



ADFAS Canberra Incorporated

AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE
& FINE ARTS SOCIETIES

ABN 65 303 903 455

ARTSNATIONAL CANBERRA NEWSLETTER 4 2023

SUMMER



A Word from our Chair



Dear Members,

ADFAS Canberra has had a most successful year with membership rising and many guests attending. The lecturers we have had - six from the UK and two Australians - have been diverse and fascinating. We had three SIMS this year instead of two and the one which was held at Parliament House in February was really well attended.

Unfortunately, the other two SIMS were not well attended – something the Committee would like to explore with members next year as we look at options for the future.

Following a record number of guests attending lectures in 2023, we hope to see an increase in the number of members over this coming year.

The Committee thanks Hudsons Catering, the National Library of Australia and the East Hotel in Kingston for their ongoing support and assistance over 2023.

There have been some interesting developments coming from ADFAS National this year, the main change being the change of name from ADFAS to ArtsNational Australia, meaning that in the next month or so we will become ArtsNational Canberra. The legal name will remain as ADFAS, but our trading or business name is ArtsNational. You will have received detailed emails from Liz Quinn, our Membership Secretary and our representative on the rebranding committee, and from me, keeping you up to date.

ADFAS Canberra has another very interesting and exciting programme for 2024. A reminder: in 2024 lectures return to Monday nights at the NLA at 6pm.

The ADFAS Canberra AGM was held on Monday 4 December at which voting for the new Committee took place, results being:

Chair	Sue Healy	Members	Jenny Hefford
Vice-Chair	Margaret May		Alex Hagan
Secretary	Jan Lynch		Cathy Johnstone
Treasurer	Myra Croke		Arnis Stonis
Membership Secretary	Liz Quinn		Deb McMillan
Public Officer	David Campbell		

The Committee thanks Members and their guests for their ongoing support and their camaraderie over 2023. On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all a joyous, happy and safe festive season and New Year and we hope to see you all in 2024.

Cheers and Jingle Bells!

Sue Healy OAM
Chair ADFAS CANBERRA

Coming Up This Summer – And What a Year it is!

Remember: We are back to Monday evenings for our Lectures and Tuesdays for our Special Interest Mornings.

19 February 2024

THE USE OF NATURALISM IN THE WORK OF FABERGÉ

Clare BLATHERWICK

Bio

Clare is an independent jewellery consultant with over 20 years' experience in the industry. She spent 10 years as Head of Jewellery for Bonhams in Scotland, which involved travelling internationally searching for unique jewels to auction. Clare has a passion for the historical aspect of jewellery and lectures widely on this in both the UK and the USA. Clare is also a member of the Society of Jewellery Historians.



Lecture



The name Fabergé conjures up images of pre-revolutionary Russia, the most opulent Easter Eggs ever produced and exquisite pieces found in the most important collections in the world. Clare will discuss the use of naturalism in the work of Fabergé focusing on the lesser-known experiments in Art Nouveau, and animal representations in hardstone carvings and the flower studies that the firm excelled in. She will also look at the naturalistic imagery incorporated into objects d'art such as desk seals and caviar dishes.

Fabergé Parasol Handle, c. 1900, "guilloché" and "quatre-couleur" gold, jade, enamel, diamonds, pearls (Walters Art Museum). Source: [Parasol Handle | The Walters Art Museum](#)

20 February 2024

Special Interest Morning

Clare BLATHERWICK

- **THE STORY OF JEWELLERY IN SCOTLAND**



From Mary Queen of Scots and her attendants to the modern day, this talk looks at the jewels of a nation made famous through Queen Victoria's love of Scotland. Dipping into the jewels in public and private collections, as well as those jewels depicted in portraits, the talk covers more than the well-known 'pebble' jewels of the late 19th century and provides a great insight into the proud history of the nation's goldsmithing and the story of jewellery and personal adornment in Scotland.

The Penicuik Jewels (late 16th century), said to have belonged to Mary Queen of Scots. National Museum of Scotland. Source: [Objects associated with Mary, Queen of Scots \(nms.ac.uk\)](https://nms.ac.uk/objects-associated-with-mary-queen-of-scots)

THE WORLD OF PEARLS

The allure of pearls has been documented from ancient times and with evidence of pearls in the Arabian Gulf dating back to 4000 BC. In ancient Roman legend, Venus herself was born like a pearl. Romans thought pearls were formed from the teardrops of gods, or perhaps as a result of clams capturing moonlight dewdrops. This talk looks at the amazing variety of types of pearls, from those produced by oysters to marine snails, how they are found and some of the most famous pearls in the world, including those of Mary Queen of Scots.



