



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER July-August 2021

WEBSITE: www.bmcac.org.au

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

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



The three judges of the Print Prize: Samara Kendall (left), Rilka Oakley (middle) Stephen Hall (right) with teacher and curator of the show Katherine Kennedy.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

All too soon we had assumed the worst of the pandemic was over. But the more contagious delta strain of Covid19 has forced us into even more severe lockdowns. As a result no committee meetings were held in July and August, and group activities at the Centre have ceased altogether.

So, this is an interim issue of "Creations" to at least foster some sense of continuity. At the risk of repetition Bronwyn's message to members of 5 August is restated and Liz Bryden's email to the drawing group of 3 August is included as well.

To cheer up the potters Bronwyn is also sharing a fun recipe on how to make an Ocarina.

And you may consider entering the Crack Pot Competition (p.15).

Our most recent activity was the BLUE MOUNTAINS PRINT PRIZE BIENNALE 2021, held over the weekend of 25 to 27 June and curated by Katherine Kennedy. Illustrations of the event and prize-winning entries are shown on pages 6 to 11.

Please post us your thoughts about art and its practice during these difficult times to rudich7@dodo.com. We would love to include your contribution in "Creations".

Stay happy and healthy!

Rudi Christen

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

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POTTERY FACILITATOR'S REPORT *Bronwyn Campbell*

Hi everyone.

I'm sure you're all feeling a bit down in the dumps by now but Rudi's idea to put out 'Creations' this month is aimed at helping to keep us connected and hopefully to bring some inspiration into your lives, so I will try to do my bit.

Because I still have members contacting me about picking up pots, I would like to reiterate to you all the Centre is in lockdown, in particular the kiln room and the pottery room. I understand it is very frustrating, but this necessary decision is made by the committee to comply with government rules concerning only leaving your home for essential reasons and to protect us all. As previously stated, the first Saturday morning after the conclusion of lockdown, the rooms will be opened for members to collect pots.

You may be aware that we usually have an annual "Clay Creations" Pottery Exhibition the third weekend in October. At this stage it looks very unlikely that we can go ahead with this but a definite decision will be made closer to the time.

At the time of lockdown we were still having problems with the Baby Bear kiln and it still remains unrepaired. As soon as our technician is available to travel, I will endeavour to have it repaired. As soon as we are able to fire kilns again, those who have pots they wish to enter in our Art prize will be given priority bisque/glaze firing space.

As stated in my email of 5 August, the current covid situation in NSW doesn't seem to be resolving itself at this stage, so, sadly, **the committee has decided to postpone our Art Prize until the weekend of the 11 -12 December.**

The itinerary now will be:

Art /3D work to be delivered by Friday the **3rd December.**

Artwork will be hung **6th -10th** December.

Exhibition **11th -12th December**

- There will be no opening night.
- Prizes will be presented on Saturday as per last year.

If you have already made an entry payment, this will of course be transferred to the new date. If you wish to withdraw your entry please contact Ingrid.

Term 4 classes will begin on the 11th October all being well with the lifting of lockdown. All T3 payments for classes will be transferred to Term 4. If you wish to withdraw from a class, please contact Ingrid.

On the next page is a fun project for you to try.



HOW TO MAKE AN OCARINA (a small clay musical blowing instrument- airduct flute)

You need: 500 gm clay and two paddle pop sticks sharpened at 45 degrees on one end.

1. Halve the clay and make two pinch pots of equal size.
2. Score and slurry both rims and join the two pinch pots, smoothing the join.
3. Gently tap one side of the ball to flatten it to create the body of your ocarina.
4. Create a rectangular prism of clay 25mm wide x 38mm long x 20mm deep.
5. With your ocarina body sitting on a flat surface, flat side down, slide the prism towards the ball and attach so that it all sits flat on the bottom. Make join smooth and secure.
6. With your ocarina sitting flat: slowly with steady pressure; insert one paddle pop stick through the prism, even around all sides of the stick and parallel to the flat surface, into the body of the ocarina.
7. Leave this stick in.
8. Turn your ocarina over and cut a small square aperture/window, sides about the size of your paddle pop stick. The side of the window closest to the mouthpiece should be just inside the wall of the body. Cut down to the stick already inserted. Make the edges clean and squared on all four sides.
9. You need to create a small, bevelled edge on the side of the window furthest from the mouthpiece. Create the slope by very gently pushing towards the mouthpiece with the 45-degree bevel of your stick facing down. Push until you reach the previously inserted stick. Remove any small pieces of clay. This will help the flow of air as you blow into the ocarina.
10. On the top of the ocarina pierce 4 – 6 holes
11. Blow in the mouthpiece to test sound. Larger holes give a higher pitch.
12. Terra sigillita painted or polished and carved is a popular finish. If glazing, be careful to blow out any glaze in the holes.

