



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER September 2020

WEBSITE: www.bmcac.org.au

FACEBOOK: [bmcac](https://www.facebook.com/bmcac)

[bmcacsaturdaypotters](https://www.facebook.com/bmcacsaturdaypotters)



Our esteemed gardener Liz Bryden surveying her good work that celebrates the arrival of spring in front of the recently renovated main building. Thanks Liz! (See gardener's report on page 7)

BLUE MOUNTAINS ART PRIZE

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES	26 TH SEPT.
DELIVERY DATE FOR ENTRIES	27 TH SEPTEMBER 10am -2pm
OUTDOOR AWARD CEREMONY by invitation due to Covid-19	
	Saturday 3 RD OCTOBER 2pm -3pm
EXHIBITION OPEN	Saturday 3 RD OCTOBER 9am - 5pm
	Sunday 4 TH OCTOBER 10am - 4pm
PICK UP	4 TH OCTOBER 4pm- 5pm

The event will adhere to all Covid guide lines

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FROM THE EDITOR

Art is much more than just ornament and decoration of our rooms and homes. In works of art we can indeed see beauty but often transfigured reactions to threats and tragedies also.

In our current situation too, creating art or appreciating it can be a significant way of responding and coping with Covid 19. It can console us and be a mediator with others in our imposed isolation.

So, let art inform our soul or psyche with its sublime messages, its hidden wisdom and so many stories.

There is much to look forward to, even under the slightly altered reality of socially distanced art events.

Apart from our own Blue Mountains Art Prize exhibition the *Archibald, Wynne and Sulman* prize finalists are imminent of being announced on the 17th September. The exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW will run from 26 September – 10 January.

The *Portia Geach Memorial Award* is Australia's most prestigious art prize for portraiture by women artists and shows at [SH Ervin Gallery](#), Sydney, until December 20th. The gallery is open Tu to Su, 11am—5pm.

Please send your contributions for "Creations" to rudich7@dodo.com

Enjoy Spring time and stay safe.

Rudi Christen

Get in touch with us ! We like to hear from you.

Alison JAMES	President & Workshop Coordinator	0416 957 688	arty_ali@hotmail.com.au
Ingrid RUSSELL	Vice President & Arts Director	0423 124 473	bmcac.mail@gmail.com
Bronwyn CAMPBELL	Secretary & Pottery Facilitator	0411 041 054	a.b.campbell@optusnet.com.au
Liz BRYDEN	Publicity, Gardening, Grants & Life Drawing	0447 474 462	ebryden@bigpond.com

Blue Mountains Art Prize is proudly sponsored by



Proudly an initiative of The Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre, Cnr Hare & Moore St, Glenbrook.

NEW SPONSORS

Eckersley Art	\$50 voucher
ArtSup	Voucher for pottery products
Flower Empire	will donate a floral arrangement for the room.
SMALTI AUSTRALIA	\$150 for a Mosaic prize
Simple Media	has donated the upgrade to our website.

JUDGES

Caitlin Hepworth for Mosaics
Susie McMeekin for Pottery
Mick Fell for Art.



Welcome and thank you also to Stella's Gallery, a new sponsor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Alison James*

Dear Members,

Spring has arrived, and with it plenty to look forward to as we prepare for our Art Prize on the 3rd and 4th of October.

While we won't be having an official opening with our usually large crowd, due to the ongoing need to adhere to COVID 19 restrictions, we would love to see just as many of you come and visit over the week-end.

We will be holding our prize ceremony outside this year and we are very lucky that the gardens are looking and smelling absolutely beautiful this spring thanks to all the hard work put in by Liz.

The Centre is extremely lucky to have someone like Liz who is willing to volunteer so much time to our gardens but she could always do with an extra pair of hands so if you are available to help out please offer, it will be greatly appreciated.

The artists in the Jade Yurt are quite busy and have been producing some very lovely work. Some of the work being produced will be on exhibition at Gallery One88 at Katoomba, in October. As part of the Jade Yurt hire, the artists will also hold an exhibition in our own gallery space in the main purple room.

