



**The Railway Station will be closed from Mon. 14th to Fri. 18th August, due to a crane lift removing scaffolding.**

*Acting President's Message: Mary Jane Sneyd*

I thought the previous month had been busy but it was nothing compared to recent weeks!

The very successful 147th Annual Exhibition closed on Saturday 22nd July and I thought this exhibition was one of our best in-house exhibitions in recent years.

The Annual Exhibition was followed closely by the **Edinburgh Premier Art Awards** – the 17th year that Edinburgh Realty has sponsored these awards. We were inundated with submissions for these awards – over 300 in total! After a lengthy and difficult selection process by the judge, Graham Fletcher, Jenny Longstaff as curator, ably assisted by some hanging helpers, managed to display 174 artworks for the final, interesting and varied exhibition.

Graham then returned to pick the winners which were presented at a lively awards evening on Friday 4th August. Prior to this, two corporate nights were held which generated significant sales, testament to how well received the quality of work was in the exhibition. Very many congratulations to the prize winners, who are shown on pages 2 and 3. Many thanks to Edinburgh Realty, Graham, as well as the OAS Councillors and volunteers who made this possible. And to Rose and her team for the excellent food at the awards' presentation night!

Do come in and have a careful look, and then remember to vote for the People's Choice Award.

If you were excluded from the Edinburgh Awards because of the type of art you do, or you were not selected this time, there are more opportunities to enter exhibitions this year. The Ryman Spring Exhibition, theme 'I Remember When', is on from 18th September – 21st October. This is followed by some private-hire exhibitions and then we have the exciting Book Project and OAS Book-themed exhibition starting in November. Many more details to come.

So keep painting, drawing, sculpting, sewing or whatever you do best!



*Checking entries and hanging works – a scene of controlled chaos. Owing to date requirements, the pick-up day of the Annual coincided with the delivery day for the Edinburgh, with over 140 artworks needing to be cleared and over 300 needing to be displayed for judging pre-selection. You can see why we plead for artists to cooperate in collecting works on time; we just do not have adequate storage space.*

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Council directly, please email:  
otagoartpresident@gmail.com

### OAS COUNCILLORS 2022–2023

**Acting President:**  
**Mary Jane Sneyd**

*Immediate Past President:*  
Brenda Nyhof

*Councillors:*  
Anne Baldock, Jennifer Belt,  
Doug Hart, Peter Hurst, Tash Hurst,  
Raimo Kuparinen, Jenny Longstaff,  
Stacey Roughan, Rose Shepard.

**Please come to the AGM  
on Thursday 24th August  
7.00pm  
(in place of this month's  
Members' Evening)**

**Support your OAS Council,  
socialise with fellow  
members, and hear an  
interesting speaker.**

**Programme:**

- Presentation of OAS Report on the past year, and future activities.
- Election of OAS council members and office bearers.

*Supper break*

**Guest speaker:**

Graham Fletcher, judge of the Edinburgh Premier Art Awards and Principal Lecturer at Dunedin School of Art, will talk about what makes a winning artwork and why he chose the ones he did.



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Back Issues of the newsletter  
are available on the website.



## 2023 Edinburgh Premier Art Awards Results

*Judge's comments by Graham Fletcher*

### 1st Prize:

**Caroline Kelly: "Resonate"**

A beautifully crafted painting that creates a conscious parallel with traditional portraiture. This captivating artwork exudes a gentle yet powerful warmth where the connection between artist and model shines through. It celebrates the endurance of portraiture and reflects on what could be considered the most engaging subject of all: the human face. This piece provides a timeless contemplation of the human experience.

### 2nd Prize:

**Jonas Jessen Hansen: "Blomst"** (pictured at far left)

This artwork skilfully blends elements from the genres of still-life, Pop art, and pointillism, resulting in a mesmerising visual experience. What initially captured my attention was the innovative use of watercolour and acrylic on a felt substrate, and how the imagery is enigmatic and ambiguous, leaving viewers pondering the nature of the subject, its mysterious location, and the intriguing presence of what appears to be an unusual shadow.



### 3rd Prize:

**Gavin Chai:**

**"Trees, Birds, Bunnies, Bees"**

A painting in the plein-air tradition that is content-rich and forms a dialogue with art history with nods to Velázquez's "Las Meninas", Manet's "Luncheon on the Grass", as well as drawing inspiration from the Impressionists' vision of nature in an idyllic state. The canvas breathes with an enchanting sense of harmony and serenity where we are invited to engage as an active participant through the interplay of sunlight, foliage, and fauna.



### Merit 1:

**Jay Hutchinson: "Monster"**

On first impression, the work reads as humorous and pushes the boundaries of painting within a staged frame. However, beyond its initial light-hearted appearance, lies a compelling subtext that delves into the profound impact of consumerism and materialism on our contemporary society, permeating even the minutest aspects of our daily lives.



### Merit 2:

**Gemma Baldock: "Riot"**

This is a complex collage work bringing together a diverse cast of characters in various emotional states to fill the picture plane. The eye wanders from one interaction to another in trying to comprehend the situation, but we the viewer have come partway through the riot not knowing what started it and how it will end. It is a colourful and chaotic spectacle and asks of us to fill the missing gaps in constructing our own narrative.