Want to learn some new pottery techniques? Try some ceramic masterclasses on line.

- Bringing creatures to Life by Alston Smiles
- Handbuilding by Avital Sheffer
- Making a handbuilt hexagon by Jeff Mincham
- Scratching the Surface Sgraffito by Gerry Wedd
- Sophisticated Surfaces by Shannon Garson.
- The intimate object: How to make a cup by Philip HartW
- Whimsical Handbuilt Creatures by Clair Laurence.

Check out this site for details: australianceramics.com/masterclasses

Try this blog by Stephen Harrison and Janine King: <https://tonightmyfingerssmellofgarlic.com> Stephen lost his studio and almost his life in the devastating fires before covid and has slowly been rebuilding. His blog details his rebuilding and his sustainable life style. He also publishes a newsletter.

Kurt Vonnegut says:

“To practice art, no matter how well or badly is a way to make your soul grow.”

Enjoy making your souls grow. Stay well all of you. *Bronwyn 0411 041 054*

Hi Everyone,

You will already know that life drawing has been cancelled for the rest of August due to the covid lockdown but I thought I should confirm this in writing.

Given that the covid numbers continue to be high I wouldn't be surprised if the lockdown restrictions extend into September so at this time I can't say when we will be starting up again. I will let you know our schedule when things become clearer.

Anyway, I hope you are all well and that you are achieving things that interest you and that help to keep your spirits up. After all the work that I have done in my garden I am looking forward to Spring when everything will be at its best so that is a positive. Also, my dog is pleased to have me around for lots of walks, snacks and cuddles. Overall, a bit like "groundhog day" but as someone keeps saying, "we are all in this together! Keep safe "until we meet again"!

Best wishes,
Liz Bryden



Whilst the life drawing group remains cancelled Rick Hawkin has been trying to keep busy, for instance, by drawing chimps.



And, back in June, James Hancock, another long-time member of our life drawing group won 1st prize at the “Winter Open Exhibition” in Blackheath.



One work of Joy Myers Creed was highly commended.

Winners of THE BLUE MOUNTAINS PRINT PRIZE BIENNALE 2021



EMERGING ARTIST CATEGORY

MAJOR AWARD

'EAST JENOLAN CAVES ROAD #3'
MIKE WALL
PHOTOGRAVURE ETCHING
45CM X 33CM

AVAILABLE TO VIEW ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21
www.nationwidecurating.com

THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

THE WOODEN HAUS







ADULT OPEN
CATEGORY

FIRST PRIZE

'THE WANDERER'
DAMON KOWARSKY
ETCHING & AQUATINT
20CM X 30CM



AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21
www.nationwidecurating.com

THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

GALLERY ONE88 FINE ARTS







Social Distancing



Blue Mountains
Print Prize
2021



NATIONWIDE
CURATING



ADULT OPEN
CATEGORY

2ND PRIZE

'JUG ON WOOD'
LIZ THOMAS
LINOCUT
30.5CM X 22.5CM

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21
www.nationwidecurating.com



THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

SUSAN TEMPLEMAN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE





Blue Mountains
Print Prize
2021



NATIONWIDE
CURATING



ADULT OPEN CATEGORY

THIRD PRIZE

'THEN IV'
CLEO WILKINSON
MEZZOTINT
30CM X 25CM

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21
www.nationwidecurating.com



THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

PRINT COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA





ADULT OPEN CATEGORY

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'TALKING WITH THE TREES, TRIPTYCH 1'
LINDA SWINFIELD
PHOTO LITHOGRAPHY WITH PHOTO
POLYMER PRINT ON MAGNANI PAPER
30.3CM X 45CM



AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21

www.nationwidecurating.com



THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE
ARTS CENTRE





EMERGING ARTIST CATEGORY

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'LA MORT CONSUME LE COEUR'
ZOE ALDERTON
BOUND PAPER WITH DRYPOINT, LINO
CUT, MONOTYPE, ETCHING, SEWING,
AND HAND STAMPING
14CM X 20CM X 4CM