Source: [Event - The Wonder of Pearls \(clareblatherwick.co.uk\)](https://clareblatherwick.co.uk/event-the-wonder-of-pearls)

18 March 2024

ART AND THE THIRD REICH

Leigh CAPEL

Bio

Now an accredited valuer of the Auctioneers and Valuers Association of Australia, Leigh gained early experience with auctioneers Menzies, Mossgreen and Sotheby's as a valuer and specialist. In 2018 Leigh became director of Belle Epoque Fine Art & Antiques, his mother's business which supplies art and furniture to Australian film and television, particularly Baz Luhrmann's films. Leigh is also an art dealer at the Sydney and Melbourne Fairs. Leigh's projects have featured in *Vogue Australia* and *FilmInk* magazines.



Lecture

Leigh will look at Hitler's background as a frustrated artist in the traditional school overtaken by modern art in the early 20th century. Hitler's rejection fuelled his need to eradicate this new art movement once he came to power. Leigh follows Hitler's attempt to influence trends through acquisition of classical art for his self-curated 'Führer Museum' in Linz, as well as his plunder and destruction of modern deemed 'degenerate' (the infamous *Entartete Kunst* exhibition). Leigh will focus on some of the most important artworks lost, the search for stolen art and discuss the aftermath of WWII, including the impact of the Holocaust on post-war and migrant art in Australia.



Source: Provided by Leigh Capel

The Rest of the Year

It's a hard act to follow but, in brief, this is what it looks like. Full details will appear in future Newsletters but this should be enough to whet your appetite.

6 May 2024

REMEMBRANCE

Roger MENDHAM

The evolution of photography from the early 1800s until the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

3 June 2024

THE BOOK OF KELLS: ITS HISTORY, ITS MYSTERY AND ITS WONDER

Gemma BLACK

With a topic like this, no further explanation is needed!

8 July 2024

THE HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY AND EAST–WEST TRADE: CHINTZ, CHINESE EXPORT AND CHINOISERIE, 1600–1800

Vivienne LAWES

5 August 2024

THE PERFECT HOUSE: ANDREA PALLADIO'S VENETIAN VILLAS

Andrew HOPKINS

6 August 2024

Special Interest Morning

Andrew HOPKINS

- The Vanderbilts: The Glamour of Gilded Age Extravagance
- The Rockefellers: A Dynasty of Art Collectors

16 September 2024

PUZZLING OUT PICASSO

Alan READ

14 October 2024

THE ART AND CRAFT OF THE PEWTERER

Andrew SPIRA

2024 Membership Bookings

The Canberra Committee is pleased to let you know that bookings for ADFAS Canberra (ArtsNational Canberra) membership in 2024 are now open. As you can see from the program above, we offer high quality lectures and Special Interest Mornings, on a wide range of topics, with leading experts from the UK and Australia.

Membership provides you with access to all **eight lectures** over the year, for the price of \$225 for a single, and \$445 for a couple. Please note that lectures have returned to their previous Monday evening timeslot.

For **2024 membership bookings**, please use the link to TryBooking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CNFAT>

Membership also provides you with access to discounted rates for the two **Special Interest Mornings** scheduled for February and August 2024 (\$65 for members compared to \$70 for non-members). We are also offering an Early Bird discount rate of \$115 for members who book the two SIMs before 16 February 2024.

To take up the **SIM early bird offer**, please use the link to TryBooking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CNFBP>

Sutton Hoo

Attracting record numbers, we thoroughly enjoyed Mark Cottle's lecture in August on this astonishing ship and its treasures. In response to numerous requests for further information Mark has provided the following suggestions for further reading:

The Anglo-Saxons, J. Campbell. Still one of the best single accounts of the period.

Sutton Hoo. Burial Ground of Kings? M. Carver. Engaging and authoritative study by the leader of the last great campaign of study and research at Sutton Hoo.

The Sutton Hoo Story. M. Carver. A more recent (2017) survey of the excavations at Sutton Hoo and its wider context.

The Anglo-Saxons. M. Morris. The most recent study (2021) – a highly accessible account.

The Women of Sutton Hoo. C. Hills, in *Current Archaeology*, May 2021.

Merci Lack & Barbara Wagstaff. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sutton-hoo/features/conservation-in-action-at-sutt-hoo

Peggy Piggott and other pioneering female archaeologists www.trowelblazers.com

In addition, there's **The Dig** on NETFLIX, a 2021 British drama film directed by Simon Stone, based on the 2007 novel of the same name by John Preston, which reimagines the events of the 1939 excavation of Sutton Hoo. It stars Carey Mulligan, Ralph Fiennes, Lily James, Johnny Flynn, Ben Chaplin, Ken Stott, Archie Barnes, and Monica Dolan.

