

TOP OF THE TORRENS

art gallery newsletter

| April - May 2023 |



Dates at a glance:

Welcome to new Member:
Yvonne Twining

Current Exhibition:
'Artisans in Autumn'
showing until 2nd July 2023

Next Exhibition:
'A Creative Journey'
SALA Members Exhibition
9th July to 27th August

Next General Meeting:
10 am Tuesday 11th July 2023
at the Gallery

*Material for future newsletters
can be left at the gallery marked:*

Attention-Rosie Trenergy
or emailed to:
tott@tottgallery.com.au

*Please type TOTT NEWSLETTER
in the subject field.*



It was very pleasing for me to see so many of our TOTT members with their family and friends attending the opening of 'Artisans in Autumn' exhibition on Sunday 14th May. The day was a beautiful sunny autumn day and, it also happened to be Mothers Day!

'Artisans in Autumn' is a brilliant exhibition showcasing the best of many of our wonderful members and our special guest exhibitors - I urge you to make some time to check it all out.

Our **SALA exhibition is locked in for an opening on 9th July** - so make sure that one is marked on your calendar. Being involved with the SALA (*South Australian Living Artists*) festival is one of the years highlights for our gallery.

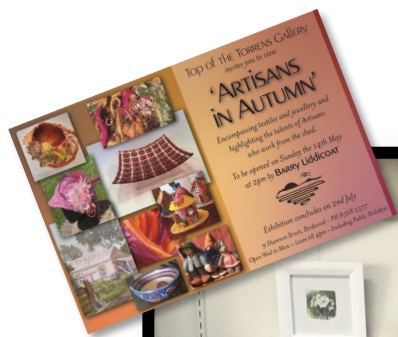
There is a lot of preliminary work that is involved with organising a SALA exhibition, particularly with regards the registration of artists, so I thank those volunteer members that have done the hard work to get you all registered!

On a different note, your membership to TOTT will be due on the 1st July - TOTT members will soon be receiving your membership information.

I believe our TOTT members enjoy one of the best deals of any regional gallery so, I look forward to your continued membership for 2023/24.

John Ragless

Chairperson - Top of the Torrens Gallery



TOTT member & talented woodturner Barry Liddicoat addressed a vibrant gathering of around 50 people to officially open 'Artisans in Autumn'. He was full of praise for the works of the exhibiting artists, saying - *"I especially like being involved in the Birdwood Gallery, as I find the diversity of art and craft which includes painting, fabric, wood, leather, jewellery, metal, glasswork and photography, is of such a high standard."*

When minding the gallery, visitors - who can come from all over Australia - quite often comment how much they too appreciate the variety and skill of the artists and the exceptional quality of their displayed work."

Barry went on to say *"With the gallery area divided in half with one side a gift shop and the other a changing exhibition space, I think that those involved in the organisation of all this do an excellent job."*

Featured artists include:

**Ann Beacham
Marg Benkis
Jacky Cooper
Karina Cuttle
Ann Davenport
Annette Dawson
Joe Dennis
Jenny Denton
Lynda Fanshaw
Marie Hume
Rosene Kotz
Samantha Kotz**

**Anna McKenzie
Christine Murphy
Alana Preece
John Ragless
Rosemary Rowe
Carolyn Scholz
Lyn Stephens
Robyn Smith
Rosie Trenerry
Yvonne Twining
John Weight
Rae Winter
Hayley Wright**



'Artisans in Autumn' ... so much to see and enjoy!

ANZAC DAY 2023

A report by TOTT Member Malcolm Herrmann

The Gumeracha RSL sub branch managed the local commemoration of Anzac Day, with this year's theme being the 70th Anniversary of the cessation of the Korean War (1953) and 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War (1973).

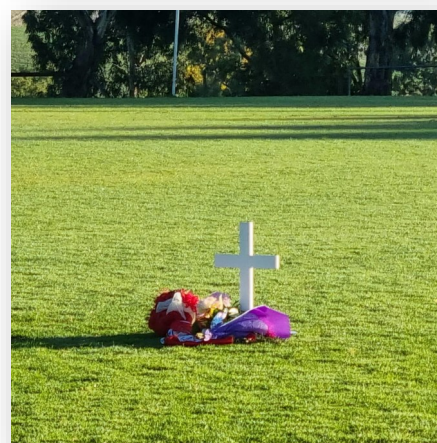
One (1) serviceman from the district enlisted for the Korean War. He was KIA in 1953 and his nephew attended the service.

20 people served in Vietnam many of whom were able to attend. Those who attended were presented with an inscribed cross and a packet of Anzac biscuits.

In addition to the normal service, a cross and wreaths were laid in memory of Antonio Loiacono, a Birdwood footballer who was tragically killed the previous Saturday while playing against Gumeracha.

