

ADFAS Camden

Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Camden Inc

ABN: 41 917 925 347

Member of the Association of ADFAS (ArtsNational)



NEWSLETTER

June 2024

From the Chair

Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to our Winter edition of the newsletter.

Since our last Newsletter we have had a very interesting lecture on the history of photography and its use in art from UK lecturer Roger Mendham. Roger's excellent images certainly illustrated how artistic photography can be.

As you know, our lecture with Susannah Fullerton needed to be postponed and has been re-scheduled to 2 November.

The Camden Art Prize held a very successful opening on 10 May. ADFAS Camden sponsor the Marjory Baker Youth Award and Peter has included information on the outcome and the delighted winner, Rebecca Dunbier. Further to that, a painting by our founder, Patricia Johnston, was awarded Overall Winner in the event. Congratulations Patricia! See photos following.

Sadly, we say farewell to two loyal ADFAS Camden members. **RAY HERBERT**, passed away in April. Ray was a long-time member and active committee member of ADFAS Camden. His generosity in the time and technical skills he gave were greatly appreciated. Long time and enthusiastic member, **PAUL BOWRING**, also passed away last month. We will miss them both at lectures and our thoughts are with their families.

We look forward to seeing you at lectures,

Linda

Our Winter Lectures

1 June 2024

The Book of Kells: history and mystery

How was the amazing national treasure of Ireland, the Book of Kells, created? Join us for an illustrated lecture to learn more from calligrapher and artist,

Gemma Black.



6 July 2024

Antoni Gaudi I Cornet – Master Builder of Barcelona

Join us for an illustrated lecture on this extraordinary Spanish architect. Our UK presenter is art historian

Vivienne Lawes,



Lectures are held at Carrington Recreation Centre, Grasmere.

Annual membership \$145,

Visitors \$30 per lecture. Please book for visitors –

camden@adfascamden.org.au or

Gaylene 0417 659 587 or Pamela 0412 311 194

ART QUIZ by Cliff Reece

1. Which artist painted 'Cafe Terrace at Night', 'The Potato Eaters' and 'Irises'?



- 2: In which famous city would you find the Tate Modern?



- 3: Who is depicted in this statue and who was the sculptor?



- 4: What is the name of this famous building and what is its art form called?



- 5: What is the name of the world's largest painting?

Note: the artist can just be seen in the centre!



- 6: To become successful as a composer and musician is it necessary to be able to read and write sheet music?

- 7: Where is this famous sculpture and what does it represent?



- 8: What is the name of Grant Wood's famous 1930 painting which features a farmer and his daughter looking solemn?

- 9: Which two highly acclaimed books did George Orwell write?

- 10: What are the names of the five famous comedians known as the Marx Brothers?



ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 8

46th Camden Art Prize Exhibition and Competition, 2024

The official opening of the 2024 Camden Art Prize & Exhibition took place on Friday 10th May at Camden Civic Centre, and I was privileged to attend. This provided an opportunity to view all of the entries before the award winners were announced. Entry to the Exhibition and Opening Ceremony in the Auditorium was by way of the foyer which was graced by some of the wonderful works of renowned watercolourist, Brian Stratton, in displays titled 'The Outback and Ghost Towns' and 'Coastlines'.

MARJORY BAKER MEMORIAL YOUTH AWARD

Of particular interest to me were the youth awards. Since 2012 ADFAS Camden has been supporting the Camden Art Prize through our sponsorship of the **Marjory Baker Memorial Youth Award**, as part of our Young Arts program. This year there were several outstanding entries in this category, with the winning entry being by Year 11 student **Rebecca Dunbier** with her sculpture titled *Weathered*. Congratulations, Rebecca.



ADFAS Camden Treasurer, Pamela Hartley with Rebecca Dunbier and winning entry *Weathered* in the background



Patricia Johnston with *Native Blooms* (above) and *Summer in the Snowy* (below)

A NIGHT OF SURPRISES

However, the night also provided a couple of very pleasant surprises for at least one member of ADFAS Camden.

