

# Yarra News

Summer 2025 Vol. 36 No. 1

## *From the Chair*

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2025.

Our February lecture The Art of the Cartoon by Harry Venning, cartoonist, comedy writer and performer was very well attended despite the hot and windy day. Members got treated to all of Harry's skills as his lecture included humour, history, live drawing and some of the tricks and techniques of the cartoonists trade.

This year we welcome 22 new ADFAS members many of whom were able to attend the morning tea for new members hosted by our Treasurer Jane Anthony. We welcome also our returning members and thank you for your ongoing support. Sadly, several long-term members have resigned this year, and we thank them for their many years of support.

Our March lecturer, Marc Allum, will be familiar to those of you who watch Antiques Roadshow. Marc's lecture Auctioneers Tales: 35 Years in the Art Market will give us an insight into the world of art and antiques. Our April lecturer, Simon Whitehouse, will explore Oscar Wilde's literary successes, focusing on The Importance of Being Earnest.

As in previous years there will be 2 special interest events and 2 excursions during the year. Special Interest lectures are held on Wednesday afternoons in the Caulfield Cup Room starting at 1.30. They run for 2 hours with a break for afternoon tea. The cost per lecture is \$45.

Our first Special Interest afternoon Covent Garden: the Theatres Royal and the Birth of Theatreland will be held on 30th April. Our first excursion for the year on April 10th is to the Buddhist Stupa in Bendigo, the largest in the western world. Bookings for both events will be via TryBooking, and members will be advised by email when bookings open.

Profits from the special Interest lectures and excursions are used to support our Young and Emerging Arts program. I encourage you to read the article in this newsletter by our Young Arts Co-ordinator Liz Zenner, detailing our 2024 Young Arts awards.



Your committee is currently considering the lecture and special interest topics to be presented in 2026. This, plus the interaction we have with lecturers and the fact that we can hear each lecture twice are two of the side benefits of being a committee member. Lecture days are both pleasurable and hard work and we really appreciate the assistance that we receive from members on those days.

We really encourage new members to consider joining our committee. Please don't think that long-term membership is a prerequisite! Two of our current committee members joined both ADFAS Yarra and the committee last year. So please consider joining. We need some new blood particularly as several of our current committee members will be leaving at the end of this year.

I look forward to seeing you at our next lecture on 13th March.

Jan Bennelick  
Chair, ADFAS Yarra

*I am sure you will all know about and have been to many Archibald Prize Exhibitions. I was fortunate to interview Stephanie Galloway-Brown for Zoneone Arts. I asked her many questions about her work as a portrait artist. Leading me to delve deeper and ask about how an artist goes about entering the Archibald Prize.*

**DB:** Tell us about entering the Archibald Prize?

**SGB:** The Archibald is Australia's most prestigious portrait painting prize. It gets a lot of media attention and thousands of eyes will gaze across the finalists' portraits. It's extremely hard to get into and for me it has been one of my high-ranking achievement goal. I was very excited when I found out I'd been selected as a finalist for 2024. The exhibition also travels for the next year around various galleries, so it receives a very large audience. I had tried entering three times, before I was selected for the Salon des Refuge which is also a very good achievement.



Kathrin Longhurst, 121.5 x 91.5 cms, Finalist Archibald prize 2024 with Stephanie Galloway-Brown

Questions that immediately come up? Who does the artists choose to paint? What is the format necessary for the person they paint? What are the steps?