And the Chair of the ADFAS Lecturer Committee, Sally Louw, has suggested on YouTube: [Sutton Hoo Helmet](#) and [The Real Story behind the movie The Dig](#).

Art of the Japanese Kimono



Visitor Sally Louw, Chair Lecturers Committee, was the lucky winner of the raffle at the lecture given by Marie Compte-Helm on the Kimono. She's shown here with her prize and with Marie and donor, David Campbell.

The Committee strenuously denies rigging the raffle to curry favour with the National Executive.

Japanese Kimono – Suggested Reading

Monica Bincsik, et al, *Kimono Style, Edo Traditions to Modern Design*, (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2022)

Lisa Dalby, *Kimono: Fashioning Culture*, (London: Vintage Books, 2001)

Patricia Jane Graham, *Japanese Design: Art, Aesthetics & Culture*, (Vermont: Tuttle Publishing, 2014)

Anna Jackson, *Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk*, (London, V&A, 2020)

Anna Jackson (ed), *Kimono: The Art and Evolution of Japanese Fashion*, (London: Thames & Hudson, 2020)

Vivian Li, *The Kimono in Print: 300 Years of Japanese Design*, (Leiden: Hotei Publishing, 2020)

Terry Satsuki Milhaupt, *Kimono: A Modern History*, (London: Reaktion Books, 2014)

Yuki Morishima (ed), Rie Nii, *Kimono Refashioned: Japan's Impact on International Fashion*, (San Francisco, Asian Art Museum, 2018)

Anne Anderson

The final lecturer this year was Anne Anderson who spoke on both the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and Scandinavian art. For those wishing to know more about Anne, visit her web site, anne-anderson.com or You Tube: [Anne Anderson Art and Design History Channel](#)

ADFAS Molonglo Plains

Some Canberra members may be unaware of our neighbouring Society, ADFAS Molonglo Plains. We are both in the Flinders Circuit of some ten Societies ranging from Ku-ring-gai to Perth, and this means we often share the same speaker but rarely the same topic. Their 2024 program can be found on [Molonglo Plains \(Queanbeyan\) - ADFAS](#).

Their lectures are held in the auditorium at the C3 Church, 116 Monaro St, Queanbeyan. Entry is from the rear, via the Rutledge Car Park. Lectures are on Thursdays, beginning at 2pm and followed by afternoon tea.

Visitors are very welcome to attend, at a cost of \$30 per lecture which includes afternoon tea. Visitor gift vouchers are also available.

To register, and for any other enquiries, please contact the Membership Secretary at membership@adfasmp.onmicrosoft.com



Encourage your neighbour to join ArtsNational Canberra

Proposed Change to our Business Name

Matters have been developing so fast, these quarterly Newsletters can't keep up. As our Chair has said in her remarks above, we've done our best to keep you up to date through a series of emails. In addition, our Committee has separately promulgated a comprehensive minute from Chair, ArtsNational, Jane Smith. Unfortunately, for technical reasons, we can't reproduce it here so check your In Box.

Young Arts 2023

We have had a long and warm relationship with the Canberra Glassworks in Kingston, a unique institution in Australia. It trains the very best of practitioners and provides working facilities for practising glass artists.

This year we have provided a scholarship for a practising glass artist to attend one of the innovative professional workshops that the Glassworks are providing. In August, artist Granite Calimpong from the US gave a workshop in contemporary Glass Blowing techniques.

We were privileged to fund tuition for Keith Dougall, an established glass blower from Poatina in central Tasmania where he trains and encourages local artists. This workshop not only brings Keith up to date in latest techniques, but lets him pass on his knowledge to others.

Most of our Committee were able to visit the workshop and be escorted around by Aimee Frodsham. We not only met Keith, but we watched the work all the artists were doing. We learnt not only so much more about this wonderful institution, but also the ins and outs of glass, the furnaces and also the use of products like recycled tv screens. What a treat it was!

Elizabeth Rodgers, the director, was able to come to our AGM on 4 December. Sadly, Keith was unable to join us (serious back injury) but Robert Schwartz was able to step in at the last minute and gave us a short talk.



Keith Dougall at work.

New Members' Lunch

We held one on 15 September at *As Nature Intended* on Dairy Flat Road. It was a good opportunity for the seven new members who were able to attend to get to know the Committee. We're planning on having two such lunches in 2024.

Food for Thought

"Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts: the book of their deed; the book of their words; and the book of their art. Not one of these books can be understood unless we read the two others, but of the three the only trustworthy one is the last."

John Ruskin (8 February 1819 – 20 January 1900) was an English writer, philosopher, art critic and polymath of the Victorian era.



Osphranter rufus contemplating Ruskin.

Happy New Year!