



First Floor
Dunedin Railway Station
22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

P.O. Box 5174, Moray Place,
Dunedin 9058, New Zealand

Phone: 03 477 9465

Administrator: Ngaire Kitt

otagoartsociety@xtra.co.nz

OAS COUNCILLORS, 2020-2021

President: Doug Hart

Vice-Presidents:

Annie Pepers, 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.

Summer Exhibition

Sponsored by
 **JW Smeaton**
chartered accountants



First place

Jo Loughnan, *Contemplation*
Drawing

With the threat of a Covid alert ever present these days, it was wonderful to be able to celebrate the opening of the Summer Exhibition on 12th February. The show was well supported by OAS artists with 148 entries and the variety of mediums used was an appealing feature.

The works were judged by Peter Belton, a noted practising artist with a background in secondary school teaching, and teacher education at the Dunedin College of Education and Otago University. Tony Ayres of JW Smeaton Chartered Accountants, exhibition sponsors, presented the awards.

As well as the top three prizewinners, four Merit Awards were also announced. These are pictured on page 3.



Second place

Heidi Beckers, *Beach Light*, Photograph



Third place

Gemma Baldock, *Fire & Light*, Collage



Tony Ayres from JW Smeaton with exhibition judge Peter Belton.

Usually, **Members' Meetings** are held regularly on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.00pm, with a variety of interesting presentations.

Please note change to regular Members' Meeting

**Thursday 18th March
at 6.00 pm**

**Opening Night for
Meow Exhibition**


Members are encouraged to wear your cat masks and finest feline-themed clothing. Got any leopard print garments? (Or just come with the family cat fur over your regular clothes, like normal.)

**Check inside for more events
to do with Meow.**



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

MEOW, MEOW, MEOW! Welcome to a mad March where the feline is the star of the next show. It should be entitled 'cat amongst the pigeons' because we also have **Danielle Munro's** bird exhibition entitled 'Precious'. There's nothing that provokes controversy more than opposing points of view and it will promote thoughts regarding predators amongst New Zealand's fauna. Anyway, we hope that feathers don't fly as people opt to view one or both of the Fringe Exhibitions. In addition to this we are promoting **'Wild Dunedin'** in our gallery shop from the 22nd to the 28th April. If you have any artworks regarding Otago wildlife, then we would like to feature them in our gallery shop.

Fringe Festival Involvement

It's really good to be involved in the Fringe Festival this year following the cancellation in 2020. So much work and preparation has been done, not only with the team at the Fringe, but also behind the scenes at the society gathering sponsorship deals, preparing talks, making cat masks, games for children and liaising with Cat Rescue Dunedin. The society is grateful for sponsors, 'Humanimals' veterinary, and New Zealand Natural Pet Foods, which manufacture 'Meow' organic cat food products.

As a member or associate of a member, we would like you to embrace this show by donating cat food products, coming along to the events and hopefully purchasing artworks. Working together, we hope to raise awareness of our sponsors, support Dunedin cat and kitten rescue, and further raise the part that our society plays in the life of Otago. Further details of the events will be published soon after a final meeting of the 'Meow' sub group.

Members' Meetings

It was so encouraging to see a packed members' meeting last month watching Miranda Bellamy's inspirational **'In Plain Air'** film of Pauline Bellamy's approach to painting. The question and answer

session provided interesting facets as to the making of the film and the reasons why painting in the wilds of Otago is such an experience. I've asked Miranda to return and give us an insight to her art and film practices. The March meeting will be the launch and award night of 'Meow', now that we are out of the shadow of Covid level 2. We are exploring new initiatives for future meetings such as practical advice on framing, presentation, quality and pricing. Another idea is critique and an open forum to discuss elements of the OAS.

Positive comments

It's certainly been a roller coaster ride during the past year as we've had to rejig the entire calendar and adjust to a quieter and less certain future. Having said that, we are having quite an increase in home-grown tourists visiting Dunedin for the first time. We have had many positive comments regarding the venue and in particular the quality of the artworks on show. This reinforces the fact that members' work is fresh, exciting and creative.

This again is where loyalty to the OAS is important, making sure our members and friends actively involve themselves in our artistic community. I'm meeting the loyal team from **Edinburgh Realty** to finalise details for the upcoming exhibition which was cancelled last year. They have been an integral part of our society for many years bringing clients, income and kudos to our galleries. All these events take a large amount of planning and commitment from sponsors, OAS councillors and especially our membership.

