



First Floor
Dunedin Railway Station
22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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Phone: 03 477 9465
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otagoartsociety@xtra.co.nz



OAS Council members busy organising the recent exhibition featuring works by **Past Presidents** and items from the **Permanent Collection**.

With such a busy schedule of exhibitions and activities to run, it is hoped that more members will become involved in helping.

**Deadline 13th April
for Cleveland National Art Awards
entry forms and fees.**

Exhibition: "Off the Rack" until 19th April



Innovative presentation of our exhibition tied in with iD Fashion Week activities at the Railway Station.

Members' ingenuity was put to the challenge and they rose to the occasion when the Off the Rack exhibition was displayed on coathangers. "Fresh", "Intriguing", "Stylish" were some comments. Photos show behind-the-scenes action as the exhibition is assembled. At left, **Doug Hart, Geoff Adams** and **David Corballis** prepare entries for hanging. It was useful to discover that OAS member **Lindsay Campbell** (centre) could provide many coathangers from his South Dunedin business, Alex Campbell Menswear.



Members' Meeting

Thursday 20th April 7.00pm **Note: not at 7.30**

Keep up-to-date with OAS activities, mix and mingle socially with fellow members, and hear this month's guest speaker, **ROBERT WEST, Caselberg Trust** Secretary, give a general overview on the Trust's history and purpose, and detail some of the things they have done.



OAS President:
Nic Dempster
nicdempster@hotmail.com



Find us on Facebook:
otago art society

www.otagoartsociety.co.nz

website members' area password: otago2016

President's Message

Nic Dempster

During the private hire last month, **Frances Hodgkins – The Hidden Portfolio**, the OAS received emails from Hodgkins experts in Auckland who attested that the works on display were not Hodgkins originals and were upset that they were being presented as such.

I stated the Society's impartial position clearly in the *Otago Daily Times* article that ran in the final days of the show. I offered my section of the Newsletter to **Elizabeth Eastmond** to air her points of concern with the exhibition. Below is the initial email that was sent to the OAS:

Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 6:53 PM
To: otagoartsociety@xtra.co.nz
Subject: 'Frances Hodgkins' exhibition

Greetings Nic Dempster

An article in the New Zealand Herald (Kurt Bayer, 9 March) on an exhibition of works purported to be by Frances Hodgkins at the Otago Art Society has recently been brought to my attention.

I gather other arts professionals with expertise in Hodgkins have voiced grave misgivings about the authenticity of the works in this exhibit.

I would like to add my feelings of shock that these third-rate works, despite some signatures, are being presented to the public as by New Zealand's major historical artist. They are clearly not. And their display can only damage this great New Zealand artist's reputation. Signatures often appear on fake Hodgkins works, of which there are a number in circulation.

In none of the works can Hodgkins's hand be discerned. The figurative 'self-portraits' are obviously by a far inferior artist, maybe a pupil of Hodgkins, as well as being a most unlikely project for this artist.

While the collector of these works is obviously a Hodgkins enthusiast, some information in the panels is incorrect or misleading and the section on graphology, plus his statements on finger-prints ludicrous.

If only this were a genuine 'hidden portfolio'!

Why has the Otago Arts Society not sought assistance on checking the authorship of these works with arts professionals who have spent decades working on Hodgkins? Among them Linda Gill, author of the *Letters of Frances Hodgkins*, Auckland University Press, Mary Kisler, Senior Curator, Auckland Art Gallery, who has curated exhibitions and written on Hodgkins and is heading the *Frances Hodgkins catalogue raisonne* project, plus Gretchen Albrecht, major New Zealand artist and authority on Hodgkins.

From my part I am the co-author (with Iain Buchanan and Michael Dunn) of *Frances Hodgkins, Paintings and Drawings*, Auckland University Press, revised ed. 2000, and have curated an exhibition of Hodgkins works at the Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University of Wellington and written articles and presented conference papers on Hodgkins.

Other professionals who have long-standing first-hand knowledge of many original Hodgkins works are John Gow of Gow Langsford Galleries and Richard Thompson of the International Art Centre, Parnell, among many others.

Would you be agreeable to displaying a notice at the entrance to the exhibition stating that 'the authorship of these works remains under debate', or words to that effect, to ensure visitors are not misled into thinking this group of sub-standard works are in fact definitively by Frances Hodgkins?

That would also ensure your Gallery is not seen as mis-representing and demeaning the legacy of Frances Hodgkins.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Eastmond.

Elizabeth Eastmond was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Art History, the University of Auckland. She currently runs Tivoli, an art gallery and bookstore on Waiheke Island.