Our Foundation Chair, long term member of ADFAS Camden and well-known local artist **Patricia Johnston** entered two paintings. Not expecting any success, she was delighted when the first, *Native Blooms*, received a 'Highly commended' in the *Liz Kernohan AM Local Artist* section. And she was understandably even more delighted when her second entry *Summer in the Snowy* won the *Gaylene Feld Watercolour* section.

The night was not yet finished for Patricia as *Summer in the Snowy* was declared overall winner of the 2024 Exhibition and is to be acquired by the Art Prize Committee, to be donated to the Camden Council ongoing collection of winning entries. Congratulations, indeed, Patricia!

And if that was not all, **Rizwana Ahmad's** portrait of Patricia was 'Highly commended'!

Peter Claxton, Ed



ADFAS Camden, *A potted history* YOUNG ARTS

One of the Association of ADFAS's projects is to encourage Societies to promote arts activities that inspire young people with a lasting enthusiasm for the arts, an awareness of our arts heritage and its conservation and to expand the horizons of young people through their involvement in creative arts. However, it was not until 2011 that Committee began to explore ways in which ADFAS Camden could become involved in the Association's Young Arts program.

The first proposal was raised by committee member, Jo Carr who had recently attended a 'Baby Proms' concert in the city – a compered concert presented by an orchestra designed to introduce very young children (5-6 years and younger) to music and musical instruments. And so was born the **CAMDEN TODDLER PROMS**.

The second proposal arose from a discussion on ways to remember and acknowledge one of the foundation members of ADFAS Camden, Marjory Baker, a Camden artist who lived and breathed art, and wife of the respected artist Alan D. Baker. And so was born the annual **MARJORY BAKER MEMORIAL YOUTH AWARD**.

CAMDEN TODDLER PROMS

During 2011 lengthy discussions were held with Camden Council regarding access to facilities at Camden Civic Centre and with the local (Campbelltown based) Fisher's Ghost Youth Orchestra to provide both commentary and the music for a concert for young children. It was quite fortuitous that the orchestra conductor, David Griffin had presented similar concerts elsewhere on a couple of occasion, and so was aware of how to present to very young children.

The fact that the Youth Orchestra was available was a Young Arts bonus as it enabled ADFAS Camden to not only provide a musical experience to the young audience but also provide both concert presentation time and financial support to this group of young musicians.

On 1 April, 2012 at the Ferguson Gallery Camden, a very excited group of preschool children and their adults attended the very first **Camden Toddler Proms**. David Griffin and the Youth Orchestra took them through a delightful program of a mixture of nursery rhymes, themes from television programs, classical excerpts and a musical version of the Three Little Pigs in the style of "Peter and the Wolf". The little ones sat on the floor at the feet of the orchestra. They were introduced to the instruments in each section of the orchestra, and then shown the work of the conductor as he put all of the instruments together to form the orchestra.



The first Camden Toddler Prom, 2012

And this is what really made it all worthwhile.....

Hi Mrs Carr,

We had a fabulous day yesterday. My little son, who has a mild autistic condition, sits in class at school and never participates in much at all (and is hence academically about 2 years behind). He never puts his hand up and answers questions (as he is always in another world) and any comments he does make are usually random and way out of context.

So, to see him yesterday absolutely involved, and responsive and answering questions was like watching a miracle before my very eyes. And the fact that he knew that big drum was a tympani was tantamount to me watching him speak in a foreign tongue!!

I guess what they say is right - once these kids are focused on something which interests them, they can engage! You know, I was thinking of pulling him out of his piano lessons because I thought I was wasting my money, but I now have renewed hope. I am so delighted with the whole experience!

Please let me know of other events.

From a delighted mother

Camden Toddler Proms, later renamed **Camden Kiddies Concert**, provided a very rewarding experience not only to the audience but also to those members who organized and staged it, becoming an increasingly popular annual event until 2020 when the COVID 19 pandemic intervened in all of our lives.