About 600 hundred people attended the Gumeracha event, which was followed by breakfast in the Hall provided by the Torrens Valley Lions Club.

Later in the morning, a short memorial service was also held at the Birdwood Arch where 12 wreaths were laid.



'ANZAC COVE'

A poem by **Leon Gellert**

Published with the kind permission of his estate

There's a lonely stretch of hillocks.
There's a beach asleep and drear.
There's a battered broken fort beside the sea.
There are sunken trampled graves,
And a little rotting pier,
And winding paths that wind unceasingly.

There's a torn and silent valley.
There's a tiny rivulet
With some blood upon the stones beside its
mouth.

There are lines of buried bones.
There's an unpaid waiting debt.
There's a sound of gentle sobbing in the South.

January 1916

From top:

- Gumeracha Oval
- Local Vietnam Vets with Gumeracha RSL Treasurer Malcolm Herrmann
- Memorial for Antonio Loiacono
- Birdwood Arch



TOP OF THE TORRENS GALLERY BIRDWOOD

9 Shannon Street, Birdwood
PH 8568 5577
Open Wednesday until Monday
11am to 4pm
Including Public Holidays
www.tottgallery.com.au

For more information about exhibitions and the gift shop, phone the gallery, view our website or follow us on Facebook.

‘CAPTURED’
Jill Allanson, John Wallace and Friends
5 February - 19 March

‘A TRIO OF TREATS’
Rosene Kotz, Samantha Kotz and Penny Verco
26 March - 7 May

‘ARTISANS IN AUTUMN’
Maker’s Exhibition
14 May - 2 July

‘A CREATIVE JOURNEY’
SALA - South Australian Living Artist’s Exhibition
9 July - 27 August

‘GAWLER ART GROUP’
3 September - 15 October

‘OFF THE COUCH ART GROUP’
22 October - 3 December

‘AN ECLECTIC MIX’
Summer Member’s Exhibition
10 December - 28 January 2024

2023 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

SALA

Dear Exhibiting Member Artists,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in ‘A Creative Journey’ the upcoming **SALA** exhibition.

Please Remember

To keep our exhibition experience fresh and new to all viewers, only work that has not been previously exhibited at TOTT Gallery will be accepted for the exhibition space.

The number of paintings or wall hanging pieces that may be entered per artist—

- *Three if small, (A4 or less – *including frame*)
- *Two if larger than A4 or
- *One if extra-large (*greater than one square metre in total size*)

3D works, textiles, pottery etc. items per artist –

- * up to seven (*This number is negotiable depending on size – please contact Annette*)

Exhibition Timetable

Artwork delivery date is by Wednesday 5th of July – 11am to 4pm.

The entry fee of \$20 is also payable by this date. Artwork must be accompanied by your agreement to exhibit and inventory forms and each item must be individually marked with your name, priced and ready to hang or otherwise display.

The exhibition set up day is Thursday the 6th July

Official opening date is Sunday 9th of July at 2pm

The exhibition concludes on Sunday the 27th August

Artwork is to be collected & signed out by Wednesday 30th of August

Annette Dawson - Exhibition Co-ordinator

Artist of the month - April

Alana Preece



I am fascinated with colour, light, line and space and the way these elements interact with each other on the forms and surfaces of the natural world around me. In particular, the way in which these elements combine to inform us on a subconscious level and the impact this has on our wellbeing.

I grew up in Tasmania in a close relationship with the natural environment and throughout my life elements of the Australian landscape continue to inspire my work. Born with an eye for detail, a keen sense of design and an innate awareness of the spaces around us, I have always been able to 'see' beyond the surface and pieces of life to a 'bigger whole'. This has fueled my lifelong quest as an artist to take the viewer beyond the surface of the work to a quiet place of connection to self (and all of life).

During my 30+ years in Tasmania, my creative output was varied; painting, drawing, ceramics, stained glass and the ever-present tactile process of working with and creation of textiles (sewing, spinning and weaving).

Since developing my professional arts practice my oeuvre has been broad, though largely centred on painting and drawing in all mediums, across all genres (including portraits).

For many years in Adelaide I also painted interior murals in hospitals, special schools, offices, cafes and homes. This work was particularly sought after for its healing/therapeutic qualities. Since 2005 I have been creating unique mosaic mirrors, which have also included many commissions. These mirrors are an extension of my quest to take the viewer beyond the surface of the artwork.

In January 2017 I was introduced to the 'wet felting' technique and immediately began creating nuno felt 'wearable' art pieces (scarves/wraps). These beautiful lightweight, one-of-a-kind pieces are a 3D extension of my decades of painting the Australian landscape combined with my lifelong love of textiles and my belief in the ability of colour and line to affect our psyche and therefore wellbeing.

