



President's message – Mary Jane Sneyd

While on holiday recently I spent some time with the President of a similar art society in another part of New Zealand. It was quickly brought home to me just how lucky the members of the Otago Art Society are! The OAS galleries in the Dunedin Railway Station are historically interesting and excellent display spaces; individual OAS members only pay \$65 per annum and have the opportunity to exhibit, sell and win awards in multiple exhibitions a year; and all members are eligible to apply to sell their work in the OAS shop. And we have the additional benefit of thousands of cruise ship passengers each year, although I admit that on some extremely busy days it may feel exhausting rather than beneficial!

Last week the OAS was delighted to present the 2023 OAS award to a graduating student of the Dunedin School of Art. Congratulations to the winner Faye Powell-Moore for their unique take on manga, anime and comics. We wish you well and hope to see you at the OAS as featured artist in 2024/2025.

A short while ago we packed up the excellent Spring Exhibition sponsored by Ryman Healthcare with a theme of 'I Remember When'. One of the 4 galleries, – the Ryman Gallery – was full of works by Ryman residents and it was very satisfying to see the talent that exists within these residents. The pleasure that visiting this exhibition gave to residents, their families and other visitors was obvious to everyone. So thank you to Ryman Healthcare for their sponsorship, and also many thanks to those volunteers who stepped up at the last minute to ensure the opening went smoothly – you all did an excellent job. And congratulations to all the prize winners.

Currently we are showing the OAS Book Art Exhibition, kindly sponsored by Joan Hardey and the UBS, with Tony Williams' extremely popular jewellery exhibition also in the central small gallery. Very many thanks to the judge, Claire Beynon, and congratulations to the prize winners of the Book Art too.

On December 3 we have receiving day for the Love, Buy, Take Exhibition. These works must be priced at < \$1000. If one of your works sells, you will be asked to bring in a replacement. Great for Christmas shopping!

We have received many new contracts from local shop artists, thank you, but for those who have not yet completed one, please remember that if you wish to sell your artwork in the shop we need to receive a new completed contract before any work can be assessed for suitability for sale. Even if you have signed a contract previously, we need to receive a signed new contract as it has been updated. For those who have already signed up, we would love to have more of your work, including Christmas themed artwork, in the shop during the cruise ship season and over Christmas, so please bring some in. If you don't live in Dunedin or nearby, your new contract will be emailed to you shortly.

As you can see there is plenty on for the rest of the year so keep up your creative works!

First Floor
Dunedin Railway Station
22 Anzac Avenue
DUNEDIN

Open daily 10am to 4pm

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Dunedin 9058, New Zealand

Phone: 03 477 9465
otagoartsociety@xtra.co.nz
Administrator: Jennifer Belt

To contact the OAS President or
Council directly, please email:
otagoartpresident@gmail.com

OAS COUNCILLORS 2022–2023

President:

Mary Jane Sneyd

Immediate Past President:

Brenda Nyhof

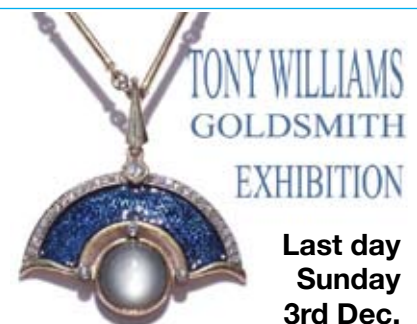
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Anne Baldock, Mari Gomes-Bradford,
Peter Hurst, Tash Hurst,
Raimo Kuparinen, Jenny Longstaff,
Rob McGee, Stacey Roughan,
Chris Saxton, Rose Shepard.



Last day: Sat. 2nd Dec.

*Artists, please remember to collect
your artworks on Sunday 3rd
from 10am to 1pm.*



**Last day
Sunday
3rd Dec.**

*Don't miss this opportunity to
admire and purchase exceptional
jewellery by a master craftsman.*



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Back Issues of the newsletter
are available on the website.

Members' Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.00pm. Sometimes an **Exhibition Opening** occurs on a Friday night in the same week that a **Members' Meeting** would usually be held, in which case there is no Thursday get together and members are welcome to attend the **Opening event** on the Friday.



Left to right: Brian and Diane Miller, and Sheryl Black at the members' meeting.

Brian Miller gave a talk at the Members' Meeting on 19th October titled '**How to produce a book of your Artwork**'. Sheryl Black also talked about various techniques and photoshop tools she used to illustrate **Chile Bird**, a picture book about an albatross written by Diane Miller.

Key points from the talk were:

- Study other art books to help shape your own book.
- Talk to a printer early on to discuss the type of book you want to produce.
- Pay (a design student?) for help with layout and design of your book.
- Make sure all your artwork is scanned high quality at a minimum of 300 dpi.
- Collect names of people interested in buying your book so you can plan the print run.