In each of the years it was presented it was sponsored and supported by Macarthur Anglican School and Camden Council – and ADFAS Camden made an annual donation of \$500 to the Fishers Ghost Youth Orchestra.

MARJORY BAKER MEMORIAL YOUTH AWARD

The proposal to establish an award for local young artists (16-25 years) was taken to the organizing committee of the annual Camden Art Prize and negotiations involving incorporation of this new award into the Art Prize competition resulted in two ADFAS committee members joining the Art Prize committee (something of a *quid pro quo*?). The terms and conditions were eventually agreed and the **Marjory Baker Memorial Youth Award** was included in the Camden Art Prize for the first time in 2012. Applications were not restricted to a particular section and so applicants could submit up to two entries in the sections of their choice.

Emerging young local artist Krystal Kovacs was the first winner of the Camden Art Prize's new youth category.

Krystal's winning entry was a seascape triptych titled "*Uprising*". ADFAS Camden Chair, Pamela Hartley, presented the winner's cheque (\$750 provided by ADFAS Camden) at the Exhibition's opening ceremony on Friday 4th May 2012 at Camden Civic Centre.

Although the number of applicants was relatively low in the first year, it was agreed that ADFAS Camden would continue to support the new award for 5 years in the first instance with that support continuing to be provided beyond that time.

Over the years the award became increasingly popular, continuing on an annual basis until 2020, when, once again, COVID 19 intervened. It was resurrected, along with the Camden Art Prize in 2023.



Krystal Kovacs, winner of the inaugural Marjory Baker Memorial Youth Award, ADFAS chair, Pamela Hartley and Peter Claxton and her winning entry '*Uprising*' below).

The quality of entries by young artists has been quite high, to the point where one member of ADFAS Camden has purchased three of the winning entries, now proudly displayed at home. The **Marjory Baker Memorial Youth Award** has become a fitting memorial to Marjory who would have appreciated the encouragement it has provided for young local artists.

Krystal Kovacs winning entry 'Uprising'

Peter Claxton, Ed.



GAUGUIN'S WORLD: TONA IHO, TONA AO

A major exhibition opening at the National Gallery of Australia on 29 June, *Gauguin's World: Tōna Iho, Tōna Ao*, is curated by Henri Loyrette, a scholar of 19th century French art and former director of the Musée d'Orsay and the Musée du Louvre in Paris. He says it is the first exhibition devoted to Gauguin and Oceania, "a survey of his entire corpus as seen from his final destination, the Marquesas".

Paul Gauguin, born in Paris 1884, was a French painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramist and writer whose work has been associated with the Post-Impressionist and Symbolist movements. He exhibited with the impressionists in the early 1880's. He began to develop his own style with his bold use of colour and less traditional subject matter.

In the 1890's Gauguin's art took a significant turn during his time in Tahiti. "When Gauguin landed in the Marquesas in September 1901, he knew that he had reached his journey's end; he had at last found his 'true homeland', the place to which he had always aspired," says curator, Henri Loyrette.

"In the 20 months before his death, he continued to develop his art while, in his writings, he set out to review his career as a whole.

This is the starting point for an exhibition that reveals that introspection and the art that preceded it, returning to the questions that haunted him as an



Paul Gauguin, *Femmes de Tahiti* 1891, oil on canvas, 69.0 x 91.5, Don Countess Vitali, 1923. © Musée d'Orsay, Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Patrice Schmidt

artist – the challenges that he set himself and solved in his quest for his own identity” stated Loyrette.

Over sixty lenders from as far as the United States, Japan, Sao Paulo, Tahiti and Abu Dhabi have shared works from their collections. Seventeen exceptional works from the Musee d’Orsay in Paris have also been included in the exhibition. Musee de Tahiti et des iles is also a contributor including works by Gauguin and 19th century Marquesan sculptural works.

