

Fairfield Art Society Online Open Art Prize 2020

Due to the Covid19 pandemic it was not possible to hold our normal activities in 2019. Two of our main activities have been the Members Art Prize held in mid year and the Fairfield Art Prize held in October-November. Inspired by an on-line exhibition held by the Drummoyne Art Society, we decided to run our own exhibition titled "Fairfield Art Society Open Art Prize2020".

A sub-committee consisting of permanent members Svetlana Panov, Steve McLaren and Joe Briffa was set up for managing the project. This sub-committee met weekly and called on assistance from other committee members as needed. In organising this exhibition, we were confronted with a steep learning curve since we had to learn new application software and communicate remotely with sponsors, participating artists and judges. After much hard work, the online exhibition was launched on the 1st of December 2020 and will remain on our website until we hold our next exhibition.

A big thankyou goes to our sponsors Club Marconi, Fairfield City Council, Roger Markwick & Therese Doyle, and the Hon. Guy Zangari, MLA for Fairfield

Huge thanks go to our judges Mr. Kurt Schranzer, Associate Lecturer, UNSW Art and Design and Yvonne East, Master of Fine Art (Research) UNSW, who spent a considerable amount of time judging the exhibition, providing commentary on the chosen artworks and advising us on how to transfer huge electronic files by email. Special thanks go to multi-award winning photographer Paul Hoelen for judging the photography section.

Last but not least, thank you to all the artists who have contributed to this exhibition and congratulations to all the award recipients. Please remember that without all the artists, with all their inspiration and participation, this exhibition would not be of the high standard that it is. Thank you all.

All the open category prize and award winners works are on show at www.fairfieldcityart.org

Svetlana Panov, President.

PRIZE AND AWARD WINNERS

Open Prizes - Any Medium:

First Prize: No. 75 "Ceramic Knit" by Valerie Colvin



"Ceramic Knit is masterfully constructed and aesthetically and conceptually resolved, reflecting (from the judge's perspectives) our lockdown experiences of 2020. Cooking, cleaning, gardening, art and craft have kept us immersed and self-sufficient in isolation: at our best, we have learnt how to use time purposefully. Small objects, small things – small moments and activities 'for one' – have been writ large in our lives."

Second Prize: No. 113 "Phantom Falls - Blue Mountains World Heritage Area" by Phillip Johnson

"Expressing the scale and sublime beauty of nature, Phantom Falls is a dramatic digital photograph with black and white chiaroscuro effects reminiscent of Rembrandt's biblical and landscape etchings. The photograph can be located within the traditions of 19th century Romanticism and evokes the impressionist seascapes of Joseph Mallord William Turner; it is a poetic antidote to industry and urbanity."

Third Prize: No. 70 "The Native Bees' Nest" by Charlie Wells

"The Native Bee's Nest is an engaging composition, supporting Clement Greenberg's dictum that painting should acknowledge its surface. There is a strong decorative flattening and interweaving of non-projective elements, with semi-figurative hints of trees, grasses, rocks, perhaps a park bench, and of course, a nest of escaping bees. Layered shapes, lines, scumbled marks, sgraffito, and a palette of glowing oranges, lemons, yellows, and greys express a degree of whimsy, and a joyfulness in nature"

Highly Commended #46 "Rocking Chair" by Hedar Abadi

Club Marconi Prizes:

Sponsored by Club Marconi

Traditional Prize:

No. 57 "Nick" by Xavier Ghazi

"Nick is an accomplished large-scale portrait painted in grisaille, which despite its size is intimate and contemplative. There is an adroit tension between refinement of form and an expressive and gestural application of acrylic paint that allows the beard and shoulders to dissolve. The painting's surface is rich, with washes layered over a rougher, textural ground. This conjures the phantasmic."

Highly Commended:

No 15 "Lemons and Butterflies" by Natasha Junmancee

Contemporary Prize:

No. 77 "Along the Cooks River" by Daniela Cristallo

"Along the Cooks River is a confident work, with a strong painterly application of gestural lines and daubs of colour. Beyond its technical proficiency – a proficiency predicated on 'looseness' – it is intriguing because it requires the viewer to imaginatively decode its elements: what constitutes sky, vegetation, embankment or river? Is this a reflection? Are there dematerializing figures promenading in the foreground? Form and formlessness collide."

