



ArtsNational Gold Coast

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

Formerly the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society
& Associate Member of the Arts Society UK



Ouroboros by Australian artist Lindy Lee From the Chair

2025 has been a great year for our program at ArtsNational Gold Coast. The year started dramatically with the lingering Cyclone Alfred which caused mostly minor damage to our well-prepared residents – but it also caused some misery with loss of power to many and a reasonably long recovery time. Fortunately, structural damage and flooding issues have been addressed but our beaches still need a lot of remediation.

Our first three speakers, Marc Allum, Susannah Fullerton and Simon Whitehouse exceeded expectations. They also coped magnificently with a few Cyclone Alfred challenges.

Marc Allum, superb presenter from the famous *Antiques Roadshow* demonstrated not only his broad expertise but he also gave unique insights into the production of the show. His resilience in coping with the Alfred-damaged hotel was amazing. Let's hope we can secure a repeat visit from him soon.

Susannah Fullerton managed to coordinate her visit with the opening of HOTA's exhibition of *Writers Revealed*. She is returning with a Sydney group to visit the exhibition. The good news is that we are planning an event with her in February 2026. Many members are followers of her newsletter, *Notes from a Book Addict* and I am sure her return will be welcomed.

Simon Whitehouse gave us two excellent lectures. His themes were *Charles Dickens, Man of the Theatre* and *Whodunnit? Agatha Christie's Life and Crimes in London*. These titles emphasise what a wonderful London guide he is. We hope he will get back to our part of the world one day.

With such interesting topics, it is not surprising that our membership is flourishing at a time of considerable financial stress in our community. We have almost 30 new members this year.

Moving forward to the second half of the year, renowned cartoonist Harry Venning is stepping in at last minute to replace September's lecturer, Anna Moszynska. His widely appreciated comic strip, *Clare in the Community*, revolves around the quirky dilemmas of social work and social workers. It was surprising to learn that Harry is an ambassador for SWU (Social Workers Union) in the UK. We are in for a treat.

With best wishes

Gordon

Gordon Wright, Chairman ArtsNational Gold Coast

HARRY VENNING and Clare in the Community

From Clare in the Community: the first 20 years: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/nov/24/clare-in-the-community-20-years-exhibition>



For more than 20 years, Harry Venning's weekly cartoon strips in *The Guardian* newspaper portrayed the exploits of social worker, Clare (left), a self-righteous, self-centred hypocrite who bullied everyone around her. Her lack of self-awareness made her the butt of thousands of jokes and also elevated her to 'the most famous social worker in Britain' status. Creator Harry Venning says when Clare in the Community first appeared in the Guardian's Society section in 1995, he thought she would only last a few weeks. But the cartoon outlasted Society editors, three prime ministers and countless social care ministers. Clare, played by Sally Phillips has gone on to star in her own award-winning BBC Radio 4 sitcom. The inspiration for Clare was Venning's then girlfriend, a social worker. **Below: two Harry Venning Clare cartoons:**



Click for clearer images - Above left: https://i.guim.co.uk/img/media/dc7b263552d4afe1df26202377499f072d10f807/0_0_2006_824/master/2006.jpg?width=465&dpr=1&s=none&crop=none
Above right: <https://brightonsource.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Harry-Venning-introductions-Clare-in-the-Community-35-Gallery-North-Brighton-Source-Time-for-Heroes-Photography-Ashley-Laurence.jpg>

ArtsNational GOLD COAST 2025: NEW MEMBERS



A very warm welcome to all our ArtsNational Gold Coast new members for 2025

We have had a wonderful response so far this year with 30 new members already and no doubt more will be joining in the coming months. I am sure you are now familiar with our Saturday morning lecture and morning tea format and that you have enjoyed the excellent lectures so professionally presented in recent months. As you know we are also offering some 'double' events this year in the form of an additional lecture or special cultural event after the main Saturday lecture.

Being a completely voluntary organization, we are always looking for Volunteers to assist with small tasks at lectures so please let us know if you can contribute. We would also love to hear from anyone interested in joining the Committee. You are most welcome to come along to a committee meeting as an observer to find out more about how our association operates. No-one is obliged to take on a particular role. We always welcome new ideas and input and there is the option of becoming an ad hoc committee member if you would like to contribute to discussion and decision making. We endeavour to canvass the views of our members as widely as possible.