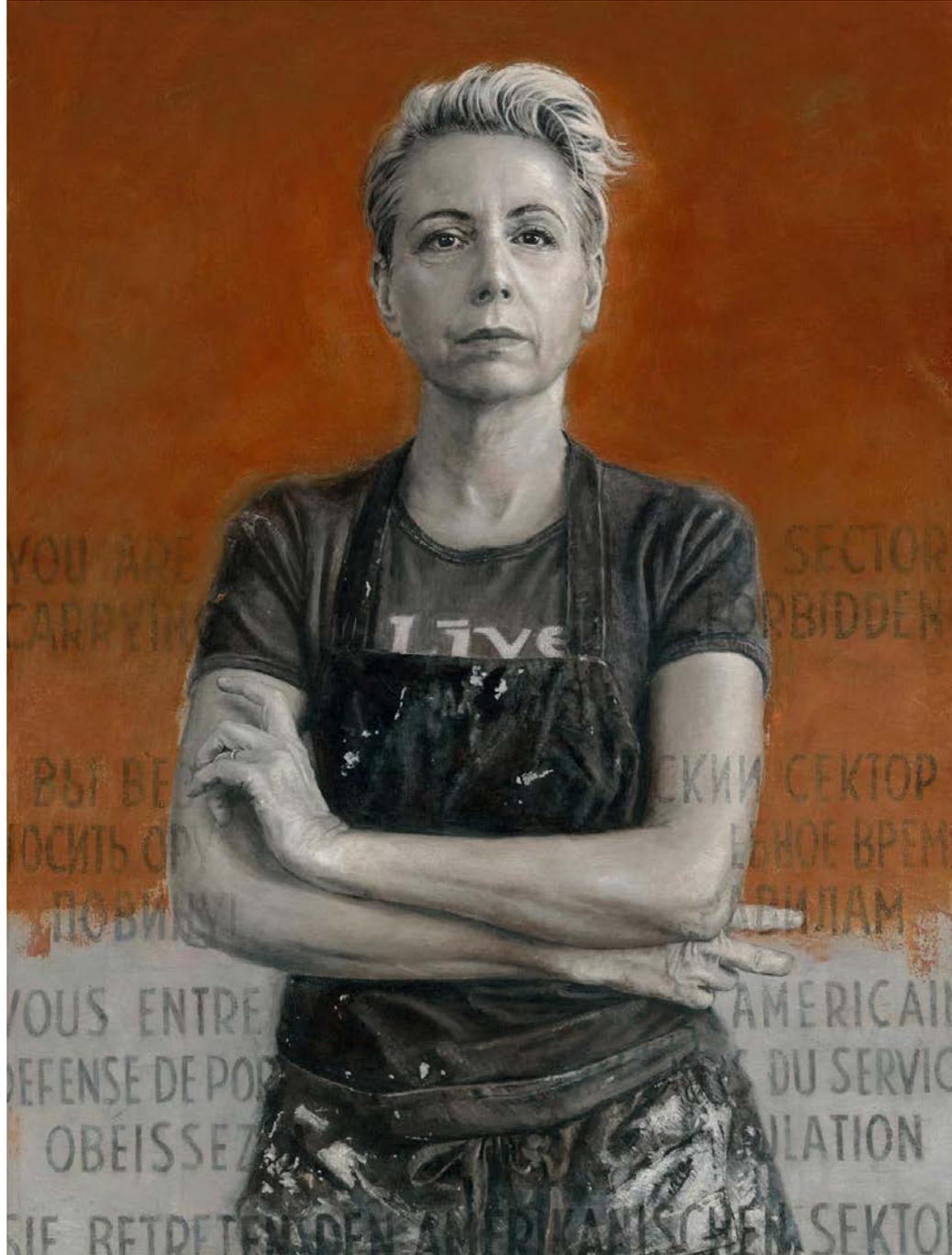
**Firstly, 5 things that must be in place**

**The work**

- Must be a painting.
- Must be a portrait painted from life, with the subject known to the artist, aware of the artist's intention and having at least one live sitting with the artist.
- Must NOT exceed the size limit of 90,000 square cm, with a maximum height of 3m (e.g. height x width: 3 x 3 m, 1.5 x 6 m).

Stephanie was able to answer all these questions.

**DB: How and why did you choose Kathrin Longhurst, and a little about her?**



**SGB:** It was a last minute, decision to enter the Archibald as I was bogged down with commissions. I've known Kathrin for a long time and had been wanting to paint her for a while so had a good visual idea of how I wanted to approach the portrait. It also just seemed like good timing with where she was, in her career and so I rang and asked if anyone else was painting her that year and as luck would have it, she was free and agreed. I was also in admiration not only of her art but of her project on the refugee portrait series. Kathrin's own story of her life growing up behind the Berlin Wall reflected on my time I had spent in Berlin standing on the other side of that wall. That is how the painting evolved.

**DB:** Usually, there are about 700 entries in the Archibald Prize, but only about 40 are selected as finalists for display. Some of the winning artists have had to enter for many years before they made the final display of paintings.

It is a very fair price to enter around \$25. The artist must be an Australian but can be living in Australia or New Zealand.

It doesn't have to be a famous person, but preferentially it is, of someone who is distinguished in art, letters, science or politics. As you can see Kathrin Longhurst is also an artist.

You may like to read the full interview and learn more about Stephanie Galloway-Brown <https://zoneonearts.com.au/stephanie-galloway-brown/> and wet your appetite to read about other artists who have been interviewed by Deborah Blakeley a member of ADFAS Yarra.

# ADFAS Yarra Excursion April 10th 2025

## The Largest Stupa in the Southern Hemisphere

Immerse yourself in Tibetan culture, architecture, art and interfaith harmony with a tour taking you inside one of the most sacred buildings in Buddhism.



We break our journey in Kyneton to view Kathryn Portelli's Mosaic Mural Memorial entitled "After" dedicated in memory of the 2009 Black Saturday Fires

There are a number of excellent coffee shops in the vicinity as well as toilet facilities.

