

Newsletter 6 ♦ March 2021

Member of the Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society

ABN: 40 338 920 815



From the Chair

with Dianne Stuart

What a memorable way to start off our 2021 evening lecture program! It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces at our inaugural screening of a virtual lecture. - *The Architecture of Mughal India: Palaces, Mosques, Gardens and Mausoleums* delivered by UK Lecturer, Dr John Stevens. Our thanks for your mastery of our recently acquired electronic COVID Safe check-in procedures. A pen and paper record of attendees is also required.

With the use of two laptops, an internet connection via phone hotspot and our tech helper - Noel Jeffries, we enjoyed Dr Steven's detailed and informative presentation. A few anxious moments later, we livestreamed ourselves via Zoom to Dr Steven's locked down Central London apartment for an early morning Q&A session. At its conclusion, Dr Stevens was thrilled with the spontaneous standing ovation from his A&I Hall audience on the other side of the world.

While this was our first lecture for 2021, it was our last with Noel Jeffries as our reliable technical assistant. Noel has assisted with screening ADFAS presentations for quite a few years. ADFAS Byron has awarded him life-long membership in gratitude for his long-standing loyalty and support.

I commend you to our forth-coming program of face-to-face lectures by Australian lecturers. We are continuing to home host visiting lecturers this year, so anyone wishing to host a lecturer please contact Carol Marsh at: adfasbyronbay@gmail.com

Our next lecture is on Monday 8 March, in the A&I Hall - *From the Tentmaker's Khan to the City of the Dead*. Australian lecturer, Jenny Bowker, delves into an explanation of Egyptian textiles. Married to an Australian diplomat, Jenny lived and travelled widely in Arab and Islamic countries for 11 years. We will also be resuming our supper service.



Members enjoying our first virtual lecture

ADFAS Byron is committed to ensuring a full program is delivered during 2021. If border restrictions prevent a lecturer travelling at the scheduled time, members will be provided with a virtual link to view the lecture at home.

We are delighted with the membership response to date and thank you for your continued support.

I look forward to seeing you at the A&I Hall on 8th March.

❖ Dianne Stuart

Callout to Members

Home Hosting

We still need to secure a friendly two night homestay for two of Australian lecturers - Nick Gordon (15-17 August) and Gemma Black (3-5 October). If you are able to assist, please contact Carol Marsh at: adfabyronbay@gmail.com

Lecture Choices for 2022

Interested in having an input into the selection of our lecturers for 2022 over a coffee or glass of wine? The range of offerings from the nominated UK Arts Society lectures for 2022 is simply outstanding. Please contact Dianne Stuart at adfabyronbay@gmail.com

ADFAS – for the arts in all of us

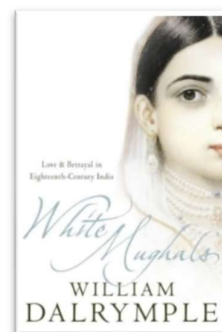


Raffle Winner



Liz Hartley

The winner of the raffle held at the last lecture was Liz Hartley who was presented with the beautiful book *The White Mughals*, by William Dalrymple. The book was especially selected by committee member Erica Light for its alignment to Dr John Steven's presentation. It tells the story of an ultimately passionate but tragic love affair in 18th-century India.



2021 Committee

Refreshed after a torrid 2020, the new-look Byron Bay ADFAS Committee is greeting the new year with optimism and enthusiasm.

Most of those serving on the 2020 Committee have opted to continue their service this year. Changes include Dianne Stuart assuming the Chair position, and Peter Harden as our new Treasurer. John Griffiths and Sue Brennan, who formerly held those roles will remain on the Committee. John continues his important role as Honorary National Treasurer of ADFAS.

Executive



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ADFAS Byron Bay & Districts



Lecture Support

Following Noel Jefferies' retirement as our technical support person after many years of loyal and reliable service, we are very happy to announce that Barry Martin will take on the role.

Barry was born in Maroubra, and grew up an avid surfer. He moved to Currumbin where he established a music studio, and has now retired to Bangalow.



Barry Martin

Bangalow Music Festival



Artistic Director Tania Frazer

This year, the 19th Bangalow Music Festival will take place in Bangalow's historic A&I Hall, from Thursday 12 August to Sunday 15 August. The festival is operated and presented by Brisbane-based Southern Cross Soloists (SXS), one of Australia's most formidable and long-running chamber music ensembles. It will feature the SXS and other highly acclaimed chamber music ensembles, plus leading Australian and international soloists.

It was with great disappointment that last year's music festival was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however SXS Artistic Director Tania Frazer is very excited about the upcoming 2021 programme. "The festival is always a major highlight in our annual calendar of activities, and we are really looking forward to working closely with our supporters and partners to deliver the best yet". Tania continues, "this year's event celebrates the joy music brings us and the important place it has in all of our lives."