Highly Commended:

No. 41 "Reflections" by Helga Kelly

(Continued on page 2)

Works-On-Paper Prize:

No. 21 "Southern Grey Sands" by Brian Stratton

"Southern Grey Sands demonstrates the artist's self-assured and commanding watercolour technique, paired with an astute, discerning eye for composition and design. The eye slips from one visual element to the next, between positive and negative shapes, across the largely neutral greys and blue-greys of the composition, to be arrested by the golden tones of isolated pebbles and rocks. An engaging and accomplished work."

Highly Commended:

No. 87 "Yellow Brick Road" by Negin Chahoud

Ceramics Prize:

No. 62 "Ceramic Sculpture" by Selma Fida

"Many hours in the making, careful observation and meticulous construction have been married to produce an exquisitely detailed porcelain sculpture. A mass of leaf and floral forms belies the delicacy of individual elements. A subtle and captivating piece worthy of 1st prize within this category."

Ceramics Highly Commended:

No. 34 "Night Stars Ceramic Bowl" by Alfred Colvin

Peter Adrian Markwick Memorial Art Prize:

Sponsored by Roger Markwick & Therese Doyle Awarded for an artistic work of high quality, in any medium, which depicts in a sympathetic manner the issue of mental well-being.

No. 103 "Out of the Darkness" by Mary Pace



"Teeming with figures reminiscent of a vignette from a James Ensor painting ("Self-Portrait With Masks," "Christ's Entry into Brussels in 1889"), this painting contains many actors and might be interpreted broadly within the framework of mental well-being. The work hints at various psychic and emotional realms of the self, and self in relation to others, with its title "Out of the Darkness" signposting both individual and collective emergence from those darker spaces and places."

Fairfield Local Artist Prize:

Sponsored by Fairfield City Council.

No. 1: "Back to Bedrock" by Lorraine Maggs

"This is a rather enigmatic painting with an elusive title that has intrigued the judges. An ambiguous, monolithic red form (a mask, a rock-form, a petal?) contrasts with a smaller but still larger-than-life-sized tortoise. It is well painted, and it is well-composed, but it is the greater mystery of the work—a desire to understand its full meaning—that has brought this work (in the spirit of the tortoise and the hare) to the finish line."

Encouragement Award:

Sponsored by the Hon. Guy Zangari, State Member for Fairfield

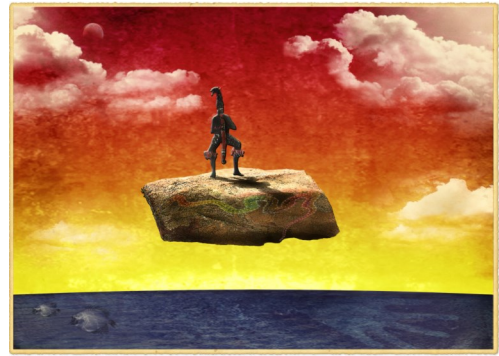
No. 31 "Daniel" by Michael Pretzel

Digital Art & Photography Prizes

The Fairfield City Art Society thanks Paul Hoelen for judging this section.

Digital Art Prize:

No. 107 "Dijiri-do Magritte" by Leise Knowles



"This piece presents as a wonderfully cohesive elemental portrayal of a powerful cultural narrative around the Rainbow Serpent. It has a comprehensive sense of balance and deliberate sense of placement with all the key elements, along with a bold, engaging use of colour and a sense of dimensionality that really pulls you into the frame."

Highly Commended:

No. 39 "Covid Digital" by Len Hurley

Commended:

No. 114 "Rainbow Lorikeet" by Julie Powell

Photography Prize:

No. 30 "Nankeen Kestrel" by Julie Powell

"Perfectly positioned and beautifully framed in soft pastel hues and delicious texture, this portrait offers a distinctively painterly and deliciously elegant interpretation of the chosen subject. Every detail from edge to edge feels skilfully and thoughtfully crafted and the raptor is presented to us with a beautifully subtle but compelling sense of dimensionality."