If any of our members are interested in taking the next step to selling and exhibiting their work please consider the possibilities that are available to you through our Hare St Gallery initiative and the Jade Yurt residency. Both are fabulous options and are a great opportunity that we have made available to our members.

There's much talk at the moment about the opportunity of opening Glenbrook Tunnel. We have been asked to work with the team that is leading the push to get it opened up and offer our insight as to how it would benefit the artistic community of Glenbrook. From an art history point of view it would be wonderful to be able to paint plein air at the site, as it is where Arthur Streeton painted 'Fires on' depicting the tunnel being built.

Do we have members who would be interested in a Plein Air painting group? Please let us know if you are as these are the sort of ideas and opportunities that we would like to organise if we have the interest.

Don't forget we also have our annual Pottery Exhibition coming up on the 17th and 18th of October. This year it is being combined with our annual Members Exhibition as we had to cancel the members exhibition due to the COVID regulations that were in place during April and May this year. So if you are someone who normally exhibits at the Members Exhibition dust off those artworks and let's get them out on display with all the wonderful pottery pieces that will also be exhibited.

It's time to get the colour back out there in the community!!!!

Your president,
Alison James

ART DIRECTOR'S REPORT *Ingrid Russell*

We are almost through term 3 now and thinking about the timetable for term four.

Most classes will be offered again at the usual times.

Anne Cutajar will be joining us to do some classes on Tuesdays, taking over from Alison and Katherine who are not available Tuesdays. We look forward to a new face and new ideas.

Hopefully students, adults and kids, will be thinking about the art prize and what they will enter.

Enrolment deadline for term four is Saturday 17th October, at the Annual Members Exhibition in the Glenbrook Cinema Hall . Online enrolments will open mid September.

Classes start Monday 19th October.

Entries for the Art Prize close 26th September.

Delivery day is Sunday 27th, 10 am till 2 pm.

Pick up is Sunday 4th October, between 4 and 5 pm.

Gallery Report

Visitor numbers have been steadily improving, as have sales. We lost Christine Reynolds unfortunately as she has moved out of the area. So we have some vacancies for anyone wishing to join. Please email your interest to bmcac.mail@gmail.com.

We are looking for painters, potters, mosaics, fibre, or any other handicraft that may sell.

With Christmas coming up in the third quarter we look forward to good sales as people come to do their Gift shopping.

For those of you reading this report, keep Hare St Gallery in mind when looking for those special gifts at affordable prices. We have you covered. See you there.

LIFE DRAWING REPORT

Liz Bryden

Life Drawing sessions recommenced on Friday 7th August and at the time of writing there have been four sessions. All went well and attendance numbers covered the cost of the models and room.

Everyone has enjoyed getting back to practising their drawing skills with wonderful models inspiring us and we have been able to reconnect with other life drawers after a long break.

Currently the sessions are 2 hours rather than the pre Covid 3 hours but this has worked well. All the covid precautions are being adhered to as required.

We are however missing the presence of Joy Myers Creed and Richard Cutler but hope that they will be able to return to life drawing sessions soon. I expect though that both will be continuing with their art at home. Best wishes to them both from all the life drawers!



Elliot Robertson and Gus Carozza

POTTERY FACILITATOR'S REPORT *Bronwyn Campbell*

Monday night now has a regular four attending at the moment with two away temporarily, so we do have room for more. If you are new, please let me know if you intend to come. Saturday has a healthy group, so check with Michael if you are new and wish to attend.

A few issues have some up re: packing and firing the kilns.

The alarm went off the last time Mother Bear was fired, so please do not use it until we determine the cause. If you pack a kiln, do not have a piece hanging past the side of the shelf. Leave at least 3cm from the elements. Mother bear has a number of areas where glaze has dripped onto the elements. This could only happen if the pot is packed too close to the element and may be the cause of the problem.