In these wearable pieces, through a sensitive use of colour and line and a transparency that reveals 'another side' the wearer is wrapped in aspects of landscape, becoming part of the piece.

In 2018 brooches, handmade in polymer clay arose in response to the 'wearable' art scarves/wraps. They too are aspects of landscape, snippets of memory, connection to a bigger picture, other places.

I have been exhibiting my work for many decades and during this time have won many awards and prizes. Over the decades I have completed many commissions, in all mediums and genres in which I have worked. My work is held in public and private collections throughout Australia and overseas.

In 2016 my website (www.alanapreece.com), a comprehensive collection of my work and intent was included in the Australian National Digital Archive (PANDORA), deemed by the State Library of South Australia (in conjunction with the National Library of Australia), as being of "cultural significance and long term research value to ongoing generations".

I work from a home studio in Redwood Park, South Australia



Artist of the month - May

John Ragless

John discovered woodturning upon retirement from a career as a cartographer. Some of the skills developed with the aesthetic aspects in making maps have come to the fore in the timber pieces that John has been creating over the last 10 years.

In his own words John says
“I am a hobbyist ‘woody’ who accidently became a woodturner. My wife and son bought me a lathe for my 60th birthday. The same year, I joined a great woodturning club and that was the start of my career as a woodturning artist.



The bowls and other pieces that I create are both decorative and functional and reflect the colours and textures of the Adelaide Hills. They are made from a variety of different woods and often also feature a variety of glazes, resins or decorative inclusions”





What's on at The Art Gallery of SA?

*Have you noticed that AGSA's beautiful, 6 metre sculpture **The Life of Stars** by Lindy Lee is now back in the forecourt?*

The Andy Warhol Exhibition is now finished but Lindy Lee's sculpture stands proudly in its new position on the west side of the building. It was repositioned so that the forecourt could be better used for functions and events. How great it is to see it again!

There's much happening around the Gallery as usual. Here are the major exhibitions showing at the moment and all are FREE. Remember there are free tours at 11 am and 2pm. Meet the Guide in the front foyer just before the time you've chosen.

Interwoven Journeys: The Michael Abbott collection of Asian art / Curator:Rusty Kelty

3 December 2022 – 2 July 2023

This exhibition celebrates the many remarkable gifts to AGSA from South Australian barrister Michael Abbott, AO KC. In Asia, Abbott developed a fascination for textiles — their materiality, meaning and capacity to carry rich cultural traditions. Interwoven Journeys invites visitors to experience the breadth of South Asian and South East Asian art and includes a focus on Balinese, Sumatran and Javanese textiles, including the world's oldest dated Javanese batik, exhibited for the first time.

Ramsay Art Prize / Curator: Erin Davidson

27 May – 27 August 2023 **Free exhibition** Finalists announced 21 April 2023 Winner announced 26 May 2023

Milton Moon: Crafting modernism / Curator: Rebecca Evans

6 May – 6 August 2023 **Free exhibition**

Explores the life and career of Milton Moon AM (1926–2019), one of the most important Australian potters of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. A pioneer of the modernist approach to ceramics in the post-war period, Moon had an enormous impact on Australian art and craft throughout his career as both an artist and educator.

Many of you may have heard of Milton Moon and seen his work. He was born in Queensland but from 1969 lived in Adelaide and lectured at the SA School of Art, retiring to Summertown in 1975 where he had a studio and lived with his wife, Bette Moon. He is such an interesting character and his love of the Australian environment, the craft of ceramics, Zen Buddhism and Japan are reflected in his work.

Coming up in June!Frida and Diego: Love and Revolution

24 Jun – 17 Sep 2023 Galleries 22, 23, 25 Ticketed exhibition

This is expected to be a very popular exhibition. More about it in the next Newsletter!

Have you heard about First Fridays?

Join us on the first Friday of every month for a curated program of live music, talks & tours are free and cater for all ages.

June's First Friday: [Echoes and Voices](#) Fri 2 June 2023, 5-9pm

Tuesday Lunchtime Talks

Every Tuesday at lunchtime, curators, artists and guest speakers share details and insights about significant works of art on display or exhibition themes with an engaged audience – both live and online.

These are recorded and you can access the podcasts of these at [AGSA's Soundcloud site](#).

I find these excellent to listen to when I go for a walk or sit down for a breather.

This week's is an excellent talk on the **Milton Moon Exhibition** which opened on 6 May.

Enjoy the lovely month of May! - Ann Davenport



A fabulous range of original, high quality,
affordable gift ideas are waiting
to be discovered at the TOTT Gift Shop

OPEN 11 am - 4 pm Wednesday to Monday
9 Shannon Street Birdwood SA
(adjacent the National Motor Museum)

www.tottgallery.com.au