



First Floor
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DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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Part of the large crowd of exhibitors, invited guests, and OAS members who attended the exhibition opening.



Margaret Cleveland

Cleveland National Art Awards – until 15th June

Friday night, 3rd May, was a big night for the Otago Art Society, the culmination of much hard work in organising and displaying the many entries chosen to showcase ‘the best of the best’. The exhibition Awards night attracted a large crowd to be present for the announcement of prize winners and to view the 193 works on display.

We gratefully acknowledge the exhibition sponsors: The Cleveland Charitable Trust, Gallery De Novo, Moray Gallery, Taut Art, and not forgetting input from our own OAS coffers. Exhibition judges were diligent in spending time making their assessments: thank you to Justin Spiers, Manu Berry, and Chris Idour. We are indebted, also, to the wonderfully willing workers from the society’s members volunteering their time.

see page 3 for results



Mark Phillips, owner of Taut Art, Invercargill.

Below: John Timmins and Stephen Stock from Moray Gallery.

Below: the Gallery De Novo team: Richelle Byers, Vicky Johns, and Liz Fraser.



Members’ Meeting

**Thursday 20th June
7.00 pm**

BRUCE MAHALSKI

Mixed media artist and museum curator.

Graffiti and Street Art

Bruce’s talk starts with the earliest graffiti and goes up to the most modern street art and examines some of its main branches and its proponents, with an emphasis on English and New Zealand ones.

See page 4 for more details.



Part of a mural in Timaru by Bruce Mahalski.

Please come along and support these members’ evenings – meet people and learn new things. Enjoy some mulled wine!



President:
Doug Hart

Phone 0211346252



Facebook:
otago art society



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www.otagoartsociety.co.nz

Back Issues of the newsletter are available on the website.

President's Message

Doug Hart

THE YEAR is rapidly approaching the shortest day and with it the darker days of winter. These are times when there are increased opportunities for producing artwork as the opportunity to stay out later for walks etc. has diminished somewhat.

The **Cleveland Exhibition** is still on and has attracted many visitors and very positive comments from the general public. The quality of the work on show has been superb – beauty is always in the eye of the beholder.

Next up is the **143rd Annual Exhibition** for our members, so please remember to pay your yearly subscription, the notification of which should have landed in your email. I'm very grateful to Tony and Anne Baldock who have worked with Anja to streamline the administration system.

Which reminds me – **OAS Council nominations** are due soon and there are positions to fill on the board. We need skills, dedication and new ideas that will add depth to this great society. If you think that you would like to assist us, then come and talk to anyone on the council. I can always be contacted on 0211346252, unless I'm building a dinosaur world out of egg cartons with my grandchildren.

* * *

Art is such a diverse discipline and I always wonder about the need for humankind to make a mark. 73,000 years ago, humans mixed up red ochre pigments and applied them to a wall at the Blombos Cave in South Africa. The earliest attempts so far discovered of animal and human life forms have been at caves on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia 35,000 years ago. They include outlines of deer, stencils of human hands, abstract lines and human figures. The caves of Lascaux in France and Altamira in Spain bear witness to spectacular animal frescoes painted in shades of carbon black, red and yellow ochre over 25,000 years ago.

Why would humans expend so much time and effort painting and making marks in the dark recesses of cave systems? Were they tribal marks denoting territory, a way of capturing the animal's spirit, or even a ritualistic ceremony involving a successful hunt? We may never know the reasons. Some scientists suggest that the abstract marks were the first attempts at a written language, but who were the people who did them? Cave paintings were traditionally noted as being produced by men, but evidence is suggesting that women of the clan could also be responsible for this delicate work. There are marks made in mud at Le Tuc de Audoubert that show the footprints of a female engaged in sculpting a pair of bisons.

Naturally, through millennia with more advances in technology, the range of art techniques and media has expanded exponentially, from natural clay pigments through oils and acrylics to digital techniques. But the question always remains, why represent life other than in your mind?

I believe it must be about recording something for posterity, hoping that it will have an impact on other humans. To record the past by way of the present and to have it last into the future. To state that 'I was here'. To engage or outrage, to unite or alienate, to support or denigrate, to love or hate. It's unique to the human condition, the need to make that mark.

So, plenty of opportunity for you to make that mark in the short, dark days of winter for the **Annual Exhibition, Edinburgh Realty** and the **Spring Exhibition**. Get painting, get sculpting, get creating and recall the past that will inevitably lead to the future, but above all, make sure you enjoy the process.

Finally, **please support our Members evenings on every third Thursday of the month**. It's a great opportunity to learn, chat and be involved.

Doug Hart

Request for Membership Subscription Payments

Reminder: You must be a paid-up member to enter work in OAS exhibitions.

Interruption to service, due to staff changes and equipment malfunction: If you are a member or know a member who didn't receive a personal email request for subs or a postal request (for those people with no email), then please contact the OAS to advise them of current email address details so they can be added into the database, then the office can re-send out their personalised request for subs.



Irina Schreiber, at the printing press during Thursday Art Group.

Thursday Morning Art Group 11am-ish to 3.30pm-ish

President Doug Hart has been persevering with trying to establish a regular weekly session for our artists to get together.

