



**ARTSNATIONAL**  
Canberra



ADFAS Canberra Inc  
ABN 65 303 903 455

**ARTSNATIONAL CANBERRA NEWSLETTER**    **3 2024**

***SPRING***



## A Word from our Chair



Spring is sprung. De grass is riz,  
I wonder where de boidies is?  
All de boids am on de wing.  
But dat's absoid:  
De wings am on de boid!



I don't know where this kindergarten doggerel came from but with the vernal equinox rapidly approaching, this piece is timely. Spring is indeed upon us and it's a fresh and welcome release from Canberra's bitter winter.

One of the joys of being on our Committee is the bittersweet exercise of selecting the following year's lectures: bitter because of the vast number we have to put aside; and sweet because of the ones we can fit in our program. And we have yet again come up with another beauty! We'll give you the result in the Summer Newsletter coming out in early December and you'll be able to share in our bittersweetness.

Meanwhile, enjoy the warmth and the wattle!

With best wishes,

Sue Healy OAM

Chair

ArtsNational Canberra

P.S. Our numbers of members and guests have increased considerably over the past year so we must be doing something right.

## Getting to Know Your Committee

In this Newsletter, we introduce **Myra Croke, our Treasurer**

I was 'recruited' in 2018 by the then Chair of Canberra, Lola Wilkins. After retiring, I did what many of us do after sitting in an office environment for many years, I joined a gym to get fit. It was during aqua aerobic classes over several months that I got to know Lola and she convinced me of the merits of ADFAS and the committee's need for a new Treasurer (as the then Treasurer was retiring). So at the AGM in December 2018, I signed up as a member, joined the committee and became Treasurer.



I really enjoy my role on the Committee — perhaps because people in my family like being organised and we all love a good spreadsheet! I also get to do some creative work for bookmarks and promotions.

I had a career of 40 years in the Australian Public Service — with 25 fascinating and busy years in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and concluding in my last role as Chief Operating Officer at the Department of Parliamentary Services – an organisation of over 1,000 people. I worked with some great people on a lot of fascinating but sometimes stressful areas — everything from preparing the swearing-in documents for several ministries, to being the liaison officer coordinating government business in the Senate for three years, to Cabinet arrangements for six years and over ten years managing governance and audit arrangements. Since early 2021, I have been an independent member on the Audit Committee for a Commonwealth organisation.

While ArtsNational and my fitness classes (and the essential coffee and catchup after those) keep me busy, I manage to find time for our garden and veggie patch, and also to fit in my other loves — knitting and sewing. And with five little



great-nieces and nephews, there are always jumpers to be knitted and toys to be made. Recent projects include a very cute bunny, a large vintage style bee dressed as a ballerina, and a unicorn — also dressed as a ballerina.

I'm currently working on a very detailed fair isle jumper for me in four-ply merino and possum yarn. Such fun!



## **Gemma Black**

It was virtually standing room only on 3 June when Gemma Black enthralled us with her lecture on *The Book of Kells*, with 222 people attending. Our appetites have been whetted for more and so the following books are recommended:

***The Book of Kells (1974): Reproductions from the Manuscript in Trinity College* by Françoise Henry (scholar of early Irish art, archaeologist, and art historian)**

***The Book of Kells (1994)* by Dr Bernard Meehan (past Keeper of Manuscripts Trinity College Dublin)**

***The Book of Kells (1980)* by Peter Brown (past Keeper of Manuscripts Trinity College Dublin)**

## **Vivienne Lawes**

In like manner, Viv Lawes spoke to us on 8 July about *The Honourable East India Company and East-West Trade: Chintz, Chinese Export and Chinoiserie 1600-1800*, and has given us a select bibliography. There were more than the English involved out there: Dutch, of course, but also Danes, Swedes, Portuguese, and French. And there were much more than spices and silks to be traded.