Looking ahead

I wish all our members, friends and sponsors a healthy journey into the future, and especially our artists to ready themselves for the up coming Cleveland National Art Awards, Annual Exhibition and Ryman Healthcare sponsored Spring Exhibition.

*Kind regards,
Doug*



Visitors often comment favourably on the high standard of work and presentation in our shop.

Presented as part of the
Dunedin Fringe Festival

"MEOW"

An exhibition celebrating
all things feline.

Receiving day:
Sunday 14th March

*Right: Sales Gallery coordinator
Sarah adjusts a painting by Lyn
Grace in the recent Love, Buy, Take
exhibition.*



Summer Exhibition Merit Awards

Comments from the Summer Exhibition judge, Peter Belton:

What has this adjudicator looked for? As well as and beyond evident skill, my assessments look for evidence as to *how* a composition has worked expression into form. This can be recognised through how materials have been worked close to those sensing moments in our own lives.

First prize:

Contemplation, Jo Loughnan.

With a nod in the direction of Victor Ambrus, Charles Keeping, Edward Ardizzone, Lisbeth Zwerger and my teacher, Russell Clark: **I look for the telling line.** And what do I mean by that?

Beyond her very evident facility, this artist has invested her drawing with lifelikeness through the way she has employed her line to articulate body movement in a manner which enables us to read her process as an event: a recording which registers looking at and seeing into.

Second prize:

Beach Light, Heidi Beckers.

At first I thought I was looking at a painting. This digital photographer has reflected on and worked her image with considerable skill and feeling. If the adage 'less is more' applies to how this work, at first, appears it reflects editing decisions with colour selection, layering and subtle adjustments which require your time to be spent in careful looking. And, for me this was a very rewarding experience.

Third prize:

Fire and Light, Gemma Baldock

This construction is a pure delight. The play with gesture and caricatured expression arising out of whimsy kept me returning to reading it again and again. And the obvious, declamatory, capture of its subject is wryly composed and skilfully executed. The method and materials employed are apt.

Merit:

Not a Fly Cemetery, Anne Baldock

Another painted collage made with considerable planning and skill in its construction. The clever play with telescoped spatial structure is beguiling. The craziness of gesture and expression presents well. The clarity of drawing and colour disposition enhances expressive effects.



Andrew Cook, *Forest Falls*, Oil



Anne Baldock, *Tidal*, Acrylic on canvas



Anne Baldock, *Not a Fly Cemetery*, Acrylic on Plywood Pieces



Geoff Williams, *Sand Circles*, Pit oil pencil

Merit:

Tidal, Anne Baldock.

'Turneresque' might be the adjective to use here. The subtle sweep and build of colour and the hint of elliptical under structure suggest this. Look at the well seen use of directional texture in the water on the left side. The colour and light effect is glorious and hints at, or of, the numinous. I suspect Turner, the pantheist, would like that.

Merit:

Forest Falls, Andrew Cook.

This painting is well seen and has the tactile immediacy which really does feel as if I am being there. It is the product of long and thoughtful inspection not only, I suspect, of the subject before the artist but also within.

Merit:

Sand Circles, Geoff Williams.

The skill in rendering this image with its slightly telephoto compression is extraordinary.

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NATIONAL CLEVELAND AWARDS

**Closing date for entries with a digital image:
Tuesday 23rd March at 4pm.**

Image, Entry form and payment must be received by 4pm that day.
No late entries. Please do not bring in physical works until notified of selection by the judging panel.

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as if they are
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**A few words
from the sponsor...**

The New Zealand Natural Pet Food Co is proud to support the Otago Art Society with the MEOW exhibition at this year's Dunedin Fringe Festival.

We also have our own cat range under the same name. MEOW cat food and treats are a premium freeze dried range made here in New Zealand. Our cat recipes are all high in protein with unique recipes such as venison, lamb & hoki, and even brushtail. No grains or glutens added or any other fillers your cat does not need.

It is just raw, natural, and delicious food for your feline friend.