Brian gave out a handout covering many technical issues involved in book production. If you would like a copy of the handout email Brian at:

brianmillernz@gmail.com



SPRING Exhibition

"I remember when..." was the theme for this exhibition, allowing much scope for artistic reminiscence.



People's Choice results:

1st: **Doug Williams**
'Resting at Carey's Bay'

2nd: **Tony Stanford Shields**
'I remember when it snowed in Spring' (Otago Peninsula)

3rd: **Brian Stewart**
'Patience is a Virtue'



Volunteers' Thank You Night

A special event was held to thank our volunteers on Tuesday November 21st in the railway Station. Rose and her 'A' team of helpers put on a tremendous display of food that was most welcome and very popular.

Rose greeted everyone at the door and assigned them to a group to take part in the Scavenger Hunt quiz based on the Permanent Art Collection.

Volunteers enjoyed a social evening with lucky dip prizes and much chatter and laughter, especially when one volunteer said she wouldn't have her crutch for much longer.

It was a lovely evening and a fitting tribute to our many volunteers, without which the Art Society would not be able to operate. Thank you to Rose for all the hard work you put into this and other events.

Tash Hurst



Involved in the absorbing business of finding answers to the Scavenger Hunt quiz.



Erelene Milne and Elaine Grant Dolby getting into the festive spirit at the Volunteers' Thank You night.

Book Art Exhibition Results

The opening night was held on Friday 17th November, with a smaller crowd than usual due to fewer works being entered (or was it because no alcohol was served??).

There had been resistance from some artists to enter work as they felt the conditions were too strict, with a size limitation of A3. This was aimed at providing some uniformity to our own book-themed exhibition, intending to accompany the scheduled Book of Otago Exhibition (a private hire) with a similar size constraint. However, that exhibition was cancelled.

Thank you to those artists who did enter and who wrote accompanying explanations about their works. You contributed quality pieces and some wonderful little stories that made the exhibition very engaging for viewers.

Thank you to Joan Hardey for contributing the prize money, and to University Book Shop for the People's Choice Prize. Remember to cast your vote before the exhibition finishes.



Left to right: Claire Beynon, judge of the Spring Exhibition, pictured with artists Janet Smith (3rd Prize), Bev Jones (2nd Prize), and Hayley Rata Heyes (1st Prize).

1st Prize

Hayley Rata Heyes *Pylon*, oil on recycled book cover

"Hayley Rata Heyes is a Pakeha painter and poet based in her hometown, Otepoti Dunedin. She enjoys working with found materials, such as the recycled hardback book covers used here."

Comment by Claire Beynon, judge:

Exquisitely painted, this beautifully-nuanced painting wears its age and its 'fragile ordinariness' on its sleeve. This speaks to me of the poetry that resides in ordinary objects and everyday moments, especially when we approach these things with a kind eye and loving attention. The artist breathes new life into an old and weathered form.



2nd Prize

Bev Jones *Doodling 1*
Trio of small clay pieces

"I really love reading books but these represent my habit of doodling as I talk on the phone or daydream."

Comment by Claire Beynon, judge:

Doodling implies mark-making as a process of spontaneity, an activity embarked on somewhat absent-mindedly. The characters on these clay pages are naively drawn yet wonderfully expressive. Pre-parchment days, stone or clay tablets would have been the writer-historian's ground, so I see here a light-hearted reference to ancient traditions of documentation and story-telling.



3rd Prize

Janet Smith

Book of Paintings: paper sculpture

"My sculpture is created from paintings on paper which I have recycled into book form. I see it as an attractive and useful way to give works of art a new life."

Comment by Claire Beynon, judge:

Innovative, fun, inviting and secretive, this spiralbound book, with its hill- or wave-shaped edges and multiple pockets suggests to me a mythological landscape. Created out of recycled paintings, this work invites interaction. I appreciate the guts it takes to cut up old paintings and also the generosity the artist demonstrates in reassembling the remnants to create a new book that then becomes the ground for someone else to draw or paint in.



Highly Commended artworks are featured on page 4.

An enjoyable visit

The Alzheimers Otago **Minds in Motion** group visited our premises on 31st October for a tour as part of their maintenance programme. OAS Councillor Jenny Longstaff showed the group around the Spring Exhibition. Morgan Stewart, Community Educator, reported that everyone really enjoyed hearing more about the Society and seeing the different art works in the exhibitions. Following on from their visit, the group did a number of creative activities, drawing, painting, collage and botanical printing, so the visit provided good inspiration.

OAS members who belong to a recreational group could suggest a group outing to tour one of our exhibitions. Get in touch and OAS can provide a guide for a commentary. It is a great way to raise awareness to people who may never have visited our shop and gallery before.