If you are packing with 2 columns of shelves, I advise the packer to pack the back set of shelves first and then the front column trying to alternate the height of the shelves to leave good air flow. When you pack the back set of shelves, you must remember to set the widest section of the pot at least 2cm from the front edge of the shelf so there is no chance that it will be touching the second set of shelves stacked in front.

Any kiln should not be fired without the bungs being put in. It makes the kiln work extremely hard, drains the electricity and damages the elements if it is sucking in cold air at high temperatures. Ultimately it will shorten the life of the kiln.

Please triple check that you have carefully washed all the glaze from the bottoms of your pieces. Your glaze should finish at least 2mm from the bottom of the piece. Your pots will not be fired if they are not clear of glaze on the base. The kiln packer does not have the time to wash the bottoms of pots.

Do not make your pieces overly thick as they can explode. Hand builders can scrape back excess clay when the pot is leather hard using a fine grater or metal kidney.

Make sure hollow pieces have a really good air hole, so gases can escape.

If you put a pot on a trivet, be aware that the pot shrinks and moves during the firing. It is possible that it will move off the trivet, so consider if your design is substantial enough to be supported adequately. Do not try to balance a piece on one tiny trivet point.

Packing a kiln is like a jigsaw puzzle and takes quite a long time. The kiln packer packs first the pieces that easily fit together. When you are making your pieces, consider the size of the shelf that you hope to put it on and the height of your pot. For example: if you make a tall full bodied piece make two narrow tall pieces the same height that can fit on the same shelf. If you just make one tall piece it may get left out as to pack it alone wastes space. By changing the diameter of a bowl by a centimetre might mean you can get two bowls on the same shelf rather than one. Plates are pieces that often get left last as they take up a lot of area, if there aren't other smaller low pieces that can fit on the same shelf, they will be left out in favour of fitting many more slightly higher pieces.

October is fast approaching, so I hope you are all madly creating some stunning pieces for our Member's Exhibition. Every member is welcome to participate. Next Creations will give you exhibition details.

Happy potting
Bronwyn



The Monday group warmly welcomes Georgie Gough back after a long illness.

Gardening

The garden is just at the beginning of its Spring flush with lots of flowers adding some wonderful colour to the grounds. The rain over the past few months has helped and the hope is that we will have more in the coming months, especially during the Summer.

Many more plants have been added to the garden recently including more natives and drought hardy plants.

After last Summer's hot and dry weather and with the water restrictions it became clear that more hardy native plants are the way to go. Consequently, we greatly appreciate Glenbrook Native Nursery's offer to donate some native plants to the Centre which will be used to fill out the garden beds and make the Centre a more inviting place for members and the community alike. Following on from this, I visited the Nursery this week, chose some plants and these are now in the Centre's garden.

Importantly, if anyone is interested in helping with the garden please let us know. More hands make light work!

Grants

In 2020 we applied for two grants, the first being a Community Assistance Grant which is overseen by Blue Mountains Council and the second, the Community Building Partnership Grant. We were successful with the first grant, receiving \$875 which will go towards building a pathway from the main building to the front of the site. This area has been a concern for some time as the ground is more of a track than a path.

We are yet to hear whether our application for the Community Building Partnership Grant, overseen by the NSW Government, has been successful. This grant also covers the path, new railings, dead tree removal and grass installation. It is likely that we will have to wait until December to find out if our application has been successful or otherwise.

Publicity

We have limited our advertising to low cost methods of late (due to the impact of the Corona virus on our income) including advertising Term 3 via our banner on the fence at Glenbrook Oval and free mentions in the Blue Mountains Gazette and the Emu Plains/Leonay Gazette. Thanks are due to David Attwood for organising the banner display.

The BMCAC would also like to thank graphic designer Katy Pastoors for designing the format of our new Enrolment, Art Prize banners and organising printing and shipment, contributing much of her own time to support our Centre. She is also responsible for our BMCAC advertising card and our Hare St Gallery advertising material. We would also like to acknowledge our President, Alison James, whose wonderful logo designs help make the advertising material so attractive. To produce these materials takes a lot of collaboration and time.