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion rises to an impressive height of almost 50 metres from the Whipstick Forest, just outside Bendigo. It is based on the Great Stupa of Gyantse in Tibet and is being built to last 1000 years. Housed inside are many holy relics, Tibetan artefacts and statues including the world-renowned Jade Buddha for Universal Peace.

Upon arrival, lunch is provided at the Stupa Café where those who wish can view a 10 minute introductory video.

The tour begins with a guided walk through the Peace Park surrounding the Stupa, prior to a tour of the vast interior of the Stupa with its colourful handmade silk panels and statues. Dominating the space is the remarkable Jade Buddha. You will learn of the discovery in Canada of the massive piece of jewel quality jade, its sculpting and long journey to Australia.



The Peace Park is dedicated to interfaith harmony with water features, sculptures and symbols from different faiths on display among the flourishing gardens. The unique park incorporates gardens and symbols from Catholic, Sikh, Hindu, Bahai and Sri Lankan faiths and local communities.

Also of interest is an Indigenous yarning circle surrounded by a native bush tucker garden established by the Dja Dja Wurrung Caln.

***Buggies can be booked for those with mobility issues***

At the conclusion of the tour we journey directly home expecting to arrive at Central Park by 4:30pm

## *Excursions & Special Events*

### **THURSDAY 10 APRIL**

#### **EXCURSION: The Stupa of Universal Compassion, Bendigo**

Our autumn trip will be to the Great Stupa near Bendigo which is based on the famous Great Stupa of Gyantse in Tibet which is more than 600 years old. The base of the Bendigo Stupa is 50m square and it is almost 50m high. This makes it the biggest stupa in the Western World. The stupa is significant for Tibetan Buddhism but people from all walks of life are warmly welcomed to visit this amazing site.



### **WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL**

#### **SPECIAL INTEREST AFTERNOON: Simon Whitehouse**

Covent Garden: the Theatres Royal and the birth of Theatreland Learn the origins of two legendary theatres that gave birth to modern West End theatre. In 1663 King Charles II revived British theatre after 18 years of closure by issuing royal licenses to two men, laying the foundations of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Meet the men that shaped the buildings and starred at the theatres: David Garrick, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and Augustus Harris. Encounter the trailblazing women who took these stages by storm including Nell Gwynne, Mrs. Siddons and Adelina Patti.



It has been a wonderful year . As the new Young Arts coordinator, I hit the ground running in January and was extremely grateful for the briefings and extensive notes from Suzanne Katz who had held the position for the past 3 years

Arranging meetings with our award recipients was a great way to get to know the portfolios and the people involved. Quickly invitations to openings and other events followed as well as the opportunity to visit some facilities. A steep learning curve was followed by great enjoyment of participating in this space helped by encouragement from our wonderful committee.

We have donated a total of \$12,000 in the past year and aim for more in 2025. Part of the job is to find new "worthy "causes to support and there are some potential projects coming up including the area of conservation - watch this space. Also, we like to encourage our creatives in the use of natural/recycled materials and be inclusive of a diverse range of artists where possible. Of course there is room for more and we are always interested to hear of any potential new projects ( from our members) in which we could become involved.

ADFAS Yarra members should be pleased that the philanthropy dollars are being well spent and here is a summary of our current beneficiaries .

## 1/ Arts Project

This is a creative social enterprise supporting artists with intellectual disabilities ,promotes their work and advocates for their inclusion in contemporary art practice . Mediums include painting , drawing , ceramics , sculpture , printmaking, photography and more . Some of the participants sell their works locally , nationally and internationally ! 2024 was the 50th anniversary of Arts Project . In mid year the exhibition called Bendable Realities was held at the Collingwood Yards and was supported by ADFAS Yarra which was acknowledged in the exhibition catalogue as well as the Leonard Joel magazine , Art Collection Magazine and the Art Guide .

## 2/ ANAM ( Australian National Academy of Music)

Letter from our prize recipient

"Dear ADFAS Yarra,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for selecting me as the recipient of the ADFAS Yarra prize for the most outstanding program in an ANAM recital. I am deeply honoured and grateful to have received this amazing award. I plan to use the funds to support my overseas study in Europe in 2026.....

Theonie Wang"

We are delighted to continue our support for ANAM and its outstanding young musicians . The committee has been fortunate to attend some of their recitals during the year and would encourage music lovers to look at some of their programs going forward - a very dynamic and innovative group.





### 3/ RMIT Master of Fine Art

We have awarded a prize for an outstanding student in this course for some years now. In 2024 the award was shared between 2 recipients.

The first - Diya Mathur- explored the transgenerational impacts of the 1947 partition of India . Her work "Mind the Map" uses turmeric to create an ephemeral map on the floor establishing a cartography that underscores the transient nature of territory and its representation ( It is swept away after the exhibition and only exists in photos!)