The exhibition will feature some of “Gauguin’s most recognized and acknowledged masterpieces and the gallery will explore Gauguin’s life, art and controversial legacy through talks, public programs, a podcast series and films.

The exhibition is being organized in partnership with Art Exhibitions Australia and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where it will be displayed after its Canberra run.

Where: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
When: 29 Jun – 7 Oct 2024
Curator: Henri Loyrette



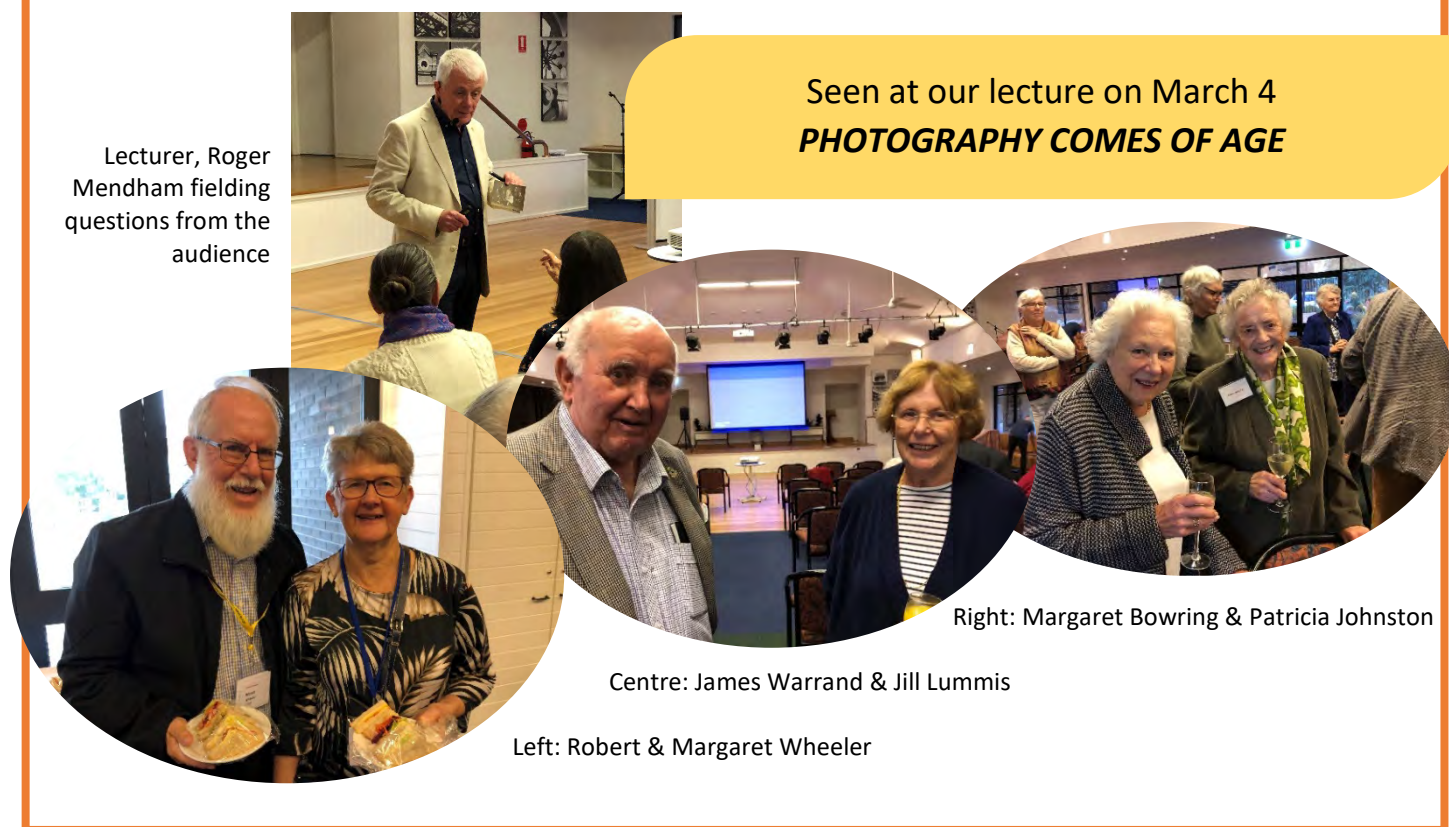
Paul Gauguin, *The Sacred Mountain (Parahi Te Marae)*, 1892, oil on canvas, 66 x 88.9 cm, Philadelphia Museum of Art. Gift of Mr and Mrs Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee 1980