**Berg, Maxine, Felecia Gottmann & Hanna Hodacs (2015)**  
*Goods from the East, 1600-1800: Trading Eurasia.* Springer

**Crossman, Carl (1991)** *The Decorative Arts of the China Trade: Paintings, Furnishings and Exotic Curiosities.* Antique Collectors' Club. Find on Abe Books.

**Dalrymple, William (2020)** *The Anarchy.* Bloomsbury.

**Frankopan, Peter (2016)** *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World.* Bloomsbury.

**Frankopan, Peter (2019)** *The New Silk Roads. The Present and Future of the World.* Bloomsbury.

**Keay, John (2010).** *The Honourable Company. A History of the English East India Company.* Harper Collins.

**Sutton, Jean (2000).** *Lords of the East. The East India Company and its Ships (1600-1874).* Conway Maritime Press.

**Vollmer, John (1983).** *Silk Roads, China Ships.* Royal Ontario Museum. Find on Abe Books.

By the way, we hope you all noticed the marvellous raffle prizes that night, which included an exotic teapot and a selection of teas in a box from The Tea Centre. Deb McMillan and Arnis Stonis devote imagination and research in selecting these prizes that match the topic of the lecture. There are some real treasures coming up. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Be in it to win it!

## Andrew Hopkins

Andrew delivered a fascinating account of *Andrea Palladio's Venetian Villas* on 5 August. Not content with that, avid listeners prevailed upon him for even more during our refreshments break.



## Canberra Glassworks

And speaking of raffles, our Committee has decided to invest \$3,000 this year towards the development of two very promising students at the Glassworks.

Proceeds from our raffles are the source of these funds — so thank you!



## For Your Calendar — Monday 2 December

Please hold the date for our **Annual General Meeting**. We've invited CEO Elizabeth Rogers and Artistic Director Aimee Frodsham from Canberra Glassworks, and the two students mentioned above to tell us about their current work and future plans. The AGM will be followed by our **Christmas Party**. Registration details will be advised shortly.

## Our last lectures for 2024

16 September 2024

### PUZZLING OUT PICASSO

Alan READ

#### **Bio**

Alan holds a master's and first-class honours degree in History of Art from Birkbeck College, London. He has been a gallery guide at Tate Britain, Tate Modern, the National Portrait Gallery and for Frieze Masters. He also regularly lectures at the NPG, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Plymouth City Art Gallery as well as other galleries in the UK. He also works as a London Blue Badge Guide and a City of London Guide.



#### **Lecture**



How can you best understand one of the most prolific, complex and influential painters of the 20th century? By taking just ten of Picasso's paintings, this lecture will examine his life and attempt to explain the evolution of his painting styles through a career that spanned more than seventy years. Looking at the genesis of each work, examining its biographical meaning, its moment in history and its significance in the canon of modern art will reveal the truth behind this most enigmatic and powerful artist.

*The Three Dancers by Pablo Picasso. Image provided by Alan Read.*  
Also at [www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/picasso-the-three-dancers-t00729](http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/picasso-the-three-dancers-t00729)

14 October 2024

## THE ART AND CRAFT OF THE PEWTERER

Andrew SPIRA

### **Bio**

Andrew studied at the Courtauld Institute and Kings College, London. He then worked at the Temple Gallery, London and as a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the British galleries and the Silver, Metalwork and Jewellery department. Subsequently he was Programme Director at Christie's Education for 14 years. He has taken numerous groups on cultural visits to Russia, Armenia, Georgia, Romania, Crete, Turkey, Tunisia amongst others. Andrew is the author of numerous books.



### **Lecture**



Pewter is little remembered and little appreciated, but it was once at the heart of daily life. This talk will describe the history and decorative techniques of the pewter trade, as well as the differences between the various national styles. Andrew will also explore how changing social circumstances led to the decline of the pewter trade — how it managed (only just) to survive into the 19th century, partly thanks to the patronage of inns and pubs. (You are invited to bring pewter objects for discussion after the lecture!)