Fiona Morgan- based in regional Victoria - was the second recipient. Her practice is focussed on Painting and Installation primarily and concentrates on abstraction, materiality and space, employing strategies for maintaining hope and joy in an ever more anxious world and political environment.



### 4/ Craft Inc

This is a conscious craft initiative based in the CBD and aims to amplify the voices of Australian makers committed to reimagining their creative processes for a brighter and more sustainable future. Among the products found here are Glassware, ceramics and jewellery. Our contribution to Craft Inc supported the vitrine space displaying glass works by Cheryl Edwards for her collection called Aqueous.

### 5/ St Martins Youth Theatre

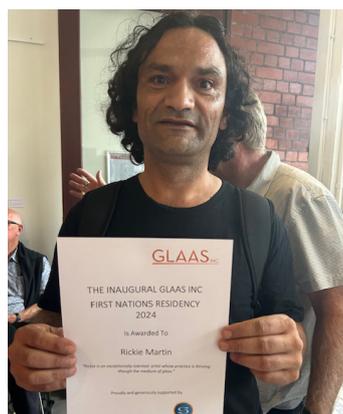
This year we were excited to partner with this group. A young and enthusiastic group of young people who are studying various aspects of theatre comprise Young Martins. Mid- year was the launch of their production called "The Word". Our donation helped to fund Alara Briggs Pattison develop the musical score for the production. Both myself and Kerry Lee were fortunate to be invited to the opening night of the production and have the opportunity to meet with the some of the cast.



### 6/ GLAAS

In 2023 ADFAS Yarra helped fund a young, indigenous man - Ricky Martin - to complete a certificate 3 in glassmaking . Ricky has furthered his studies in 2024 , completing certificate 4. He is showing exceptional talent and innovation in mastering this art in which he is just beginning his journey and is already undertaking a public commission ! GLAAS is part of Prahran Polytechnic and they have been very welcoming to ADFAS Yarra and very appreciative of our support which we hope to continue into 2025 .

7/ Patricia Robinson Fund received a donation from ADFAS Yarra . The PRF is a National Body that is active in promoting projects in the conservation space of the Arts.



# Upcoming Events

## Lecture 2

THURSDAY 13 MARCH

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

### Auctioneers Tales - 35 Years in the Art Market

With three decades under his belt Marc has gathered a wealth of experience and fascinating tales based on his work in the auction business. This insightful talk will both amaze and amuse as he recounts incredible stories of great discoveries and emotive situations.

MARC ALLUM



## Lecture 3

THURSDAY 1 MAY

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

### A HAAAAND BAAAAG? The Importance of Being Oscar (& Earnest)

This lecture explores Oscar's literary successes, beginning with *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1890. Simon will focus on *The Importance of Being Earnest*, one of the funniest, most performed and most quoted plays in English. Described as 'A Trivial Comedy for Serious People', it was of its time and yet ahead of its time, satirising the shallowness of upper-class Victorian society. Simon explores the hidden elements which the audience then (and now) were not aware of and we discover that, for the author, this triumph heralded the beginning of his own fatal final act.

SIMONWHITEHOUSE



## Lecture 4

THURSDAY 5 JUNE

10.00 am & 1.30 pm

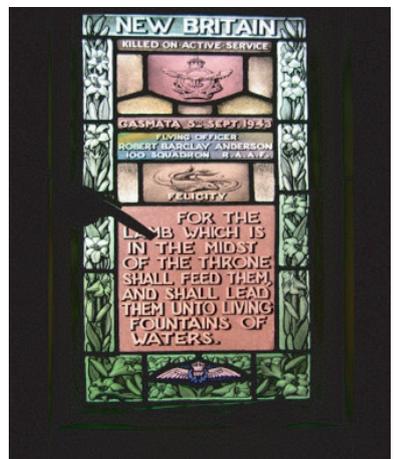
### Lights Everlasting:

#### Australia's commemorative stained glass from the Boer War to Vietnam

Australia's war memorial stained glass, which stretches across more than a century from the Boer War to Vietnam, holds a rich artistic, echnological and architectural history. While stone soldiers were erected in suburbs and country towns across the country, churches, schools and civic buildings installed stained

glass to remember those who fought for God, King and Empire. Despite their artistic excellence many windows are largely unknown or forgotten. This presentation aims to reveal the diversity of commemorations in glass - all of which increase our awareness and knowledge of Australian art history and society.

BRONWYN HUGHES



**Guests are most welcome to attend lectures. Prior booking for guests is essential and a \$25 fee applies. Please call Esther Lewin on 0493 433 817 for further details.**

Send contributions, including interesting art and design articles, travel articles, jokes, life's helpful hints, art exhibitions to: **Editor:** Wendy Coxhead to [adfasyarra@gmail.com](mailto:adfasyarra@gmail.com)  
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