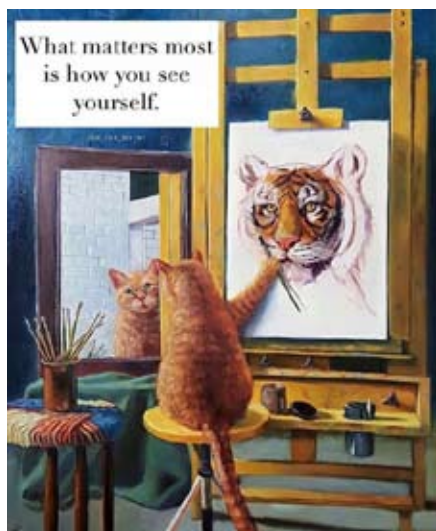
We hope you all enjoy the paw-some cat themed art on display.

Forthcoming exhibition: MEOW!
Opening night:
Thursday 18th March, 6.00pm

*This exhibition is part of the
Dunedin Fringe Festival, and
will be open to the public until
17th April.*

With a flourish of fantasy and fact, art practitioners present a plethora of pussy-themed original offerings. From alley cats to aristocrats, cut, cuddly kitties to testosterone toms and mellow moggies, this entertaining exhibition of furry friends awaits your viewing pleasure. Could you provide a forever home for an amazing artwork?

To help our targeted charity, **Cat Rescue Dunedin**, we'll have a collection bin for your donations of cans or bags of cat food, kitty litter or monetary donations. Please bring these to the opening or while the exhibition is on.



Dates for Meow activities:

Sunday 14th March – 10am–4pm
Drop off works for exhibition.

Thursday 18th March – 6pm

(Normally Members night, but will be the official opening of Meow for members/artists and sponsors. Award ceremony etc. We are aiming to make this night a big 'Cat' celebration with as many members as possible wearing cat themed masks. (Remember we are part of the Fringe Festival, so let's get into the spirit of it! Your chance to dress up in your cat fantasy.)

Saturday 20th March – 10am–4pm **Activities** particularly for families/children. All day: **Games** for children: cat detective; mouse hunt; colouring; 12 noon **Story-telling** session with Doug Hart; **Kittens** visiting at 1pm for socialisation.

Thursday 25th March – 7pm **Poetry Evening** around Cat theme. Readings and "open mic" session. Bring your poems to read. Contact Jenny Longstaff with any questions: phone 021136053.



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www.nznaturalpetfood.com



Close to Home, by OAS printmaking group, "Think Ink"

This woodcut print, based on Dunedin streetscapes, is a collaborative work between three OAS artists: Corrinna Woodason, Irina Schreiber, and Karen Davis. They are part of a printmaking group which meets once a month at the Otago Art Society gallery. If you are interested in joining the print group please contact hotcurrie@hotmail.co.nz

Thinking Ahead

Changes are imminent later in the year when Doug Hart concludes his current 3-year term as OAS President.

Julia McNaughton will be stepping aside, too, leaving a gap to be filled on the Council. Are YOU able to offer any skills and back-up enthusiasm to help with running the Society? See Ngaire in the office for nomination forms. The AGM will be held in August.



Julia McNaughton, left, chatting to Cara Fotofili during her recent week as featured artist. Julia has been a valued member of the OAS Council for many years and will be standing down from her role at August's AGM.

Obituary: Cara Spekreijse

(Contributed by David Corballis and Gillian Pope.)

It has come as a shock to hear of Cara Spekreijse's death in Christchurch on the 6th of January this year. Cara was a fully committed member of the OAS through the 1980's and 90's. She had to move to Christchurch for family reasons in the 1990's, but her enthusiasm for the OAS and Dunedin never waned and she had always hoped to return.

In 1989 she was elected to the OAS council, a position she retained until 1998. Cara was full of ideas, and just as importantly, she was great company. Humour was always one of her most endearing qualities, and people enjoyed working with her, in no small part because she enjoyed working with them, and through all her liveliness and sense of fun there was an underlying authenticity, and a genuine appreciation for the work she was involved in.

One of the activities that, like today, required significant effort was hanging for exhibitions. At this stage the society was housed in what is now the H.D. Skinner Annex Gallery in Great King St., and hanging was a very different proposition back then. There were two levels to cover, with a rather formidable staircase connecting them, and creative



Cara Spekreijse, and an example of her artwork.