*Self portrait by Frances Hodgkins?
Only the artist really knows.*

Obituary



Described by her family in the funeral notice as wise and nurturing, attentive and supportive, Marie Gaut also brought those attributes to her lengthy involvement with OAS.

MARIE GAUT

Sadly we announce the passing of Marie Gaut on 12 March 2017. She was one of our most experienced councillors, and made a valuable contribution during an important period of the Society's development.

Marie was on the council for 13 years, under 5 presidents (Geoff Adams, Heather Maxwell, David Corballis, Andrena Hall, and Jenny Longstaff), joining the council in 2001 and retiring in 2015, including serving as Vice President for one year.

Marie was always seriously interested in important issues, such as our finances, and also on the matter of buildings, especially our plans to improve problems in the Old Northern Post Office [former home of the OAS]. This was an iconic building, but it did pose difficulties, and Marie made a number of initiatives to improve our conditions, including ideas for design improvements, even exploring other sites.

Finally, when the opportunity came to transfer to the Railway Station, Marie and her husband, Dennis, became strong advocates for the move. Thoughtful, and focused, she was active, positive and never afraid to express her opinions.

These were important and exciting times, involving one of the most significant developments in the society's life, and Marie made a distinct and important contribution.

Marie also loved the social aspects of the society. Who can forget her role as Mrs Brown, the banality of whose name belied a voluptuous but wicked nature, in the melodrama, *The Wages of Sin*, which the council staged at a December meeting of members in 2009.

Creatively, her hand-painted silk scarves and jewellery items were beautiful and popular additions to the shop and exhibitions.

Marie was a loyal OAS member and gave so much of herself. We will miss her, and send our sincere condolences to husband Dennis, her children Susan, Robbitt and Brett, and her extended family. *David Corballis, Jenny Longstaff*



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Message from tutor Dr Louisa Baillie:

The classes are going really well. Fantastic models and students, and the OAS room, with art works surrounding, makes for an inspired setting.

The progress my students are making is astounding me. Drawing can be difficult and daunting, and much practice is needed. But I am proud to say that each student is bounding along, gaining many good skills on how to draw confidently, yet also retaining their own style, or voice. And while they are gaining skills, I concurrently teach about the anatomy of the bones and muscles. I am impressed how they are soaking it all up, and how they now recognise and draw with so much anatomy knowledge.

Bill Graham is one of the regular participants, and with his excellent drawing and portrait skills he is a welcome addition to the class. He is now available for 1 on 1 teaching of drawing, a welcome extra for anyone who is encountering a 'block' with drawing method and wants a concentrated boost.

More classes will be run soon, starting some time in May. TBC. Many of the class are now repeat regulars, but there will be some spaces and those will be advertised for booking in the next newsletter. People from beginners to experienced are all welcome. A great activity to get along to over Winter. Guaranteed to keep your mind curious and agile!

Chris Saxton, one of Louisa's students, passed on this comment:
"Life drawing is fun and stimulating. Louisa is very encouraging and explains our complex anatomy intelligibly. She's a great baker too!"



Gemma Baldock, manager of the City Gallery in Invercargill, pictured with **Marion Miller**, President of the Southland Art Society, at the opening of their 50:50 fundraising exhibition last month. At close of show on 1st April, 60 works had been sold. Coincidentally, Marion is mother of Mark Miller, General Manager of Edinburgh Realty, sponsors of one of our major art awards.

Remember: When supplying your work for sale in the shop, YOU are responsible for labelling and pricing each item.

ARTWORKS REQUIRED for sale in shop during **Wild Dunedin Festival**, 21st to 25th April. Local scenery and wildlife. Please see Ness or Jackie.

We value your feedback QUESTIONNAIRES enclosed with last month's newsletter will help OAS Council make good decisions to benefit the Society. Your comments are eagerly sought for consideration. Thank you to those who have already responded.

Making a Difference: Seeking Volunteer Art Tutors

We are looking for skilled volunteer art tutors that would like to be involved with teaching prisoners different forms of creative art. We would love to find interested people to inspire some very talented people inside our Otago Corrections Facility.

We require people that are interested in supporting / mentoring people with mixed art media. We think art can add such a positive effect on people that are interested in bettering their art skills. Being able to channel their focus into something completely different can really help them make positive change that could help them with their reintegration back into society. It would be great if we were able to find a volunteer or volunteers that would like to lead this art program inside our prison. If you are interested please contact **Brett Drewitt** (Regional Volunteer Coordinator) on the below details. We hopefully look forward to hearing from you soon. We will require a copy of either your Passport or Driver's licence. Criminal Record Check required also.