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21

www.nationwidecurating.com



THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE
ARTS CENTRE



EMERGING ARTIST CATEGORY

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'WAVES 1'
RUTH STANTON
ETCHING & AQUATINT
25CM X 25CM

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21

www.nationwidecurating.com



THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE
ARTS CENTRE







YOUTH CATEGORY

MAJOR AWARD

'THE CREATION STATION'
KASSIDY MONSIEUR
MULTIPLE PLATE LINOCUT PRINT
33CM X 42CM



AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21

www.nationwidecurating.com



THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

NATIONWIDE CURATING








YOUTH CATEGORY

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'RED, HAIRLINE, SERIES, LIPS OF SHOCKING EROTICISM, BELLYACHE'
ARLO WARD
DRYPOINT
23.5CM X 43CM



AVAILABLE TO VIEW ONLINE
online shop closes 28th July '21

www.nationwidecurating.com



THIS PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY

ARTSUP



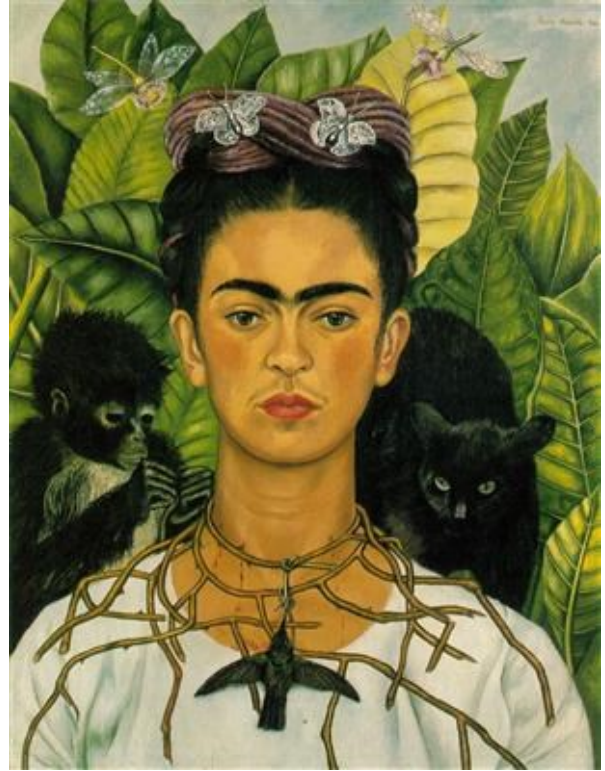


Poetry Corner

The Frida-and-Diego Metaphors

Philip Salom

*Their strange love: the ferret-and-the-frog,
the dove and the lizard, the old goanna then.
Happy to help out, huge and gleaming,
Diego's penis leaps like a frog.
He shares it with the Communist women
like a good Communist, and with women
generally, like a General.
Frida is hirsute weirdness or the lyric poet
of hair, her ornate dressing and re-assembling
sensuality. Her Trotskyite eyebrows
and hands like revolutionaries.
The art of Frida's plumage flies to canvas
as Diego stares down from his murals
with a girl in each eye: chameleon.
Communists are rarely so much fun.*



Frida Kahlo, Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird.



Diego Rivera,
The Controversial
Rockefeller Mural



Blue Mountains Art Prize

Entries Open

**Prize pool
valued
over
\$4,000**

Proudly sponsored by



Open to all artists

Open to all artists

**30cm x30cm x30cm
size limit including
frame**

**2D and 3D artwork
D rings or foam
core backing**

**\$25 per entry
2 entries maximum**

www.bmcac.org.au

Crackpot Cup Competition

Crackpot Studios and Gallery opened in March 2021 in the lovely suburb of Freshwater, Sydney to showcase and support Ceramic artists from around Australia.

The four directors – Bridget, Caroline, Dana and Sarah are graduates of the Advanced Diploma in Visual Arts (Ceramics) from Northern Beaches TAFE Ceramics Department.

We decided to set up the Crackpot Cup Competition for artists to have something fun to do during this difficult year. We feel a cup evokes a supportive environment where you have a cuppa with friends and family – something a lot of us cannot do at the moment.

A cup (or 3) can demonstrate the skills of the potter through wheel, slab, coil or slip and the maker can allow their imagination to run riot with the different categories of "functional, futuristic and mythical".

We are taking the liberty of sending you the information directly with the wish that you will be able to forward the information to your arts departments and artists so that they can enter the competition and/or spread the word among friends and colleagues about the competition and support the ceramic art world.

Information and entry forms can be found on our website:

www.crackpot.com.au

Best wishes

The Crackpot team

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