



# RANGIORA ART SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER JUNE 2011

Hello again everyone,

Time stops for no one and we are mid-way into our year. Today saw the start of our tutorial season with Sue Currie instructing in watercolour washes and techniques. There are still a few places left for Mike Glover – pastels on the 5 & 9 July and for Judy Derrick – composition on 6 & 13 August. Please contact Mary Overtoom on 313 5740 to ensure a place.

**Portraiture Workshop** – We are still working on this. If you would be interested in a series of classes in Term 4 please let us know. We have had one or two responses but we need a large enough group to make it worthwhile.

**Library** – Thank you to those of you who have searched out and found overdue books, some going back to 2008. It's great to see them in circulation again. But there are still a lot missing so please do keep searching. Over time we have accumulated a number of excellent Art magazines. These have been donated by members and folk have just taken them out without signing. However, our new Librarian, Yvonne Mills, has stickered them and requests that you sign out for them as loan articles also.

Four new DVD's have been added to our collection. They are on:

- Pen & Wash
- Oil – Sea and Sky
- Pastel
- Acrylic

and are now available as loan items.

**Calendar** - We have decided to go ahead with this venture again. Our thanks to Quilliam who does all the work for it. So, we need pictures in landscape format for the major monthly pictures but we will also include portrait format (tall) pictures alongside the calendar grid but these will need to be cropped to fit. As is the custom these will be posted on our website for you to vote on. Please email your picture to Quilliam or he is willing to photograph the original for you on a Tuesday. The cut off day will be Tuesday 2 August.

**Spring Exhibition** – Entry forms will be sent out in July to be returned by Tuesday 9 August. As with the Prosser Quirke exhibition we have decided not to have a catalogue this year. Now is the time to start planning your entries, up to four paintings of your choice, five miniatures and paintings from our workshops. The final details will be out next month.

**Prosser Quirke Exhibition** – Once again this show was a fine display of the talents of the creative groups in Rangiora. With better weather this year attendance was up and comments

from those attending suggested that the standard may have been higher than usual. It was also great to see the work of the local secondary students on display. Painting sales were pleasing with 10 works being sold and we must congratulate our guest artist, and society member, Diana Gillanders for her great display of work and for her excellent sales.

Our judge this year was Alan Gunn who was, for many years, the head of art at a Christchurch secondary school. Having agreed to judge our exhibition he put some thought into his approach to judging and sent me this statement, which I think you will find interesting.

**Judge's statement:** *Art competitions are notorious for the best work being unrecognised, and general disagreement as to the outcomes are usually the result. Everyone has an opinion and the outcome is simply my opinion based on a working life based around teaching and making art. My experience does not necessarily guarantee that justice has been done nor that everyone will agree with my decisions. I have long believed that an artists greatest competition is within oneself, so on condition that the work you have presented is the best that you can do, you are all winners on the day. In comparing the work to find the best I think it fair to explain the criteria I use.*

**The Idea** *For much representational art, photographs are used as a reference. Regardless of whether photography, or direct observation is used the first and most essential quality for me is whether the subject has been presented in such a way that I really want to look at it and interpret what it has to offer. I'm thinking about colour, contrasts of light and shade, the quality of drawing and so on, but I'm also interested in what the work tells me about the subject. Usually for me, if it is just a repetition of a photograph, the question becomes why not just frame the photograph? I'm really interested in the idea behind the work – why was it created, and what thinking has been done to make me see this subject anew?*

**The Media** *The second criteria is a little simpler to explain. Each media has its own personality – both strengths and limitations. I consider that a skilful use of media is one that demonstrates the strengths without exposing the limitations. A good use of watercolour as a medium would usually have lightness, colour, transparency and fluidity with heavy areas of opaque, flat colour being avoided. I look for a sound understanding and appropriate use of media. You will note that I avoid being totally prescriptive in the above statements. As in all things artistic, rules generally invite successful flouting of them. Artists [and critics] do well to remember that art is a creative industry, which cannot and should not be confined to formula.*

Alan was complimentary about the general standard of work and left Quilliam with these comments about the works that received awards.

**Best in Group** “Conflagration” by Ruth Stanton McLeod  
*This picture is original, asks questions of the viewer and shows great use of media.*

**Merit Award** “Fractured Memories” by Libby Handy  
*This picture has a naïve treatment, interesting perspective and sustains an intense look.*

**Merit Award** “St Marks and the Doge's Palace” by Quilliam Collister  
*This picture shows skilful use of media, great awareness of subject/perspective and is not overworked.*

Our thanks go to everyone involved in this exhibition; those who exhibited and those who helped with the organisation, the setup and clear up, the demonstrators and those who helped on the door. The society would appreciate any volunteers who would be happy to join Quilliam on the organising committee of this show.

**Tuesday Topics** – The following is a list of topics, which you may like to work on when you come to our sessions on Tuesdays. They take us to the end of the year so if any take your fancy please note them in your diary for work on that particular day.

JUNE 14 & 21	Body Parts e.g. hands, feet
JUNE 28 & JULY 5	Monochrome (picture of your own choice)
JULY 12&19	Boats
JULY 26 & AUGUST 2	Trees
AUGUST 9 & 16	Winter e.g. snow, frost, etc
AUGUST 23 & 30	Exhibition Preparation
SEPTEMBER 6 & 13	Landscapes
SEPTEMBER 20 & 27	Fences
OCTOBER 4 & 11	Clouds
OCTOBER 18 & 25	Seascapes
NOVEMBER 1 & 8	Still Life

**Rangiora High School PTA Art Auction** – If you would like to donate a picture to this good cause – electric guitars and amplifiers for the Music Dept. and seating, tables and shelters for all students to enjoy, please contact Su. Jeffcott on 311 8888 ext 5300 (wk) or 313 8957 (hm) as soon as possible. They need the art works on or before Friday 5 August.

**A Request** – Jill Johnson would like to borrow or buy the DVD set of 2 discs entitled ‘The Watercolour Apprentice’ by Tony Smibert. Unfortunately we do not have this in our library so if you could help Jill out please contact her on [jillndavejohnson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jillndavejohnson@xtra.co.nz) or ph. 03 327 8497.

Subscriptions – If you receive a red sticker this means that your sub. for this year is still outstanding. Please forward your \$25 to Sue Newick as we value all our members and do not like having to delete folk from our membership.

**Our Thought to ponder this month** – “Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life.” *Pablo Picasso.*

Happy Painting  
Ngaire.