Highly Commended:

No. 79 "Blinded by the light" by Bjorn Hansen

"Intriguing use of layering, narrative and symbolism that dexterously seems to ask as many questions as it answers. The textural aspects of the image are absolutely superb and the technique doesn't overpower the subject matter but works to complement it suggestively.."

Highly Commended:

No. 78 "Too Much" by Bjorn Hansen

"A gritty, industrial, textural piece that challenges the viewer to engage in order to find a level of interpretation that sits true."

Highly Commended:

No. 108 "After the flood" by Leise Knowles

"This image uses an intriguing play of depth and perspective, delicious grain structure and darkly mysterious palette to seemingly pay homage to artists of the past."

Commended:

No. 114 "Rainforest Magic - Blue Mountains World Heritage Area" by Phillip Johnson

"A wonderfully subtle piece. Well framed, endearingly soft and fluid like presentation with a hint of texture and structure to hang onto."

All Prize and Award winners are on show at www.Fairfieldcityart.org

Judges statement: 2020 Online

"A broad range of artworks have been entered into the Fairfield Art Society Open Art Prize this year, judged and displayed online given the tumultuous and isolating year we have experienced with Covid-19. The shift to the virtual has affected art stores, art schools and departments in universities as well as art prizes and gallery exhibitions, and small-scale and timed entry to commercial openings has now become commonplace. Let's hope that 2021 is a better and less restrictive year. For 2020, a 'thank you' to all of the artists who entered the exhibition, continued their art practices – spent time in the studio or at the kitchen table against many odds – for without you the prize would not be possible. And congratulations to the winners of each category and those highly commended.

In 2020 it was satisfying to see artists engaging with a variety of materials ranging from oil, acrylic, water-colour, mixed media and collage to sculpture and ceramics, with greater numbers than usual in the latter two categories (perhaps reflecting the resurgence of ceramic-based artworks in institutional exhibitions). There is always a plurality of genres, themes, and styles, as befits an open competition, with a scattering of portraits, figures, still-lives, street scenes, and yes, a few dogs and horses, but it is also true to say that many works submitted to the prize related to the landscape and the natural world. Beyond glimpses of the outer physical world, there were also hints of worlds within; works that were expressions of the imagination or personal in their nature; and the intimate, the individual, and the idiosyncratic – whether in subject or style – is always good to see. Overall, there is a little bit of something here for everyone... and we trust that viewing this year's exhibition – however mediated by the screen – you will find works that inspire, that provoke, that resonate, giving a taste of the many sensibilities that constitute contemporary art and the various levels of achievement stemming from the sortie of the dilettante (the amateur participating in new creative activities) and those with early, mid, and later career practices. This is important to mention, for the Fairfield Art Prize will always attract great diversity given the Society's *raison d'être* to encourage the growth and appreciation of, and participation within, the visual arts at all levels."

Kurt Schranzer and Yvonne East

Judges: Open, Club Marconi, PAM Memorial, Fairfield Local, and Encouragement Awards

The Fairfield City Art Society thanks the judges and their respective academic institutions for their continued support

Life Drawing Workshops organised by the Liverpool Art Society have re-commenced at Casula Powerhouse Art Centre. Long pose sessions are on monthly every third Sunday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Short pose sessions weekly every Friday from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Cost per session \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members. For more information contact Peter on 0487 198 714

Lyn McCrea Memorial Drawing Prize 2020 Noosa Regional Gallery.

www.noosaregionalgallery.com.au/exhibition/lyn-mccrea-memorial-drawing-prize-2020

On-line only exhibition - now showing at the Noosa National Gallery website

Member News

Svetlana Panov is exhibiting three works at the Fungi x Botanica Exhibition being held at the Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney. This will be the 21st exhibition of Botanica to be held in the Sydney Gardens. Over the years Botanica has set a high benchmark in the botanical art world with many of the artists having enviable worldwide reputations.

