Kiwi in Ferns*



Stephanie Archer *Lindis View*



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*Proud to support the Otago Art Society and
the 2023 Cleveland National Art Awards*



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03 477 9270

Category 2: Printmaking/ Photography/Digital Graphics

**Judge's Comments by
Justin Spiers**

Excellence Award

Allison Beck

Black Paper Makes Me Sing
(Handprint – Acrylic & Ink on
Paper)

The work engages the materiality and history of printmaking through the repurposing of the printed news page. The blackened surface and faint imprint of the artist's hand works with the stencilled text to take control of the narrative. This enigmatic work is compelling with its rawness and simplicity.



Allison Beck
Black Paper Makes Me Sing



Lara Gilks *The Unveiling*

Merit Award

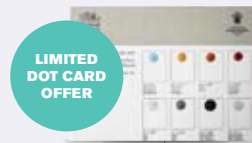
Lara Gilks *The Unveiling*
(Photography 1/5)

The ambiguity of *The Unveiling* creates a feeling of unease between the purpose of the veil and its placement in the landscape. However, the beauty of the object and the fusion of synthetic colour encourage the viewer to reconcile these disparate elements.



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Special Mentions

Susan Badcock *Peony Species 0306*
(Handcoloured Photograph)

Murray Eskdale *Venice* (Photography)

Innocenza Toritto *A Place in Time*
(Lithographic Photo Prints on Ceramics)



Susan Badcock
Peony Species 0306



Murray Eskdale *Venice*



**Innocenza
Toritto**
*A Place
in Time*

**Category 3: 3D Media/Sculpture/
Jewellery/Homeware/Textile**
Judge's Comments by Scott Eady

Excellence Award

Jonny De Painter

Please Like Me (Mixed Media Book)

The 3D category this year is filled with extraordinarily well-crafted objects, especially the Jewellery, glass, and ceramics entries. The work that stood out amongst such well-made things is contemporary, fresh, colourful, critical, imperfect, engaging, tactile and fun. It is overtly and unashamedly handmade and, complete with googly eyes, provides a light-hearted but no-holds-barred cure for the wounds of advertising. An hilarious piece of psychosocial commentary, *Please Like Me* by Jonny De Painter, is this year's winner of the 3D category.

The work was also selected by the judges to receive the overall SUPREME AWARD.

Winner of the
Excellence Award
in Category 3
and the overall
SUPREME AWARD



Jonny De Painter
Please Like Me

Detail of the mixed media book.



Merit Award

Nicole Kolig

Pillow Lava (Mixed Media)

Slabs of aged steak or, brownie with pools of gooey white icing slapped on top of a traditional ceramic vessel is how I would describe the merit award winning work. Technically competent and wonderfully abject, congratulations to Nicole Kolig for *Pillow Lava*.



Nicole Kolig *Pillow Lava*

Special Mentions

All jewellery entries

Special mention to all jewellery entries. There is so much exquisite jewellery in the exhibition. Why is it, we are losing all jewellery courses around the country? As far as I am aware, only two remain: Whitecliffe in Auckland and the Dunedin School of Art. We must ensure that these courses survive.

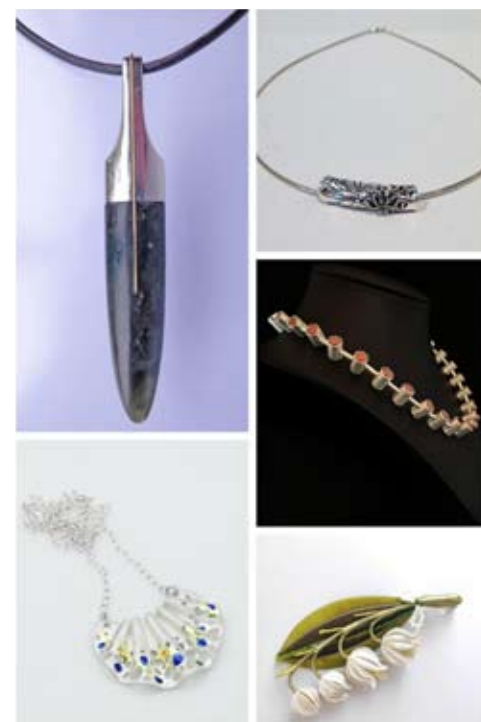
Alice Alva Laketide (Wool & Cotton on Linen)