Keep an eye out for the new banners.

When you draw a tree, you must feel yourself gradually growing with it.

Old Chinese Proverb

OTHER BUSINESS

Print Making

Because of the Covid epidemic, Katherine has been rethinking the print prize event. After consultation with other practitioners and considering the amount of work involved, she is planning to make the Print Prize a biannual event. The next one will be held in 2021. Watch out for advertising dates early next year.

Linda Swindfield has asked that all print makers supply her with details of their studios if they wish to be included in a map of Blue Mountains print makers

New Logo

The committee has been in discussion about the suggestion of creating a new logo for our Centre. If you have any ideas for a new logo please present them to Alison.

We presently have separate logos for the Centre, our Art Prize and for Hare St Gallery.



The original BMCAC logo was designed by Nelson Wheeler, a Californian who was teaching at the Centre, in 1974 or 75.



Richard's Musings

Large collections of paintings by most well-known artists are available for view on YouTube. Rudi and I looked at many paintings by Vuillard and contrasted them with Picasso's approach to art.

Vuillard

Vuillard appeared to celebrate the moment like a surprising, generous meal, mostly painting directly from nature with some mysteries intact, especially through his love of colour and light emerging from the painting itself.

The paint, colours and marks are immediate and sensuous. The idea of 'a painting' here comes first; the object of the painting shows second. The immediacy of the painting is clear but then it commands you to wonder and explore.

Most of his paintings impress as a fluid assembly of coloured smudges in relationship with feeling values assigned to each part and a love between them, expressing great freedom and a celebration of life itself.

Like Picasso he liked to treat the flat canvas as a two-dimensional space and in an experimental spirit avoided illusionary depictions of volume, depth of field etc.

Picasso

Picasso was traditional in the sense that he deferred to the significance of indigenous like African art, and ancient rituals such as bull fights. As an artist he embraced these deep roots which commonly are disparaged as superstitions. But they opened for him a clear perception, allowing him to paint soul people like indigenous cultures practiced in the past. For native people who survived into adulthood the big question was: What happens after death and which spirit or image should be worshipped. Picasso followed this, psychologically hunting soul experiences like depression or joy etc., expressing them by artistically destroying the body to get to the soul. He chopped and changed a lot and took on the traumas that the 20th century threw at him. He became a great image maker and had a fine practical hand. His weakness was that he was not a colourist and painted at night, not directly from nature but by regurgitating memories and impressions.

Which painter would you rather follow in our crisis time, or if not these, which ones would you rather contrast to find a way ahead?



Edouard Vuillard, Woman with a Cup of Coffee, 1895



Picasso, Head of a Woman, 1907

Poetry Corner

Delvaux

*Who are they, these women
who with a touch
can heal and draw the pain?
When the heart is clenched
and the brain threatens deconvolution
a finger on the boned brow
is enough for the letting in of light,
a soft palm pressure on the chest
and the sun glows warm
in the closed bone cage.
By what strange fate can eyes
become the madonna's cape
enfolding the infinite spaces of stars?
Surely some self-power
beyond life's demands
leads to death
in flame and pain
for the birth of such a gift.
All mysteries are held
in any selfless beauty.*

David Wansbrough



Paintings by Paul Delvaux

WHAT'S ON ?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events

IMPORTANT DATES

Thu. 1 October 7.30pm	Next committee meeting in the purple building at Hare Street.
Sat./Sun. 3 & 4 October	Blue Mountains Art Prize Exhibition
Saturday 3 October	Outdoor Prize Ceremony at 2 pm by invitation due to COVID-19. Entries close on 26 September. Entry fee is \$25.00.
Sat. 17 October	Enrolment for Term 4
Fri. - Sun. 16, 17 & 18 Oct.	Members Exhibition including ceramics and other crafts Official Opening Fri. 7.30pm.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

30 Parke Street, Katoomba 2780

We are excited to announce that the Cultural Centre has reopened. Due to COVID restrictions there will be some changes to our usual opening times.