When: **Saturday 24 April - Sunday 9 May; 10AM - 4PM**

Where: Lion Gate Lodge Garden, The Royal Botanic Garden, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney

Contact: Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens
foundation.friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Len Hurley is participating in the "GOOD SPACE" project being organised in the Rocks area of Sydney. Len's works will be on display from the 10th of April until the end of May. The works are being displayed at various locations and Len will be at the venues every weekend for the duration of the project. The GOOD SPACE project is a new arts, culture and environmental model for a new time, where visitors and contributing artists can experience something genuinely memorable and wowing whilst at GOOD SPACE; connect with others and help to create a viable and sustainable model for creativity, culture, environment and community at the same time. It's all Good. For more info visit: www.goodspacesproject.com

The Guy Zangari electoral office gallery space featured an exhibition of single works by members of the management committee. This exhibition ran from the 4th to the end of March 2021.

The next exhibition will feature works by local artist **Grazia Napoletano** and will run for the whole month of May. The following months are planned as follows:

June: 2020 on-line winners;

July: NADOC - Steve McLaren organiser;

Sept: Cheryl Tate.

Members who wish to exhibit please contact us on 0431 544 461 and leave a message

Steve McLaren is featured in an exhibition titled "Australian Love Stories" at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. He has two works and the exhibition will run until Sunday, 1 August 2021. Bookings required.

Glenda Carter received one of only two Highly Commended awards at the 2020 Burwood Art Prize.

Artist In Focus - Linda Brescia

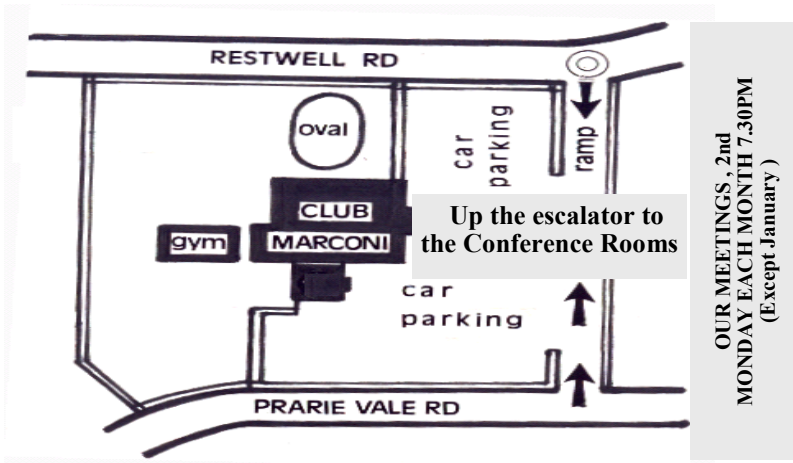
www.lindabrescia.com

The Fairfield City Art Society congratulates longstanding member and practicing multidisciplinary artist Linda Brescia for winning the prestigious Blacktown Art Prize 2020. This is a great achievement for Linda and is the latest cap in her outstanding career.

The winning piece, an acrylic painting titled *Peggy*, was painted by Linda on the day submissions closed, having decided only the day before to enter the prestigious prize. *Peggy* was chosen from 110 finalists and comes with a prize of \$15,000

Her active association with our society goes back over twenty years, as a student, professional artist and art teacher. She has run our Monday night art classes until last year and has been instrumental in the artistic development of member artists young and old.

We take this opportunity to wish Linda well for the future and look forward to her many more successes.



Art Classes

We are still looking for a teacher to run informal classes at Club Marconi. Requirements are formal or informal qualifications and a working with children certificate. Historically classes have been held on Monday nights from 7.00pm to 8.30pm but can be altered to suit teacher's availability.

For more details contact Joe Briffa on 0430 478 570

Capture Fairfield

Visual Arts and Photography Competition

Competition now OPEN!

Held each year, Capture Fairfield is an opportunity for the community to promote and explore Fairfield City's diversity, and natural and built environment.

The competition was launched Monday 29 March 2021, and this year brings great prizes to new and emerging local talent under the theme 'Love Where You Live'

Submissions close on Sunday 27 June 2021, and winners announced at the Council meeting on Tuesday 27 July 2021.