Book Art Exhibition Results continued

Highly Commended

Natalie Cheetham *Invitation from the Queen*, watercolour

"I wanted to bring to life two characters from L. Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, who haven't had much limelight: the Queen's fish footman delivering an invitation to the Duchess's frog footman."

Comment by Claire Beynon, judge:

The humour in this work, along with a kind of 'sideways' elegance makes me smile. It's deftly painted and refreshingly original. The Queen's fish footman delivers his invitation to the Duchess's frog footman with a flourish! He is rewarded with similar magnanimity! We are witness here to joyful exchange and extravagant ceremony... These two footmen deserve a book of their own!



Highly Commended

Kate Drummond *Little House on the Prairie*, mixed media sunprint & acrylic

"Dirt, prairie flowers, the glow of a fire at the heart of the 'little house'. These books upset me so much as a kid my mother threatened to hide them."

Comment by Claire Beynon, judge:

I was quietly drawn to the spacious, dreamlike quality of this image. Even before reading the artist's accompanying statement, I found myself thinking 'there's more here than first meets the eye', a sense of tension as if old territory was asking to be revisited. The cyanotype process suggests the passage of time. There is something beautifully open, clear and lyrical about this work, the careful placement of its different elements.



A talk with Joan Hardey

Tash Hurst

Joan is a life member of the Otago Art Society and a trusted, well liked and esteemed member of our society. Many of you will know Joan from meeting her at members' evenings and openings, and also from working in the shop on Saturdays for fifteen years, only stopping fairly recently. In 1962 Joan and a friend, Ethna Kennedy, decided to get together for painting sessions in their own homes, but the number of interested people started to grow and within a short time they had to arrange a venue in a nearby hall to accommodate all the people who wanted to join. This was the start of the Wakari Art Group that is still running to this day. H.V. Miller was one of the early tutors.

Joan was keen on developing her etching skills and continued her love of etching and painting while working at Abernethy's Gallery, staying there for 10 years. Joan joined the Otago Art Society at its first meeting place in the Moran Buildings in Moray Place; shortly after the Society moved into the old Dunedin North Post Office. At this time Shona McFarlane was a mover and shaker in the art scene in Dunedin and introduced many improvements to the Otago Art Society. In the 1980s the gallery was only open when exhibitions were on, but a monthly meeting was a great stimulus to the members. In 1982 an evening class was held with Heather Maxwell and Audrey Bascand, expanding members' interest in the area of etching using zinc plates and nitric acid.

Joan's work was always popular and much was sold, mainly through Abernethy's Gallery, but also in The Lane (now Harrop Street), a very well patronised annual open air art market where exhibited paintings were nailed on the fence. After the new library was built this event moved to the library plaza.

Joan was learning all the time and had tutorials with Roy Dickison, and then Marilyn Webb doing relief printing. Joan developed her own style of painting, usually based



Joan Hardey pictured at home beside one of her own paintings.

on landscapes that had inspired her while tramping. Joan became a regular contributor to the exhibitions run by the OAS and this continued after the society moved into the Railway Station and only stopped in the last year or two. Joan won the competition the year that Garrick Tremain was judging the work.

Joan was on the OAS Council for many years and has memories associated with many of the different presidents she worked with over this time. Several of these presidents such as John Toomer are also Life Members.

At the age of 97 Joan is still an enthusiastic and supportive member of the Otago Art Society and generously allowed her recent monetary contribution to the society to be used to sponsor prizes for the Book Art Exhibition which opened on Friday November 17th. Dear Joan, we offer a heartfelt thank you for your huge contribution to the Otago Art Society over so many years.

Successful Private Hires

In late October through to November the galleries were buzzing with activity as four privately arranged and eagerly anticipated exhibitions were on view.

The galleries looked wonderful with their array of varied themes, styles, techniques, media, and mix of youth and experience.

Danielle Munro did a fine job of curating the **30 Women** collective; 'The Seven Deadly Sins and Dark Paintings' by **Don Mackenzie** provided food for thought in their imagery; **Callum Flett's** photographs in his first exhibition were admired; and 'Reflective' was an engaging retrospective of **Nanette McMillan's** life of art.



Danielle Munro receiving work from M. Winiana for the 30 Women exhibition.

Below: Photograph by Callum Flett: 'Seagull's Feet'.



Don Mackenzie



Overview of the Nanette McMillan exhibition.

New OAS Flags

Have you seen our smart new flags in front of the Railway Station when we are open? The old yellow ones had become embarrassingly tatty so they have been replaced by ones with an orange background for greater visibility.

