



Pastel Society of Western Australia Newsletter

Newsletter August 2012

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The Pastel Society of W.A.

President: Anne Rice
Vice President: Julie Silvester
Secretary: Mike Rice
Treasurer: Caroline Smith

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Pastel Society A.G.M.

Thank you to all members who attended the A.G.M. on Monday 26th of March. Congratulations to our new office bearers.

President:- Anne Rice
Vice President:- Julie Silvester
Secretary:- Mike Rice
Treasurer:- Caroline Smith

General Committee Members:-

Rayma Reany; Avis Clements: Noelle O'Riordan; Carmen McFaull; Jill de Leo; Julie Cabbage and Helen Rodda

Exhibition Committee:-

Val Brooks; Lynette Dijkstra; Owen Atkinson; Bruno Lamberti

Pastel Society's Annual Exhibition

From the President. July 2012.

The 2012 Exhibition and Sale took place in the foyer of the Performing Arts Centre at the Sacred Heart College on West Coast Drive. Avis and her team of workers are to be warmly congratulated for the setting up on Thursday night and Friday morning. Sue Sheppard's flower arrangements with proteas were admired by everyone.

The opening night on Friday 6th July was very successful. The wine, soft drinks and canapés were very good and the kitchen and servery worked very smoothly. Liz Caiacob officially opened the exhibition with a delightful speech. She is the founder of the Effie Crump Theatre and is also director of the Northern Districts Save the Children Foundation. She and her husband were off to Europe a few days later so we are grateful that she spared the time to come.

Our pictures were very well displayed and well lit with our new lights although during part of next two days there was a slight problem with the light coming in from the windows.

The People's Choice was popular with 245 people voting for 61 paintings which showed a wide spread of preferences. However, the outstanding winner was Rayma Reany's 'Memorable Margaret'.

The discussion at the next meeting was very productive. We all liked the venue but hoped that if we can get it next year, we would prefer to have it much later on October or November. However, we have to wait until the manager has organised all the school events for the year first.

Meanwhile we all want the rest of the year to be interesting and worthwhile so we're hoping the new programme will have something for everyone.

Happy painting to all members,
Anne Rice, President.

Pastel Society's Annual Exhibition



First Prize Linda O'Brien



Second Prize Carmen McFaul



Third Prize Rayma Reany



First Highly Commended
Noelle O'Riordan



Second Highly Commended
Sue Sheppard



First Prize 9X5
Paula Wiegink



9x5 Highly Commended
Carmen McFaul



People's Choice Winner
Rayma Reany 'Memorable Margaret'



Opening Night Presentations



Recent Pastels Demonstrations

Rayma Reany and Paula Wiegink

On the 16th April Rayma demonstrated 'Still life showing tonal values'



Paula also demonstrated the importance of using tonal values before colour and the use of negative shapes and spaces in her recent presentation on the 6th August. She delighted us with stories of her life in South Africa and the influences that have contributed to the development of her art. "Enjoy the journey", says Paula.

Calendar of Events

**Our next Demonstration/workshop will be by Pamela Grant on 3rd September.
We will keep you updated for future demonstrations.**

We are turning out the cupboards in the back kitchen and getting rid of a heap of books, magazines and other gear that we don't need. We are selling stuff for very small amounts just to make some revenue for the society which has a bit of a deficit at present. There's too much for one event so it may spread over a few Mondays. But you want a bargain, please come to the meetings.
Regards, Anne.

Congratulations to Julie Silvester, who won the Acquisitive Open Prize \$4000, at the Annual Belmont Art and Photographic Exhibition (on now at the Belmont Forum Shopping Centre until 11th August) for her Pastel 'Salt Lake Sanctuary'.

Pastel Painting - Health Risks

The following health risk information has been provided by Rayma Reany from a couple of sources, for your interest:-

The popularity of pastels continues to increase. All of the safety suggestions given for oil painting apply to pastels, too, although the focus is somewhat different. The following three recommendations are key:-

MINIMIZE SKIN CONTACT

Since pastel painting is such a tactile experience it is doubly important to reduce skin contact. Many pastelists working in both soft and oil pastels now wear latex gloves because they are thin and close-fitting, and can essentially preserve the nuances of application achievable with bare fingers. For artists who make their own soft pastels, wearing gloves, a respirator and other protective equipment is strongly advised.

REDUCE EXPOSURE TO AIRBORNE PARTICLES

Soft pastels are a crumbly, particulate medium. Since pastel painting involves transferring particles of loosely-bound pigment from pastel sticks to textured paper or grounds, pastel dust is created. Some of this dust contains hazardous components such as heavy metal pigments. Even if the colours used are free of hazardous pigments, inhaling dust is detrimental to the respiratory system.

Pastels are usually painted on a vertical surface, ideally slanted slightly forward so that dust falls off the painting. In a pastel studio, dust collects on the floor, worktables and other surfaces (including the artist), making good studio hygiene very important. Always wipe up pastel dust with damp cloths to keep the dust from becoming airborne again.

Using a respirator is advised. Although this is somewhat uncomfortable, many artists agree the protection received is worth the discomfort. As with other media, it is ideal to have a space separate from your usual living quarters in which to work. It's also smart to have painting clothes such as a smock or coveralls that you can remove in the studio, to avoid bringing the dust into other living areas. Wash painting clothes separately.

EXERCISE CARE WHEN USING FIXATIVES

To help adhere particles of pastel to a support, pastelists use various kinds of fixatives. Most are sold in aerosol cans and contain volatile components, and all dispense into fine airborne mists. Safest to use are gelatin fixative, and the safest applications are pump-type bottles, although dispensation may not be as even as with aerosols. When applying fixatives good ventilation is crucial, as is containing the mist. Fix work outdoors if possible. Various types of spray booths are available through graphic art suppliers and while they tend to be expensive, they can dramatically reduce the amount of airborne fixative.

(By...Daniel Smith – Using Art Materials Safely)

www.danielsmith.com

BLOWING DUST OFF IN THE STUDIO, AND OTHER HEALTH RISKS

The most toxic pigments (such as lead) are not used to make pastels, but you still have some that you don't want to breathe. So don't blow. If you use more than a short shot of compressed air, take it outdoors. Since I can't stand to wear a mask, as some do, I use a small fan at right angles to the easel, with a powerful air filter positioned a few feet away. I still don't blow or brush off extensively indoors. If you use fixative, do that outside. Always.

You may want to use gloves. DON'T EAT OR DRINK near the easel or paint next to exposed foodstuffs. (A chemist friend of mine who has handled many of these substances every day for some thirty years says "there is unnecessary hysteria" over these hazards. Don't panic, just use common sense.)

(ByMargot Schulzke, PSWC-DP, PSA,KA)

www.artshow.com/apow/pratfalls.html

A Note from the Editor

Thank you to all the members who have contributed photos etc for this edition of the Pastels newsletter, unfortunately I was unable to attend the exhibition so I am very grateful for the photos and information about this year's winners that you have provided. We have a couple of successful demonstrations this year; please check for updates in future newsletters. Also if you have any ideas for future demonstrations, or if you would like to share your expertise please let the committee know so that we can organize a suitable time and advertise it in the next newsletter. If you have any announcements, suggestions or contributions to make to the next newsletter please email me at kpl90005@bigpond.net.au, speak to me in person on a Monday evening or call me on 9444 9328.

Karyn Platt
Newsletter Editor

Favourite Links

- <http://www.pastelsocietywa.org.au/>
- <http://pastelpointersblog.artistsnetwork.com/>
- <http://www.pastelsandpencils.com/>
- <http://www.wetcanvas.com>