The Capture Fairfield competition is open to residents of Fairfield City and students who attend a school within the Fairfield Local Government Area.

2021 F.C.A.S. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION January to December 2021

Name

Address

P/Code

Tel: (A.H.)

Email address:

Please return to PO Box 2035, Carramar, NSW 2163, with your yearly membership fee, of

(Tick one) Pensioner/Student: \$15 * Card No.:

..... Adult: \$20 ,

..... Youth \$5,

..... Organisation \$30.

Cheques & money orders payable to Fairfield City Art Society or by direct deposit to our bank account : BSB: 062217 A/C No.: 10340711

I agree to abide by the rules of the Fairfield City Art Society

Signature

Date / /

www.fairfieldcityart.org

Check out our web-site and be a part of its continuing construction and development. Here you can:

- ◆ Find out about upcoming association activities
- ◆ Down-load exhibition entry forms
- ◆ Contact the association by e-mail
- ◆ Check out members' profiles & their virtual galleries
- ◆ Find links to other associations, galleries and other places of interest
- ◆ Set up your own gallery

Contact webmaster : Joe Briffa 0430 478 570

We are on Facebook - please like our page:
"Fairfield Art Society - est 1961"

JJ's Penultimate Words 81

WHEN STYLE PREDOMINATES OVER SUBSTANCE IT BECOMES MANNERISM. — John MCDONALD.

IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE. — Albert EINSTEIN.

IT SEEMS TO ME AS IF DREAMS LIKE TO PLAY. IF YOU DANCE WITH THEM, THEY'LL DANCE WITH YOU. — Robert BOSNAK.

HUMAN HISTORY BECOMES MORE AND MORE A RACE BETWEEN EDUCATION AND CATASTROPHE. — H G WELLS.

INTELLIGENCE IS THE ABILITY TO ADAPT. — Stephen HAWKING.

AT THE START OF EVERY DISASTER MOVIE THERE IS A SCIENTIST BEING IGNORED. — ANONYMOUS.

EACH PROBLEM THAT I SOLVED BECAME A RULE WHICH SERVED TO SOLVE OTHER PROBLEMS. — René DESCARTES.

I CAN CALCULATE THE MOVEMENT OF HEAVENLY BODIES, BUT NOT THE MADNESS OF PEOPLE. — Isaac NEWTON.

SOMETIMES I WONDER WHETHER THE WORLD IS BEING RUN BY SMART PEOPLE WHO ARE PUTTING US ON OR BY IMBECILES WHO REALLY MEAN IT. — Mark TWAIN.

NO MATTER HOW PUNISHINGLY LOW YOU SET THE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT- SAY \$40 A DAY - YOU CAN'T INCENTIVISE PEOPLE TO TAKE JOBS THAT DON'T EXIST. — Ross GITTINS.

THE PRIVILEGED AMONGST US HAVE BEEN INCONVENIENCED BY THE PANDEMIC; THE VULNERABLE HAVE SUFFERED AND IN SOME CASES DIED BECAUSE OF ITS UNEQUAL HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS. — Dr Stephen DUCKETT.

THE POINT OF DEMOCRACY IS NOT THAT IT GUARANTEES GOOD GOVERNMENT, BUT PROVIDES A BLOODLESS REMOVAL OF A BAD ONE. — Karl POPPER.

SCOTT MORRISON HAS BUNGLED THE RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AGAINST WOMEN AT EVERY TURN. EVEN VOTERS WHO ARE UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF JUSTICE FOR WOMEN WILL BE IMPRESSED BY THE SHEER POLITICAL INCOMPETENCE ON DISPLAY DAY AFTER DAY, WEEK AFTER WEEK. — Peter HARTCHER.

THE PRIME MINISTER IS AN EMPATHY VACUUM AND AN ACCOUNTABILITY BLACK HOLE. — Anthony ALBANESE.

Please read the fine print.....This newsletter is composed & edited by Joe Briffa & JJ Supe. The views expressed in these pages are not necessarily the views of either one , or any of us , and we take no responsibility for anything and these are literally the absolutely final words.