So don't be shy! Ask away if you have any questions and please approach me or another Committee member if you would like to take a more active role in our organization. Many hands make light work and ArtsNational Gold Coast depends on those who give their time to make it all happen.

Contact number for Bernadette: 0484 227 065

Bernadette Fulton



BERGEN'S GREAT SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

Bergen (right), the second largest city of Norway, was founded by King Olav Kyrre, son of Harald Hadrade in 1070 AD. It has always been a major trading centre and is in a spectacular region known as "the heart of the fjords". It was a former capital of Norway and a central trading port of merchants of the Hanseatic League. Today it is a wonderful tourist destination visited by many cruises. The quays of the Middle Ages are now a world heritage site centred in the historic district of Bryggen.

Hansen, Ibsen and Grieg all had strong links with Bergen, and they are celebrated in the city.



Hansen was born in Bergen and became a prominent physician. His statue (left) is in a garden at the University of Bergen. He advanced his studies in Bonn and Vienna and developed a major interest in Leprosy. Based on epidemiological studies, he developed the hypothesis that leprosy was an infectious disease. This was controversial at this time. With Albert Neisser, tissue sampled by Hansen

was shown to contain *Mycobacterium leprae*. All patients were later shown to have these bacteria. This was a huge discovery in 1873 and now Hansen's Disease is an alternative name for leprosy.

Hendrik Ibsen is Norway's most famous playwright. His works include *The Doll's House*, *The Wild Duck* and *Hedda Gabler*. His works remain popular and are resonant with contemporary audiences. He was born in Skien in Northern Norway and was part of a wealthy extended family. His father's business failed during his childhood, and the family fortune was lost. Ibsen was forced to leave school. He was apprenticed to an apothecary but showed little aptitude for this work. He began writing generally unsuccessful plays. This eventually led him to being employed by *Det Theater Bergen* and in this post, he directed over 140 plays. He kept writing plays during this time. Again, they were not successful but his experience of the theatre helped him to improve. His efforts in Bergen allowed him to return to Oslo where he took up the post of director at Christiana Theatre. On his return to Christiana, he married Suzannah Thoresen and his son Sigurd was born. His theatre work was a success but he became disillusioned and moved to Italy where his writing began to flourish. His breakthrough work was a play entitled *Brand*. It was rapidly followed by *Peer Gynt*. Edvard Grieg wrote his famous incidental music for this play. The music and the play remain classics.

While Ibsen only spent a few formative years in Berge his association remains a key and appropriately, his statue (right) is in front of the theatre in Bergen.



Ibsen statue image credit: <https://dynamic-media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-o/18/6e/77/29/the-playwright-and-his.jpg?w=1200&h=1200&s=1>



Edvard Grieg (left) combined Nordic folk music with 19th century romanticism and his works are performed worldwide.

Image credit: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/50/Edvard_Grieg_portrait_%28cropped%29.jpg/330px-Edvard_Grieg_portrait_%28cropped%29.jpg, the great composer and pianist is closely associated with the development of modern Norway

Grieg was born to a wealthy family in Bergen and it should be noted that he did have some Scottish ancestry. His extended family included the famous violinist Ole Bull who encouraged Grieg's parents to send him to the conservatory in Leipzig at the age of 15. This clearly benefitted his prodigious talent. His works are diverse but his collaboration with Ibsen helped the development of his famous Peer Gynt work. Grieg is recognised by the city of Bergen with the Grieg Hall and the Grieg Academy. The sight of many young musicians in Bergen shows the continuing benefit of his great work. The Edvard Grieg Museum is in his old family home (below left) and you can visit his studio

beside the fjord (right) where he composed his music.

The modern world, not just Norway, has benefitted from these cultural and scientific icons.