Jo Tricker *Sea Kayak* (Cast Glass)

Special Mention also to Jo Tricker for the wonderfully simple iridescent glass sculpture, *Sea Kayak*.



Alice Alva Laketide



Special mentions were gained for jewellery (clockwise from top left):

Tony Williams, Lyn Summers, Mike Andre, Lyn Summers, and Tania Hogg.

Nice feedback received: *Hi, I dropped off a painting this morning for the Cleveland Art Awards. Just wanted to say thank you for being so helpful to a first time entrant, really made me feel welcome and I appreciated that. Even if I don't make it any further in that competition, it was great dealing with such wonderful people. Hope you all have a wonderful rest of the day.*

Thanks again Kind Regards Dave Foster



Jo Tricker *Sea Kayak*

Cleveland National Art Awards

Winner of the Young Artist Award

(For an artist aged 25 and under)

Tony Guo

Leak (Oil on Canvas)



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

You be the judge! Vote for your favourite artwork in the Cleveland Exhibition.

Winner to be announced at the conclusion of the exhibition. Last day for voting is Sat. 3rd June.

Sponsored by



Valuable Vollies! Jude Ansbacher and Moira Styles are worth their weight in gold. Even a broken arm (a roller-skating injury), can't keep Jude away.

Opinion Piece: On Doing and Viewing by Jenny Longstaff

Art, like life, is about relationships. Artworks can be like people – when we meet them we make a connection, or not. We will like some and not others. Why? Because we will respond instinctively or intellectually to what we know, based on our own personalities and the preferences we have acquired through our own experiences and education. Art can be challenging, because we do not always understand or appreciate what we are looking at. It can be absorbing and inspiring, taking us on an inner voyage of discovery and interest. 'Taste' is very personal.

Once an artwork has been created and offered by the artist into the world to be selected in an exhibition, it becomes common property for viewers to bring their own interpretation and their own assessment of whether it fits their own standard of appeal. And that is the beauty – or ugliness – of art; it can be anything. One man's trash is another man's treasure. Emotion comes into play for both the artist and the viewer.

We should never doubt the sincerity and commitment of each art practitioner in portraying what it is like to be that particular individual in that particular frame of mind, at that particular point in their life experience, creating that particular piece of art.

When works are selected in a judged exhibition, especially one such as the Cleveland National Art Awards where over 430 entries were received, there are artists who will be disappointed that their own works were not selected to be shown. Many will suffer self-doubt and be upset that what they thought was a successful artwork was somehow deemed to be a 'failure'. Oh, the pangs of feeling rejected. This emotional response is understandable; artists are sensitive people, but please be reassured. In the inexplicable nature of art 'competitions', it has happened that a work that wasn't selected for one exhibition has won an award at another.

If you aren't selected in an exhibition, based on one person's opinion, it just means you have a finished artwork ready to submit to the next exhibition.

Be brave, be strong. Have faith: You Are An Artist. Kia Kaha.

OAS 147th Annual Exhibition

Exhibition is scheduled to run from 1st to 22nd July.

Full details on entry form, available now.

With major sponsored exhibitions crowding our calendar, our own Annual Exhibition has sometimes taken a back foot. It is something to be very proud of that the Otago Art Society, established in 1876, is still going strong. The Annual Exhibition is a great forum for showcasing our abilities.