*The number of entries received for this year's Edinburgh Awards became a logistical challenge. With so many large works entered, handling all the packages that arrived required many hours of volunteer work. Here, Ann Jacobson decides which item to unwrap. When the exhibition finishes we will be needing help to repackage sold and returned works. Can you spare some time to assist?*





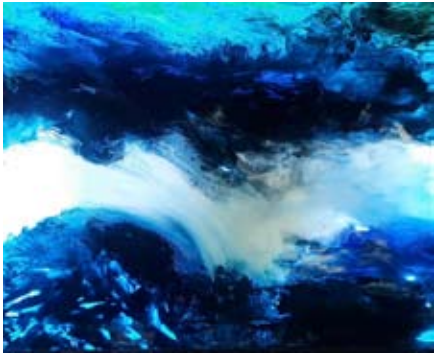
**Special Mention:**  
**Danielle Yealands: "Remembrance Series No 7"**

A masterful work characterised by a rich palette of colour and bold brushstrokes, resulting in a beautifully textured surface that seamlessly integrates all these artistic elements.



**Special Mention:**  
**Sharnae Beardsley: "Adaptation 13"**

A single orchid in bold colours hangs there unwavering within a field of grey. Its delicate graphic style adeptly transforms the three-dimensional world into a near-flat representation, employing a simple yet effective use of colour and line with minimal embellishments.



**Special Mention:**  
**Peter McLaren: "Leaving St Kilda II"**

The innovative use of a lightbox caught my attention with this piece. Few things evoke the essence of St Kilda as profoundly as its iconic beach and the captivating ocean waves. This artwork skilfully encapsulates the dynamic and turbulent nature of the sea, serving as a powerful reminder that, in the end, Nature prevails.



**Special Mention:**  
**Danielle Munro: "Kotuku Dreams"**

A small and delicate work that showcases the kotuku (white heron) that flock mysteriously around the central figure. It operates at the nexus of a dream and the waking world, seamlessly blending both realms in perfect harmony.

**Winner of the Edinburgh Prize,** chosen from the exhibition entries by the Edinburgh Realty team, independent of the judge. Congratulations to **Sarah Freiburger** for her painting, **Motatapu River, Wanaka.**



*Enjoying the awards presentation night were out-of-town members Tony Shields and Jenny Sutherland.*



Compliments are often received for the presentation, quality, and range of items in our **Sales Gallery**. Having fresh stock for the buying public is important, especially when the tourist season kicks in after winter.

There seems to be a misperception with some members that they need to be asked in order to have their work in the shop. Any member may submit their artwork for consideration to be displayed. We encourage your creativity! Bring items in, and if selected they will take their turn.

**We rely very much on volunteer assistance in the shop, so it is expected that members with artwork there will commit some time to helping.**

**People's Choice award winner  
for 147th Annual Exhibition**



Congratulations to **Sarah Freiburger** for taking the top honours with *Along the Raceman's Track, Silverstream Forest*.

- 2nd Raimo Kuparinen
- 3rd Anne Barwood
- 4th Rod Eales
- 5th Raimo Kuparinen
- 6th Kezia Armstrong
- 7th Julia McNaughton
- 8th Douglas Williams
- 9th Tony Adamson
- 10th Marie Reid-Beadle

The capable catering crew for the Edinburgh Awards opening night:  
Kezia Armstrong,  
Rose Shepard,  
Ingrid Dunckley,  
Christabel O'Leary, and  
Jenny Turnbull.



**Of interest to art lovers: Sightlines Interviews**

**Otago Access Radio 105.4 FM First Thursday of the month @ 1pm**

The radio programme 'Sightlines' provides a monthly guide to the visual arts in Dunedin and beyond, brought to you by the Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society, with presenter Sally McMillan.

A 25-minute interview on 3rd August featured **Doug Hart** and **Jenny Longstaff**, two past presidents of OAS, discussing the illustrious 147-year history of the society and how it has gradually evolved into the lively and inclusive organisation it is today.

The episode playlist can be found at <https://oar.org.nz/sightlines/>  
Doug and Jenny's interview is available as an Apple Podcast at:  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/za/podcast/sightlines/id1567833879>

**Planning ahead for The Book of Otago, 16th Nov. - 3rd Dec.**

For information and entry details about this exhibition, email:  
**[simone.marshall@otago.ac.nz](mailto:simone.marshall@otago.ac.nz)**

Works selected from the exhibition will be part of a unique book that will celebrate Otago's book heritage. Entries must be no larger than A3 portrait orientation (vertical) in any medium, but suitable for inclusion to be bound into a book.

OAS will run its own book-themed exhibition concurrently. Details to come.



*Moray Gallery is a loyal supporter of the OAS and its artists, with several having held solo exhibitions there. The current show, on until 25th August, features 15 'Fresh' works by Jenny Longstaff, pictured here at the exhibition opening.*

*Photo: Raimo Kuparinen*

**Calendar**

**The Railway Station will be closed from 14th to 18th August due to a crane lift removing scaffolding.**

**Annual General Meeting:  
Thurs. 24th August, 7.00pm**

See front page for details.

**Showing now:**

**Edinburgh Premier Art Awards**

On until Saturday 2nd September

(Artists, please collect unsold works on Sunday 3rd September.

We do not have storage space.)

**Forthcoming exhibition:**

**Ryman Healthcare  
Spring Exhibition**

**Theme: "I remember when"**

Entry forms available now.

Receiving days:

Out of town: by Thurs. 14th Sept.

For local artworks: Sun. 17th Sept.

Awards Night: Fri. 22nd Sept, 6pm.

Exhibition open to the public from 23rd Sept. to 21st October.

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**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](mailto: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.*