To enjoy listening to some of Edvard Grieg's beautiful music please click on these links:

*Edvard Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No.1 & No.2 - Bjarte Engeset (op. 46, op. 55, op. 23) Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra 44:13 min
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kpqALC8IbI>

*Edvard Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 Mov. 4 (In the Hall of the Mountain King) | National Symphony Orchestra 2:50 Min

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0XI_6svOI0

*Edvard Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16 - Håvard Gimse - Giordano Bellincampi with the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra 29:08 min <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-NPZ7w80GA>



Gordon Wright

OUROBOROS



I happened to be in Canberra for the weekend in early February this year and visited the National Gallery to view *Ouroboros*, an immersive public sculpture by Australian artist Lindy Lee. Commissioned to celebrate the National Gallery's 40th anniversary in 2022, it was installed in the National Sculpture Garden in October 2024. At a cost of \$14,000,000, Lindy Lee's 13-tonne *Ouroboros* is Australia's single most expensive sculpture. *Ouroboros* measures around four metres high and weighs approximately 13 tonnes. The sculpture also incorporates recycled materials, maximising renewable energy and measures to minimise its carbon impact, making it one of Australia's first sustainable works of public art.



*See a 1 min video of *Ouroboros* presented by artist Lindy Lee:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-24/act-national-gallery-unveils-14-million-ouroboros-sculpture/104512598>

Ouroboros is based on the ancient image of a snake eating its own tail; an image seen across cultures and millennia – the symbol of eternal return of cycles of birth, death and renewal. The earliest known depiction of an ouroboros is found in the tomb of King Tutankhamun and dates back to the 14th century BC. Its location at the entrance of the National Gallery enables visitors to enter the 'mouth' of the sculpture and walk into the curved interior to experience darkness illuminated by light beams emanating from the thousands of perforations on its

stainless steel surface. The stainless steel finish has been designed to last for at least 500 years.



With more than four decades' experience, Meanjin/Brisbane-born Lindy Lee's sculpture explores her Chinese ancestry through Taoism and Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism and their links to humanity and nature. Although Brisbane born, Lee's grandparents and parents immigrated to Australia from China's Guangdong province between 1946 and 1953. Lee initially studied to be a high school teacher, graduating from Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education in 1975. She later travelled to Europe where her encounters with art and museums inspired her to pursue a career as an artist. Lee studied fine arts at Chelsea College of Arts in London (1980) and later at Sydney College of the Arts (1984). She now lives and works in the Byron Bay hinterland in New South Wales. More information on Lindy Lee: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindy_Lee



The "Enlighten" light exhibition was also on in Canberra that weekend so I went to visit the National Gallery at night as well and was able to see the same sculptural piece at night.

During the day the highly polished mirrored surface reflects the imagery of the floating world, the transience of passers-by, cars, birds in flight and passing clouds. At night the *Ouroboros* is lit internally, returning its light to the world.

To anyone visiting Canberra, I recommend calling at the Gallery to view this amazing sculpture.



Click on these links for more information on how *Ouroboros* was created and transferred from Brisbane to Canberra:

*Making a \$14 million sculpture 🎨📺 | Compass | ABC Australia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2piqioEGVk> 6.34 min

*<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-06-19/act-ouroboros-statue-travels-to-national-gallery-in-canberra/103990496>

Dianne Cecil

THE NATIONAL QUILT MUSEUM: Paducah, Kentucky, USA

"What was the most amazing part of your holiday?" we are all often asked.

Last year, as first-timers on the mighty Mississippi River from New Orleans to St. Paul / Minneapolis then on to Chicago, there were many WOW moments – the live music, the food, the history, Louisiana antebellum homes, *Graceland*, the RIVER, its traffic and



the 26 locks – did I mention the food and the music?

I have to say that nothing prepared us for the array of exquisite quilts exhibited at The National Quilt Museum on a bank of the Ohio River in the small town of Paducah, Kentucky. It is an art museum that exhibits fibre art and quilting from



around the world and is recognized as one of the world's top quilt displays.

Above left: *Tickled Pink*, 2005 Susan Carlson

Above right: *Something about Succulents*, 2022, Cynthia England, Canyon Lake, TX

Left: *Pineapple Surprise* 2006 Judy Spiers, Foxworth, MS

The National Quilt Museum was established by Bill and Meredith Schroeder of Paducah and opened to the public on April 25, 1991. It is the only museum dedicated to contemporary quilts and quilters in USA.