Location: Otago Correctional Facility, Milburn.

Time Commitment: Longer term.

Times available: Discuss this on receipt of application.

Skills Required: Life / practical skills, creativity art inspiring & knowledgeable.

Benefits / Rewards: Helping people to express their potential in positive ways.

Travel Reimbursed: \$150.00 per year after making 6 visits.

Contact Person

Brett Drewitt, South Island Regional Volunteer Coordinator
Department Of Corrections, Phone 03 3456443 Ext. 73043 Cell 021 768 087
Email: brett.drewitt@corrections.govt.nz

Demonstration, Exhibitions, Tuition



Artists-in-Residence at OAS

Now that the cruise ship season is drawing to a close, **Marie Reid** was the last member to be A-I-R, during the first week of April. Perhaps you would like to be part of the programme, demonstrating your skills for a week when the busy visitor season begins again in October? Add your name to the roster.

Above: **Di Wales** was an A-I-R during March. Keen-eyed members who visited the OAS website might have seen a spell-check "fail" which named her as Die Whales.

PLEIN AIR PAINTING with John Crump in Oamaru

The North Otago Art Society has a few gaps for John's class on Friday evening 20 April (demonstration) and Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 April. Weather permitting, we will be working in the harbour area (water, boats, hills and buildings). Cost \$140. Please contact Jenny Dixon 03 4346347 or email: northotagoartsociety@gmail.com

Demo Day / Weekend

We are planning another occasion for artists to demonstrate their talents, at a date to be confirmed. Our Demo Days are popular with the public where they can view the magic as it happens. We may be extending it to a weekend. Some artists could commit to both days, some may only want to be available on Saturday or Sunday. If interested, please submit your name. New participants are very welcome.

"ROCKS & ROOTS"

New Directions:

mixed media works by
JENNY LONGSTAFF

A creative response to
hardship and identity.

Until 27th April
MORAY GALLERY
55 Princes St. Dunedin

OpenArts Inc "Almost an Island" Macandrew Bay Hall

April 6th – 17th, 10.00–5.00 daily

Exhibition of art, craftwork, mosaics,
ceramics, jewellery, photography, weaving
eftpos available

DRAWING AND PAINTING EVENING CLASSES

Enrolments are being taken for
Beginners upwards.

Tutor: Elaine Knight BFA, Cert. in Adult
Teaching

Venue: Logan Park High School

Commences: Tues 2 May or

Wed 3 May 2017

Cost: \$100 for 8 weeks

Time: 7.00pm–9.00pm

Enrol: Elaine Knight 03 476 6312
or email: elaine.knight.bfa@gmail.com

Come and join the fun!

Events Calendar

• **13th April**
**Entry fee and form due for
Cleveland National Art Awards**
Check delivery dates and time for
your entry category!

• **until 19th April**
'Off the Rack' Exhibition
Supported by Shop on Carroll and
Alex Campbell, South Dunedin.

• **Thurs. 20th April, 7.00pm**
Members' Meeting
**Note: 7.00pm not 7.30, now that
daylight saving time is over.**
**Guest Speaker, Robert West,
Secretary, Caselberg Trust.**

• **Receiving Days (10am–4pm)**
Cleveland National Art Awards
Fri. 21st April (Category 1 & 2:
painting, printmaking, mixed media,
photography & digital graphics.)
Sat. 22nd April (Category 3:
3D sculpture and jewellery.)

• **21st to 25th April**
**In conjunction with
Wild Dunedin Festival**
The OAS shop will feature nature-
themed works by members.
Contact Ness or Jackie.

• **Friday 28th April, 6.00pm**
**Cleveland National Art Awards
grand opening function**
Exhibition open to the public from
29th April to 28th May.

ST KILDA ART GROUP will be
Exhibiting at the Dunedin Horticultural
Show's Autumn Flower Show, Forbury
Park Raceway, Victoria Rd. Open Sat
29th April 2pm–5pm. Sun 30th April
10am–4pm.

OAS artist member **SYLVIA CARTER**
is painting at St Kilda Community
Hall, opposite Dairy in Victoria Rd. on
Wednesday afternoons 1pm–4pm.
Help with your paintings. Beginners
welcome. \$10 per session.
Phone 455 9214 for information.

REQUEST: Studio Space required
Anna Benjamin, artist, would like to
share a studio, maybe 2 days a week.
Willing to pay. Quiet worker.
Contact Sohella Safari, ph. 0210694068

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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 by end of month to appear in following month's issue. *The OAS Newsletter is printed by Hope and Sons.*