Gallery and Shop

Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm

Saturday + Sunday – 10am – 4pm

Gallery Café: Weekdays only 9.30am – 2.30pm (closed weekends).

MAPBM: Blue

1 August – 20 September

Blue is the most popular colour in contemporary Western societies, a colour with profound social and historical associations and symbolism that resonates throughout art, language, history, religion, gender, science, psychology and more. The exhibition *BLUE* presents the works of MAPBM artists exploring the notions of blue through a variety of media – painting, video, photograph, sculpture, installation art and performance art.

Black & Blue 2

29 Aug – 27 September

Artist and curator Faye Wilson has paired visual artists, writers and historians to respond to tales – tall and true – collected from the region's folklore and history. The creative responses include artist prints, installations and multi-media work, shining a light on curious events, fascinating figures, and crime or misdemeanours uncovered from a range of historical archives, and are complemented by a selection of historical objects from the surprising collection of the Mount Victoria Museum.

BRAEMER HOUSE & GALLERY 104 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777

Thursday – Sunday | 10am – 4pm

Louise Fox and Cathie Cox Leaf Life

3 September – 27 September 2020



Spectra5

3 September – 27 September 2020



Tobin O'Bree From Dusk 'til Dawn

3 September – 27 September 2020



kerrie lowe gallery

49 - 51 King Street Newtown
(Sydney University end of King St)

m: 0431 390 880

Opening Hours: M Tu W F Sat 10am - 3pm

Kerrie and Elisabeth invite you to join us in the Gallery for our annual Woodfire Exhibition

Ten visitors are permitted at any one time

The work can also be seen on our website and on Instagram

Social distancing must be observed whilst in the Gallery

Hand sanitiser available. We ask that masks be worn

See below for our current opening hours

5 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

TWICE FIRED - POST REDUCED

Bushfire Affected pots by **Steve Harrison** will continue throughout this show

Stoneware Bowls and Bottles from the Burnt Studio

fire & ash: Woodfire 2020



Bruce McWhinney



Len Cook



Geoff Thomas



Sandy Lockwood



Montessa Maack



Stewart Scambler



Ursula Burgoyne



Steve Harrison



Steve Harrison



Robert Barron



Chester Neale



Greg Crowe



Simon Reece

DEFIANCE GALLERY

12 Mary Place, Paddington NSW 2010

+61 (0)2 9557 8483

Wed - Sat: 11 - 5

Ana Pollak

Palimpsest

23 September -

15 October



Ana Pollak, *Echoes across the void*, 2020

ANNETTE LARKIN FINE ART

Suite 4, 8 Soudan Lane, Paddington

Phone: 02 9332 4614

Robert Klippel on Paper, 1950-1963

9 September - 17 October



Robert Klippel. *Untitled*, 1952



Blue Mountains Art Prize

ARTIST CALL OUT

OCTOBER
3rd
&
4th



Jack Buckley



Marnie Latz



Katherine Kennedy

Main Prize	\$1000
Sadie Foster Prize	\$350
Roy Brook Prize	\$350
Barbara Dahl Prize	\$350

Plus many more prizes

Entries must be a maximum size of 30cm x 30cm x 30cm

Entry cost \$25 per entry, maximum of 2 entries per artist

Open to all artists, 2D and 3D works accepted

For Entry Form and T&C's visit the website

www.bmcac.org.au

Covid-19 Rules

- Masks are not required
- Hand sanitize on entering the room.
- Sit 1.5 metres apart
- Use your own tools
- Teacher will clean communal tools at the end of the lesson
- Teacher will ask student with any symptoms to leave
- Students will be excluded if they have returned from overseas in the last 14 days, have been in contact with a covid patient in the last 14 days or have been in Victoria in the last 14 days.
- Teacher will disinfect surfaces after class.
- Student must sign an attendance book. Teacher must have class list with phone numbers on hand.
- Main room: 8 students + teacher.
- Pottery room: 6 potters + facilitator.