The museum supports local and expert quilters by providing workshops and other educational activities.

<https://quiltmuseum.org/>

Simply stunning!!

Wendy Spencer



VALDEZ: Oil, sculptures, earthquakes and the MAXINE and JESSE WHITNEY MUSEUM



It was the first time I had visited Valdez – on a cruise from Vancouver to Tokyo via Alaska and the Aleutian Islands – and after being amazed by the museums there, I wondered why it had taken me so long to do it.

Valdez sits on a narrow plain between the Chugach Mountains and Prince William Sound in Alaska. It is where oil is exported overseas after being piped more than 800 miles from the North Shelf Oilfields of Prudoe Bay through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. **More information on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline:** <https://www.valdezalaska.org/discover/history/trans-alaska-pipeline/>

Remember the Exxon Valdez disaster?

The Exxon Valdez oil spill was a manmade disaster that occurred when “Exxon Valdez”, an oil tanker owned by the Exxon Shipping Company, spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska’s Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989. It was the worst oil spill in U.S. history until the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. The Exxon Valdez oil slick covered 1,300 miles of coastline and killed hundreds of thousands of seabirds, otters, seals and whales. Nearly 30 years later, pockets of crude oil remain in some locations. After the spill, Exxon Valdez returned to service under a different name, operating for more than two decades as an oil tanker and ore carrier.

More information on the Exxon Valdez disaster: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exxon_Valdez_oil_spill

Map image credits: Valdez showing Prince William Sound and Chugach Mountains: <https://alaskatrekker.com/images/valdez.gif>

Below left: Alaska showing Valdez as red dot: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/66/Alaska_Map_-_Valdez.png/640px-Alaska_Map_-_Valdez.png



Valdez is home to the *Valdez Museum* and *Remembering Old Valdez Exhibit* with its history and culture of Valdez from the Gold Rush to the present day, as well as the *Maxine and Jesse Whitney Museum* with its rare collection of Alaska Native artifacts, clothing and animal mounts. In the Community Centre in town, a film of the destructive 1964 Alaskan Earthquake shows continuously. This earthquake is also known as the Great Alaskan Earthquake and the Good Friday Earthquake, which occurred at 5:36 PM AKST on Good Friday, March 27. Across south-central Alaska, ground fissures, collapsing structures and tsunamis resulting from the earthquake caused about 131 deaths. The old town of Valdez had

to be relocated and rebuilt.

The **Maxine and Jesse Whitney Museum** is housed in the Prince William Sound College buildings and named after the Whitneys who had arrived in Alaska from California after World War 2 in order for Jesse to get work. Times were hard and accommodation virtually non-existent but Alaska suited them and eventually they ended up in Fairbanks where Maxine became friendly with Alma Eades who owned a small museum with fossils like mammoth tusks she had collected on her travels to work sites. She also collected indigenous artifacts. Maxine accompanied Alma on her collecting expeditions and was smitten by the people, their artifacts and the animals. When Alma eventually sold her business, Maxine bought it and the business went from strength to strength. After Jesse’s death in 1990, Maxine moved the museum to Valdez so the collection could remain in Alaska.



Left: moose and bison and my husband John, face to face with the bison, demonstrating the comparative size of the animal. Right: size of a polar bear compared to me



Below: muskox; wolf; wolverine (its fur is water resistant so is used inside hoods of Inuit parkas); mountain lion



Below: Traditional Inuit life with miniature dolls carved from walrus ivory and whalebone and dressed in animal skins



Below: from Inuit to Frontier: masks made from whalebone, wood and feather; intricate basket weaving; traditional hand-decorated Inuit fur boots



(sorry about the reflections showing on the glass cases of the exhibits); Far right: Frontier furniture – moose antler chair

Below: Models of everyday life including working fish wheels for catching salmon; Scrimshaw and carving in walrus ivory



Let's not forget sled dogs, Tondo and Skipper (left), who may have been part of the original 1925 diphtheria serum run to Nome, forerunner of the present day Iditarod race... Information on the 1925 Serum Run to Nome: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1925_serum_run_to_Nome ... and then there are the wooden and bronze sculptures along the waterfront (right). Top right: a bronze commemorating pioneers on their way to the Klondike gold fields