Tables are set out in the Hope Gallery (there's enough space for about 10-12) and artists bring their own project to work on, discuss art with others, and critique each others' work for feedback in a friendly, supportive environment. Don't be shy – come along! Bring some lunch and your equipment.

Cleveland National Art Awards Results

With comments by the judges.

Selected from the various award winner categories, the overall **Supreme Award Winner 2019** (Sponsored by the Cleveland Trust): **Philip Madill** for **Unmanned, (1)**.

Painting and 2D category

(sponsored by Gallery de Novo)

Excellence Award: Philip Madill for Unmanned (1). *“Skill, subject matter, thoughtfulness, a reminiscent study of the past...”*

Merit Award: Anita DeSoto for Our Frocks Like Raspberry & Cream (2). *“Scrummy, delicious, timeless, colourful snap shot of the past captured in a glorious concoction of complimentary shades and tones...”*

Special Mention: Anton Lambaart for Hanging by a Thread (3). *“Poignant, brilliantly thought out, a study of fragility and sadness...”*

PRINTMAKING category

(sponsored by Otago Art Society)

Excellence Award: Peter McLaren for Not Dark Yet (4). *“Brooding, dark, wild, a study of climatic conditions...”*

Merit Award: Wayne Churcher for Human Error in the Code (5). *“Thought provoking, fantastic use of monotone hues, a genetic masterpiece...”*

PHOTOGRAPHY and digital art,

(sponsored by Taut Art of Invercargill)

Excellence Award: Metiria Stanton Turei for Mahuika Manawaroe (6). *“Powerful, proud, majestic posture, mysterious and a symbol for womankind...”*

Merit Award: David Milton Browne for History of the Koru (7). *“Quirky, symbolic, cleverly conceived...”*

3D category

(sponsored by Otago Art Society)

Excellence Award: Kylie Matheson for Never Stop Looking Up (8). *“Cute, cuddly, adorable, a feel good factor rendered skilfully in clay...”*

Merit Award: Tony O’Keefe for Amanita 9 (9). *“Craftsmanship, steely, strong, hard, welded and positively focused and forged...”*

Special Mention: Justin Fahey for Demo Derby. *“Clever, humorous, fun, innocent, basic gorgeous glazes...”* (sorry, Justin... didn’t get a photo in time for newsletter printing.)

(1)



(2)



(7)



(5)



(4)



(3)



(9)



(8)

(6)



Important Notice: AGM is on the horizon – in August.

Your Society needs you! Some of our current OAS Council members will be stepping down this year. At the AGM in August, new ones will be appointed, so we need replacements.

Could one of them be YOU? Would you be a keen helper, willing to turn your hand to various tasks in a fun atmosphere for the good of your Society?

Come and join the OAS Council. Talk to a current council member or phone President Doug Hart on 0211346252 for details.



Jackie Ryder (above), after 4 friendly and efficient years as Sales Gallery Co-ordinator for OAS, will be leaving us soon to devote more time to her own creative activities. Her departure will be a great loss for the shop and volunteers. Good luck with your future pursuits, Jackie!

**Staff Departure:
Message from Anja Waugh,
Office Administrator:**

Hello everyone,
Some news from the gallery – I have been headhunted for a design position at a software company here in Dunedin and so will be leaving my position at the OAS in the coming weeks.
It has been a real delight to work for the Otago Art Society, I have really loved meeting a great number of you and being a part of such a creative and kind community.”



Celebration! Pictured with Anne Baldock (centre) at the opening of her first solo exhibition at the Moray Gallery last month, were her family: sons Reid and Solomon, husband Tony, and daughter Gemma



There's always the washing up after the party! Here, Linda Ledger lends a hand in the kitchen after the Cleveland exhibition opening.

Events Calendar

• **CLEVELAND NATIONAL ART AWARDS**

Exhibition will be open until Saturday 15th June. Please collect unsold works on Sunday 16th.

June Members' Meeting:

• Come at 7pm, Thursday 20th June to hear Bruce Mahalski's informative illustrated talk on "Graffiti and Street Art". Enjoy some mulled wine.

• **143rd ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

Bring Entry form with your work. Receiving of works will be on Sunday 16th June.

Exhibition opening will be on Friday night 28th June.

• **EDINBURGH REALTY ART AWARDS**

Entries close Friday 19th July.

This month's Members' Meeting: 7.00pm, 20th June
Graffiti and Street Art

Beginning with the earliest graffiti, **Bruce Mahalski's talk** will continue to the most modern street art, examining some of its main branches and its proponents (particularly English and NZ ones).

It will also examine what led to graffiti transcending its roots in public satire to become the latest art movement. Bruce's thesis is that five things helped drive this transition: 1. – The invention of the spray can. 2. –The 'bombing' movement to come out of the Bronx in the seventies when poor black youth started spray painting on trains. 3. – The impact of Keith Haring and Jean Michael Basquiat, two artists who bought it off the street and into the galleries. 4. – The rise of the internet in spreading street art. Once people only knew what was in their neighborhood. Now, as soon as a bit of street art goes up, its all over Instagram. 5. – The influence of Banksy and the movie, 'Exit through the Gift Shop'.



OAS Councillor Mari Gomes married her sweetheart, Jon Bradford, on 10th May.

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