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OTAGO ART SOCIETY,
DUNEDIN RAILWAY STATION

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Exhibition of jewellery by Emma Wells

4th – 17th December

Emma was selected by a panel of OAS representatives from last year's SITE Exhibition of work by the Dunedin School of Art graduating students to be the very first recipient of the Otago Art Society Award, which offers development incentive of a monetary prize, OAS membership, and a solo exhibition in our galleries.

* * *

Emma Wells is a New Zealand contemporary jeweller from Invercargill. She moved to Dunedin in 2022 to complete her bachelor's degree at Dunedin School of Art, majoring in Jewellery and Metalsmithing.

Emma is interested in making jewellery out of precious metal and stones that is original, well crafted and is comfortable to wear.

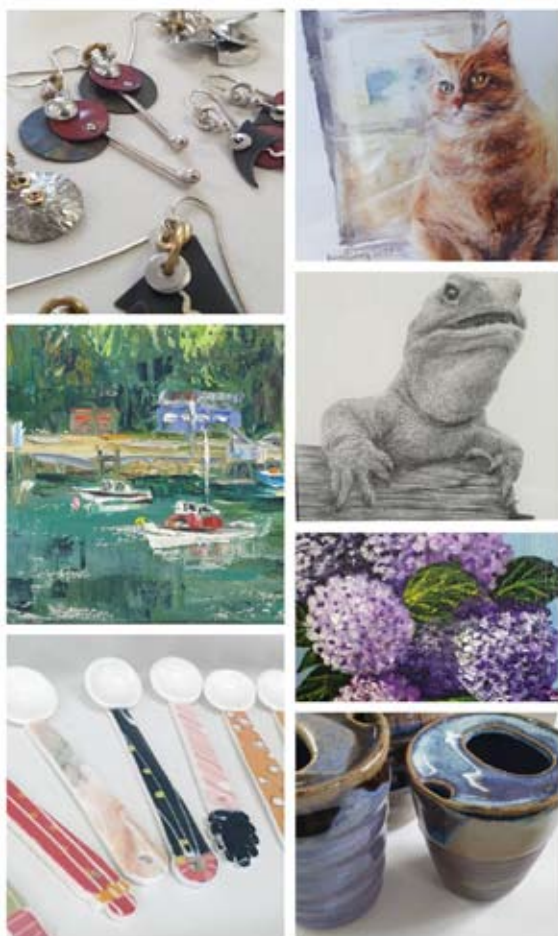


Ring designed by Emma Wells.

Expectations and Realities

Your OAS Council members, all volunteers, work industriously on the Society's behalf to present an interesting programme of events. Sometimes unforeseen circumstances lead to plans being changed.

The Summer Exhibition, usually scheduled for late January, has in the past been sponsored by J. W. Smeaton Chartered Accountants, for which we are appreciative, however, they will not be continuing with their sponsorship. It is possible that the Love, Buy, Take Exhibition will be extended – we will keep you informed of arrangements.



Mates and Scapes

Exhibition by Anne Baldock
1st - 23rd Dec.

Moray Gallery: 55 Princes St.
Artist Talk: 12 noon, Sat. 9th Dec.

Summer in the OAS Shop

The montage of photos at left was arranged by Kara, showing some of the variety of members' work in the shop. Do keep the OAS in mind when buying your Christmas gifts!

Leanne and Kara, our hardworking sales gallery coordinators, are doing a grand job in presenting members' artworks to the public and keeping the items in the shop displayed attractively.

Cruise ship visitors and coach tours come in waves and some days are full-on, so it would be good to share the load by having more volunteers. Even just a few hours of your time would be gratefully received. Perhaps you could make it your New Year's resolution to be more actively involved with OAS. On busy days it is handy to have 3 people at the counter – one to write up the purchases, one to handle the money, and one to wrap the items.

For members with work in the shop, we need to keep a good supply of back-up stock to replenish displays, so make sure you have signed the new shop contracts and bring your labelled artworks in for consideration.

Calendar

Book Art Exhibition

Last day Sat. 2nd December.
Artists, please collect your work on
Sunday 3rd Dec. 10am to 1pm

Tony Williams Goldsmith

Last day 3rd December.

Love, Buy, Take

Entries for this Affordable Art Exhibition
to have a price cap of \$1,000.

Receiving Day:

Sun. 3rd Dec. 10am to 1pm

Opens to the public: 8th Dec.
and will run through to a date
to be notified.

Emma Wells Jewellery

4th to 17th December.

Feature Artist Series

This will run from the week
beginning 8th January 2024
through until April with a weekly
series that showcases different
artists working in various
mediums. Member Artists have
teamed up in pairs to host a
small exhibition of their works
and will be in the gallery for the
entire week to show the public
their artistic process.

This is a great opportunity to
personally meet a range of artists.
Most works will be for sale.

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.*