Your Cooperation is Required

Too many artists are neglecting to collect works on time at the end of exhibitions. Entry forms state that storage fees will apply, and while the OAS have been lenient in the past, it has got to the stage that this will need to be enforced. If you want to save yourself unnecessary charges, please follow the instructions on the entry form. The gallery shop will not display work that has just come out of an exhibition, so this is no longer an option. If you are away during the pickup dates please arrange for another artist to collect your work.

Assisting with Promotion

It would be very helpful if members could assist with the distribution of posters for our exhibitions. There are always current ones on the shop counter – please take some to put in your neighbourhood. Help spread the word!

Watercolour Acclaim

Congratulations to David Corballis who has won 3rd prize in the Winsor & Newton NZ Summer Watercolour Competition 2021, with the painting shown below: *Feeding Time in the Botanical Gardens*.



solutions were continually needed in generating space for as many pictures as possible: a main gallery downstairs, a small one upstairs, along with some often ingeniously-devised passage-way spaces. These kinds of complications were a positive challenge for her. Hanging like everything else was never a chore.

As an artist, Cara developed a unique style of collage, using papers she coloured and textured herself. Her works were always expertly crafted and a delight. They were usually landscapes. The photo is a very good example of her work.

Our sympathies go out to all her family in New Zealand, Australia and the Netherlands. They have lost a treasure, and so has the OAS. Our history would not be quite the same without her presence; she has left many wonderful memories for all who knew and worked with her.

Learn beading techniques

You may have seen some of **Hannah Bailly's** beautiful beadwork in the OAS shop. Here's an opportunity to learn from her.

During the Fringe Festival, Hannah has scheduled 6 workshops between 18th – 28th March. Contact Hannah at Beadworkz for times and dates:

beadworkz.dunedin@gmail.com
Phone 021 0256145

Out of Town Exhibitions by members

The White Twins: Barry & John

Above the Silk Centre
Corner Thames & Wear Street,
Oamaru
15th – 28th March, 9am – 4pm

"Travelling South"

Heidi Beckers & Jenny Longstaff

Photography and paintings
Owaka Museum and Gallery
19th March – 28th May

Otago Peninsula Artists 'Almost an Island' Exhibition

Thurs. 25th March – Mon. 5th April
Macandrew Bay Hall
Open daily, 10am to 4pm



Indigo New Zealand Falcon

"Precious": solo exhibition debut by Danielle Munro

Danielle will be presenting 30 or so works in her OAS show, including oil and acrylic paintings, ceramics, watercolour and stained glass.

In Danielle's words: "The easiest and least political way to describe the show is to say it is about native birds and that it highlights some of the struggles they face. Where in reality this show is all about activism in art and shining a light on the many political issues that affect our vulnerable and precious native species. I have tried to create beautiful and peaceful works of art that say how wonderful these birds are... however the perimeter of the gallery will be lined with litter collected from the streets of Dunedin."

Facebook Users: There is an updated Otago Art Society page. Please 'like' the new page, and 'unfollow' the old inactive page – and 'share' our wonderful society.



Cara Fotofili with some of her eye-catching artwork on display during her recent week as featured artist.



Brian Stewart working on another detailed painting during his week as featured artist. The public love watching real artists at work, seeing the magic happen..



A new member signs up – Debby Foster, a volunteer with Cat Rescue Dunedin.



Our wee Scottie, Eleanor Girvan, recently became a Kiwi Citizen. Sweet as!

Events Calendar

Please collect your works from the Summer Exhibition on Sunday 14th March, 10 – 4pm

"Precious": solo exhibition debut by Danielle Munro

About birds, our world,
and our place in it.
19th March – 9th April

March Members' Meeting replaced by the opening night and awards for MEOW!

Thursday 18th March. 6.00pm.

(Exhibition open to the public
from 18th March – 17th April.)

Other events in connection with Meow:

Saturday 20th March 10am–4pm

Activities for families/children:

games for children: cat
detective, mouse hunt, colouring;
12 noon **story-telling** session
with Doug Hart; 1pm **kittens**
visiting for socialisation.

Thursday 25th March – 7pm

Poetry Evening around Cat
theme. Readings and "open mic"
session. Bring your poems!
Inquiries to Jenny Longstaff,
phone 0211326053.

National Cleveland Awards

Entry form, fee, and high quality
digital image of work/s
must be received by Tuesday
24th March, 4.00pm.

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.*