Below right: sea legends carved in wood
There's so much of interest to see in Valdez. It was well worth the wait.
Val Shooter



SCRIMSHAW



Scrimshaw is engravings and carvings decorating ivory and the by-products of whaling such as teeth (left) and bone. It also appears on shells and antlers. The engravings are then highlighted by rubbing pigment into it. This form of art was traditionally created by whalers during long whaling voyages as it provided a welcome escape for men missing home and loved ones. Done at night and in the sailors' free time, scrimshaw now presents historic snapshots of life as a whaler.

For thousands of years prior to the whaling industry, the Inuit of the Arctic and the Wampanoag people of Cape Cod, USA, also created scrimshaw.

For more information, and to make your own scrimshaw, check the video below!

<https://www.nps.gov/caco/planyourvisit/make-your-own-scrimshaw.htm#:~:text=Scrimshaw%20are%20engravings%20and%20carvings,of%20whales%2C%20such%20as%20bone.>

How much can scrimshaw art cost?

From Boston.com July 25, 2017: <https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2017/07/25/this-scrimshaw-whales-tooth-sold-for-a-record-456000/>

This Edward Burdett scrimshaw whale's tooth (right), sold for record-breaking \$US 456,000 at a Cape Cod auction. The prized 8-inch tooth piece depicts a 19th-century whaling ship, the "William Tell", flying an American flag. It was created by Edward, a whaler and widely acclaimed artist from Nantucket while he was onboard the ship between 1830 and 1833. Burdett was killed in 1833 after becoming entangled in a line and dragged overboard by a whale when he was just 28 years old.

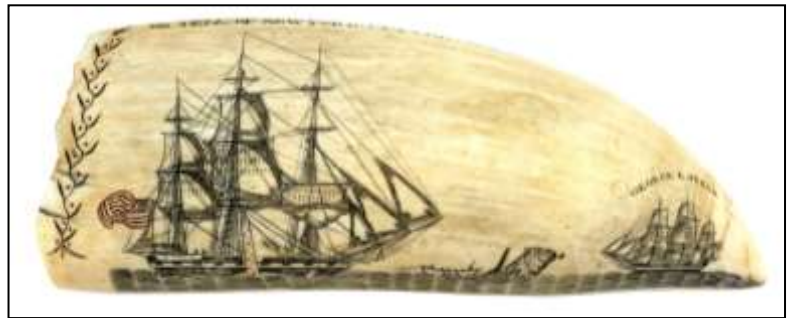


Image credit right: https://www.boston.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Burdett_1-1.jpg

For more information on tools and materials, and images of Scrimshaw:

*What is scrimshaw by Noble Collectibles: <https://noblecustomknives.com/what-is-scrimshaw/> Image above: <https://cdn-ilahfkn.nitrocdn.com/YHEQOPrmqfthDiCZIBAZbCbpmRPMhkw/assets/images/optimized/rev-451383b/noblecustomknives.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/what-is-scrimshaw-1536x726.jpg>

*The Industry of Van Dieman's Land: Scrimshaw Art from ABC Education and the Maritime Museum of Tasmania 1:54 min video <https://www.abc.net.au/education/the-industry-of-van-diemens-land-scrimshaw-art/13865098>



To see an exhibition of scrimshaw in Australia: visit Albany's Historic Whaling Station: 81 Whaling Station Road, Torndirrup WA 6330

<https://discoverybay.com.au/blog/events/the-art-of-scrimshaw/>

From their website:

Housed within the Gary Tonkin

Gallery, 'The Art of Scrimshaw' exhibition is a permanent addition to our onsite experience exploring the history and creative process of scrimshaw in the context of the whaling industry. Visitors can learn about the complexities of this traditional art form through an interactive touchscreen and unique exhibition design.

The Art of Scrimshaw features artwork from internationally renowned Scrimshander (scrimschaw artist) Gary Tonkin (right). It includes his largest and most intricately carved piece which took 30 years to create – an intact 4-metre-long Sperm whale jawbone.