*Image courtesy of Andrew Spira*

### **Special offer from the National Library**

We all enjoy the very special facilities offered by the National Library for our monthly lectures. And they enjoy having us!

We are pleased to let you know that the National Library Bookshop and Publishing teams have now extended the *Friends of the NLA* discount to all ArtsNational Canberra members, for newly released NLA publications in the *Artist Series*.

They kindly offer 15% discount on the following, which can be applied online using code **ANNLA**, or in person at the bookshop:

[NLA Artist Series – Harold Casneaux](#)

[NLA Artist Series – Ellis Rowan](#)

The Artists of the National Library of Australia series showcases the Library's extensive Pictures Collection, no doubt of great interest to many of you.



### **New Members' Lunch**

We have 16 new members and will be holding a lunch with them at Bakesmith at Pialligo on Friday 20 September.

If you can make it, please tell Liz Quinn, our Membership Secretary at [adfasmembershipcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:adfasmembershipcanberra@gmail.com). This is a good opportunity for new members to get to know some Committee members (and vice versa!)

## **Patricia Robertson Fund**

Founding Chair and immediate past Patron, Patricia Robertson, had long recognised that conservation is a significantly underfunded area of the arts and suggested that ArtsNational could make a meaningful difference to this vital work. In 2009 the Association of ArtsNational celebrated its 20th anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, it was decided to actively support the conservation of Australian cultural materials in accordance with the ArtsNational mission statement and spirit of giving.

ArtsNational Canberra joins our fellow Societies in making an annual contribution to this fund. Ours is a modest \$2 per member – but it all helps.

## **PATRICIA ROBERTSON FUND**

### **T H A N K S**

## **ArtsNational Canberra**

for their kind

### **DONATION**

This donation assists the PRF in its important role

In its important role in the preservation of  
our national and cultural heritage.

For more information see:

<https://www.artsnational.au/conservation-and-philanthropy/>

## Musical Jokes

In 1749, Holy Roman Empress Maria Theresa complained about a treble in the St Steven's Cathedral choir, calling his singing "crowing". The teenager she was referring to had already been a problem for the choirmaster and when, shortly afterwards, he cut off the pigtail of another choirboy, he was caned and summarily dismissed from the choir. The crowing prankster's name was Joseph Haydn.

This nature as a joker didn't cease with adulthood, and Haydn was fond of musical jokes in his later works. One of the best-known is in the final movement of Symphony No. 60, *Il Distratto*. Opening with great energy and excitement, the music abruptly comes to a halt at the end of the first phrase, and then the violinists mimic tuning their instruments, before continuing as if nothing had happened.

Another great example is the *Farewell* Symphony, No. 45. At the time, Haydn's employer Prince Esterhazy, along with his musicians, had been staying at his summer palace for far longer than expected. The musicians wanted to go home and implored Haydn to request they be permitted to leave. Instead, Haydn wrote this symphony, wherein as the music approaches its end, the players are instructed to snuff out their candles and leave, one by one, until only two violinists remain – originally the composer himself and his concertmaster. The prince ordered that the entire court return home the next day.

Haydn's former student, Mozart, had a sense of humour that notoriously tended towards the vulgar. So perhaps Haydn was channelling his friend when he wrote Symphony No. 93. Towards the end of the second movement, the music softens and slows, gradually dimming until, finally, a great fortissimo "fart" from a bassoon breaks the serenity, followed nonchalantly by an elegant coda.

Courtesy of [jacquilawson.com](http://jacquilawson.com)



Joseph Haydn

### Food for Thought

- If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. **Anne Bradstreet** (1612–1672). *She was the most prominent of early English poets of North America and the first writer in England's North American colonies to be published.*
- No matter how long the winter, Spring is sure to follow. **Proverb**
- The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter. **Jen Selinsky**, author of "Springtime in London."