Compiled by Gaylene Feld
Resources:

NGA GAUGUIN'S WORLD: TONA IHO, TONA AO
Wikipedia
Foodwinetravel.com.au

Lecturer, Roger Mendham fielding questions from the audience

Seen at our lecture on March 4
PHOTOGRAPHY COMES OF AGE



Right: Margaret Bowring & Patricia Johnston

Centre: James Warrand & Jill Lummis

Left: Robert & Margaret Wheeler

ANSWERS TO ART QUIZ

1. Vincent van Gogh (1853-90) was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. In just over a decade, he created approximately 2,100 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings, most of them in the last two years of his life.
2. London, UK. Tate Modern is the jewel in the crown of modern art galleries in London. With 5.7 million visitors it is in the top ten most visited museums and galleries in the world. The collection holds masterpieces of international and British modern art.
3. *Moses* is a sculpture by the Italian High Renaissance artist Michelangelo, housed in the church of San Pietro in Vincoli in Rome.
4. Geisel Library in La Jolla, California. For fans of both the art form known as 'brutalism' and Dr. Seuss, there's only one building that matters: Geisel Library. Named after local La Jolla author and benefactor Theodor Seuss Geisel, the library is the somewhat unlikely home to a vast collection of Dr. Seuss drawings, books, audio recordings, and memorabilia—over 8,500 items in all, plus a large bronze statue of the *Cat in the Hat* that greets visitors.
5. Measuring over 17,000 square feet, *The Journey of Humanity* is roughly equivalent in size to four NBA-regulation basketball courts. The work was created by British painter Sacha Jafri in order to raise money for children's charities. He used 1,065 paint brushes and 6,300 litres of paint. It sold for AUD\$95 million!
6. No, it's not. In a *60 Minutes* interview, Paul McCartney revealed that neither he nor his bandmates known as *The Beatles* could read or write sheet music. Instead, they would hum tunes, commit them to memory, and reproduce their pitch. This made it easier for the musicians to remember the tunes and also helped ingrain the music in listeners' minds, propelling the band to stardom.

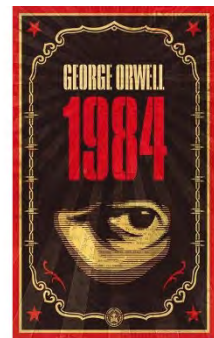
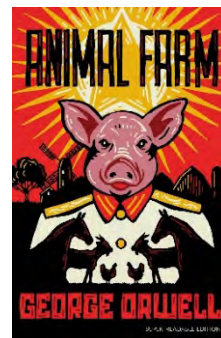


7. The *Great Sphinx of Giza* is a limestone statue of a reclining sphinx, a mythical creature with the head of a human and the body of a lion. Facing directly from west to east, it stands on the Giza Plateau on the west bank of the Nile in Giza, Egypt. The face of the Sphinx appears to represent the pharaoh Khafre.

8. *American Gothic*. Grant Wood aimed to create a positive statement about rural American values and provide an image of reassurance at a time of great hardship and disenchantment brought on by the Great Depression. The man and woman in the painting represented stoic survivors.



9. *Animal Farm* and 1984.



10. Brothers were Chico/ Harpo/ Groucho/ Gummo/ Zeppo.



"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies."
Groucho Marx

Ofc' Retired Editor

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