More information: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-14/whale-bone-scrimshaw-gary-tonkin-exhibit-albany-whaling-station/102338730>

Image address: https://live-production.wcms.abc-cdn.net.au/3bf01a23ebdab634b19a6a0e1e7a19ec?impolicy=wcms_crop_resize&cropH=2473&cropW=3709&xPos=0&yPos=77&width=862&height=575

Val Shooter



ArtsNational Gold Coast MOVIE DAY: WIDOW CLICQUOT

In February, member Lee Kennedy suggested that some of our members may be interested in going as a group to see the movie, *Widow Clicquot*.



Back in August 2022, in his lecture, *Madame la Veuve Clicquot: a Toast to the Champagne Widow*, ArtsNational Australian speaker John Broadley had acquainted us with the trials and tribulations of Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin Clicquot, the woman responsible for the Veuve Clicquot champagne dynasty that began during the late 18th and early 19th centuries in Revolutionary and Napoleonic France.

A small group of us gathered under the Gold Coast's ArtsNational banner and raised a glass of bubbles to the Widow Clicquot (sadly there was no VC available at 10am on that Friday morning) and headed into the cinema. Most enjoyable – the movie and the bubbles!!

Wendy Spencer



EXTRA LECTURE: SOLO PERFORMANCE by CLASSICAL GUITARIST, RUPERT BOYD



Saturday 12 July 2025 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Location: The Lakeside Room, HOTA

Internationally acclaimed classical guitarist and a direct descendant of the iconic Boyd family, Rupert BOYD is the grandson of Robin Boyd, one of Australia's most influential architects, and part of a lineage that includes celebrated painter Arthur Boyd and artist-potter David Boyd. Rupert is one of Australia's finest classical guitarists, praised by Gramophone as "a very fine musician" and The Washington Post as "truly evocative". He has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and

festivals across four continents. As a soloist and chamber musician, he tours internationally with *Boyd Meets Girl* and the *Australian Guitar Duo*. His recordings have topped Billboard charts and earned over 5 million streams. Boyd holds degrees from ANU, Manhattan School of Music, and Yale, and is co-artistic director of GatherNYC. He lives in New York with his wife, Laura and son Milo. Join us, as there is something for everyone from this exceptional performer.



Click on these links to listen to three varied solo guitar performances by Rupert Boyd:

👉 **Solo Performance 1:** Prelude in E Major, BWV 1006a - J.S. Bach (1685-1750) 7:21 min

👉 **Solo Performance 2:** "Julia" by Lennon-McCartney performed by Rupert Boyd on a 2024 Jose Marin Plazuelo classical guitar 2:30 min

👉 **Solo Performance 3:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnyJgCVj0IE> J. S. Bach's "Gavotte En Rondeau, BWV 1006A" performed by Rupert Boyd on a 1965 Ignacio Fleta guitar 3:34 min

Link for bookings (via Trybooking): <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1398725>

HOTA GALLERY NEWS

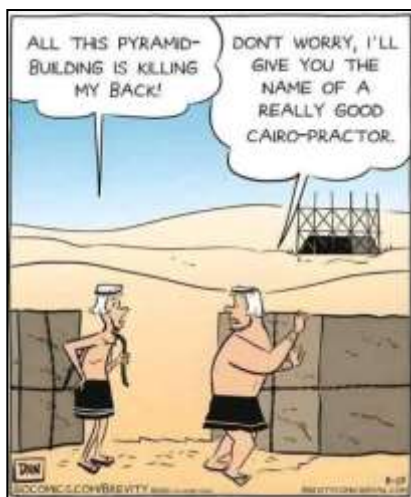


HOTA Gallery is delighted to offer ArtsNational Gold Coast members discounted entry to current major international exhibition, *Writers Revealed: Treasures from the British Library and the National Portrait Gallery, London*. Book via HOTA's website using the promo code 'shakespeare' for 50% off an adult price ticket. Writers Revealed is on until 3 August 2025.

Left: Image credit: *James Joyce* by Jacques-Emile Blanche, oil on canvas, 1935 © National Portrait Gallery, London

Julie McLaren
Senior Curator,
HOTA Gallery





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PHOTO GALLERY – March, April and May lectures