The official launch of the Bangalow Music Festival is in mid-April. Early Bird Tickets are available until Friday 16th April, and can be purchased at:
https://www.stickytickets.com.au/o5vvu/bangalow_music_festival_2021/buy-tickets.



Members of the Southern Cross Soloists

Southern Cross Soloists (SXS)

The Southern Cross Soloists is a collective of highly acclaimed 'soloists' in their own right, who unite to present new Australian art music paired with reimaginings of traditional works.

In addition to performing nationally and internationally with world-renowned artists, the SXS run educational programs across Queensland.

❖ Marion Pescud

ADFAS Young Arts Program



Concert Pianist, Francis Atkins

Once again, ADFAS Byron will be looking to sponsor a local young musician as part of our Young Arts Program.

Our 2020 Young Musician of the Year awardee, talented pianist Francis Atkins, remains passionate about his music and is performing in 'concert after concert'. He will be doing four performances at the Brisbane Music Festival, and according to Francis, his dream came true when he was asked to play Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto 2* solo for the Sunshine Coast Orchestra.

Having completed his Bachelor degree, Francis is currently undertaking a Masters in Music Performance, majoring in piano, at the Queensland Conservatorium (Griffith University) in Brisbane.

Last November Francis presented a solo performance for ADFAS members at the home of Helen Stahmann in Broken Head. He is very appreciative of our support, and has offered to play for us again. We are hopeful that a further piano recital at this spectacular venue, might be arranged and offered to ADFAS members during 2021.

❖ Marion Pescud

ADFAS members Shirley Nelson and Carol Marsh chat with Helen Stahmann (centre)



Special Zoom Lecture



On 7th March, ADFAS members are offered a second Zoom lecture on one of England's Great Surviving Medieval Treasures – the Wilton Diptych. This small portable painting of two hinged panels, painted on both sides, is an extremely rare survival of a late Medieval religious panel painting, and now resides in the National Gallery, London.

Delivered by Sean Moran from The Arts Society (UK), the presentation told the story behind this painting owned by King Richard II of England, detailed the exquisite work that has gone into its making.

A Snippet from the Archibald Prize

I have written before about the 2020 Archibald Prize and the paintings which made an impression on me. Some for the talent of the artist and magnificence of the work, and others because I simply could not understand their audacity of presence. While one is drawn to what they 'like', in judging a painting one must consider the freshness of composition, media application, colours, light, texture and the narrative behind the work. Having done all this, I have to admit some of last year's finalists left my enthusiasm very limp.

However, to see my favourite painting was worth the wait in the long queue at the Tweed Regional Gallery. The self-portrait, 'I'm Here' by Dee Smart, is a truly remarkable work on all levels. It depicts the ravages of cancer treatment: lesions, gauntness, hair loss, overlaid with a deathly pallor, however in the direct gaze, one finds dignity and strength.

Best of all, while commenting on this work to a friend, a lady interrupted to say that she had recently spoken to Dee Smart, and while unsure if she has made a full recovery, Dee was looking wonderfully healthy. Excellent news about an exceptional artist.

❖ Marion Pescud



'I'm Here' by Dee Smart

Botticelli to Van Gogh

Masterpieces from the National Gallery, London

This exhibition, organised by The National Gallery, London, Art Exhibitions Australia and the National Gallery of Australia, will be on display in Canberra from 5 March to 14 June 2021. Through 61 paintings, the exhibition spans 450 years and explores the story of Western European art through seven defining periods, from Italian Renaissance painting to the rise of modern art.



Adoration of the Magi
Botticelli, 1475



Self Portrait at the Age of 34
Rembrandt, 1640



Young Woman seated at a Virginal
Vermeer, c.1670

Tickets to this exhibition are timed entry only; we recommend booking as soon as possible to. As tickets are timed entry only, it would be a good idea to pre-purchase through Ticketek to secure your preferred session. Tickets purchased on site are subject to availability on the day.

The Lume

Can't get enough art? Then Melbourne is planning the ultimate experience for you with the opening of Australia's first digital art gallery – The Lume. Heralded as an epic adventure into art, the exhibition is a multi-sensory cultural experience. Without a time limit or established route, visitors can immerse themselves to their heart's content. The artworks come to life in magnificent oversized detail, accompanied by sounds and aromas.



The inaugural experience will feature the works Vincent van Gogh. Visitors will be able to digitally enter his masterpieces as they accompany the artist on his journey through the Netherlands and France. They will have several dining options inspired by the cuisines of those countries, and a gift shop from which to purchase the perfect souvenir.



Van Gogh at The Lume

Van Gogh at The Lume is scheduled to open in autumn, but as yet there is no specific date, nor a ticket price. Those wishing to experience this all-encompassing exhibition are advised to put their name on the wait-list (via The Lume's website).

The Lume is located at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Wharf on the Yarra River. It will be open daily from 10am until late.

❖ Marion Pescud