To cater to our members' many forms of artistic endeavour, various awards are available. We hope each section will attract many entries. We welcome your support. Here is a list of the awards on offer:

- Rona Dyer Cup for Printmaking. Come on printmakers! This one's for you.
- Roy Dickison Trophy (Heart of the South) for a work that captures the essence of our southern area.
- Mollie & John Pledger Art Award \$100, for an artist showing commitment and potential, usually awarded for a smaller, lower priced work.
- John H. Pledger Drawing Award \$100. Is this an overlooked ability?
- Francis Nicholls Landscape Award \$300.
- Hughes Family Trust Award \$1,000, for an OAS member showing excellence in any medium.
- Of particular interest is our desire to promote the Elizabeth Howie Young Artist Award (for an emerging artist under 30 years, working in 2D medium), with the tempting sum of \$1,500 to be awarded. Please encourage any young artists you know to join the OAS so they can be part of the exhibition and have a chance at the award.

Recommended exhibition:

New prints by OAS artist **Manu Berry** are on show at Bellamys Gallery, Macandrew Bay, until 28th May. Take a trip – there's always something worth seeing at this gallery.

DEMO WEEKEND

10th and 11th June
10am to 4pm each day.

This is a great opportunity for artists and the public to engage with the creative process. Let them see your magic! Artists will have a table and some wall space to showcase their art while they demonstrate their techniques.

It's fun, it's congenial.

Choose either day, or do both.

Email to

Lorna Allan: ldoone@extra.co.nz
if you'd like to be included.

Portrait models required

Jude Ansbacher is going to be attending Demo Weekend and would like models (clothed) for 1hr. minimum. You don't have to be perfectly still or silent. If interested, phone Jude:

(03) 473-1650 or email:

judeansbacher@gmail.com

THIRTY WOMEN

Danielle's Thirty Women: Call to create and connect!

This is a private collaborative group exhibition coming up at the OAS galleries in October. Eligible artists will be women (roughly in their thirties) who still find time to create as they balance relationships, careers and/or children. If this is you or you know a woman like this please contact Danielle Munro daniellemunroart@outlook.com or search for our group on Facebook: Thirty Women.



HUMANS

OAS Hope Gallery
20th - 24th June

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A Request

Our fridge in the kitchen sometimes gets overwhelmed with our catering requirements for exhibition openings. Please, if anyone has a smallish fridge suitable for bottles, such as a beer fridge, we hope you would be willing to donate it for our use.

FIND YOUR TRIBE

Join in with an informal art group each Thursday in the Hope Gallery at OAS. Bring your lunch and something to work on (in any medium). Skill-sharing and conversation – get to know some of your fellow members; pick up tips.

Below: Some small watercolours of NZ native birds, done by Wen Li Ma at a Thursday group painting session. For sale in the shop.



Calendar

Showing now:

Cleveland National Art Awards

On until Saturday 3rd June

(Artists, please collect unsold works 10am - 1.00pm on Sunday 4th June.

We do not have storage space.)

Member Activity:

DEMO WEEKEND

10th and 11th June

Artists set up their work and demonstrate techniques for the public. A great opportunity to connect with fellow artists and to show the public your skills.

Want to be included? Email to Lorna Allan: ldoone@extra.co.nz

Members' Night Next Month:

Thurs. 15th June, 7.00pm.

Winter Warm-Up and
Volunteering 'Job Expo'.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

Artsenta Group Show

Our Time to Shine

13th - 23rd June

Come to the opening at 3pm on 13th.

Just Humans

20th - 24th June

Photographic Exhibition:
Magnum + Amnesty Over 60 Years.
Iconic images about human rights.

OAS 147th Annual Exhibition

1st - 22nd July

Entry Form now available.

Receiving day for local entries is
Sunday 25th June, from 10am - 1pm.
(See article on page 5 for details of prizes to be awarded.)

Edinburgh Premier Art Awards

Entry Form now available.

Entries close 4pm Thurs. 13th July.

Editorial comment: Unless otherwise attributed, all items in the OAS monthly newsletters are compiled by the editor, Jenny Longstaff. The newsletter is approved by OAS Council before printing and distribution. Contributions are welcome. 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.*