

Brews and Views Exhibition

Well, just as I was feeling redundant as an exhibition organiser, along came the *Brews and Views* exhibition in our lovely new café in the Marino Community Hall.

And what a success it has been so far!

Seven paintings have been sold in the last four weeks, and who knows how many more sales we will have in the coming months.

With the good weather on the way and many more locals using the café, the future looks bright.

I'd like to thank all the artists who have committed to this ongoing exhibition, the response has been fantastic.



One of the works of Maggie Turner's displayed in the Brews and Views Exhibition.

Not only is it a good venue for our art group, but it makes the café area look very inviting.

Brews and Views and lovely art to look at; what more can you ask for? ~Maggie Turner



Brews and Views Café

EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES in 2021

Ongoing — Brews and Views Café
Rotary Art Shows (TBA)

Check out what's happening on **Gallery 247**, visit their website: gallery247.com.au

More Opportunities...

If you wish to display your work on our MAG website. Documents are ready if you would like to showcase your work. **For more information, see Jim Green.**

Privacy Policy: MAG members' personal information will be limited to MAG-purposes only. This information will not be conveyed or sold to a third party (including electronic means), without the member's consent. MAG will not be held responsible for any unintended use or disclosure of information.

To contact the Editor or MAG committee, go to the MAG website for details.



iMAGine

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our twenty-sixth edition of iMAGine.

A DAUB FROM THE EDITOR



Laughter is the best medicine...

...And we hear a great deal of it on Monday mornings at our MAG studio sessions.

I think for all of us, 2020 has been a fairly rocky year. I guess that's why our president picked the rocky outcrop subject for our MAG individual creative project 2020. Something to laugh about as we attempt to compose those rocks creatively in our individual pieces for the AGM finale. Perhaps we could figuratively throw those stones in a gesture of good riddance to 2020 and its covid overtones.

Or pile them up as a memorial in defiance, as if to say, "We will overcome and beat this thing."

One thing is for sure, is that despite the rocky times, we in MAG have lived through this year and come out laughing.

~Lee-Anne Kling

It's Christmas...



Every time MAG gathers...

MAG EVENTS 2021

Studio sessions from 9.30am till 12.30pm every Monday (except public holidays)

Special events:

January 18

Studio Sessions Recomence after Holiday break.

January 25

Committee Meeting



...and enjoys painting

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

2020 has been much about navigating our way through the COVID 'challenge'. We have, through necessity, had to adapt to new ways of operating at Monday Studio Sessions. Some of these new ways will stick and others will change back to what we were doing before the pandemic hit.

After a break during Christmas and New Year, we hope to revive our normal portrait and still life sessions on the first and second Mondays of each month in 2020. (covid-safe rules dependent) We realise that this is an important part of what we should offer to our members. For any aspiring or experienced artist, to draw or paint from life, is a great test of observation and skill and a way of preparing ourselves for other art tasks. A variety of art experiences will help us to reach our aims of creating 'good' art.

Which brings me to my last thought for the year. What makes good art? Our 'Rocky Landscape' display at our final event of the year was judged on three different criteria. These criteria are not the only consideration. Refer to the article in this edition on 'What Makes Good Art'

Have a wonderful Christmas and let's hope the new year brings good health to all. See you back at MAG when we start again on **Monday, January 18, 2021**.

~Jim Green



Artists Post-Isolation: Vox Pop continued...

Survey by Lee-Anne Kling

This time I asked Stephen Brown how he managed during this time of the “new normal”.

What has been your greatest achievement?

Seeing my eldest grandson’s face when, on his 13th birthday, I gave him my painting of his favourite car—a Toyota Landcruiser 40-series.

Stephen Brown



Donuts by Stephen Brown

What has been your greatest challenge?

More recently, getting back into Masters’ Swimming after a prolonged absence.

What has been your most significant discovery?

Keeping in contact with family and friends.

How have you found painting? Your muse?

Being isolated so much with all the restrictions, I had plenty of time to experiment as well as read art magazines, books and watch YouTube clips.

What projects have you started? Completed?

Painting quite a few Australian landscapes.

What is something new that you have done?

Started lawn bowls.

One Day in September...



A collection of artworks from the one-day exhibition in September.

What Makes Good Art?

By Jim Green

Not sure why I agreed to have a go at this perplexing question. Are there degrees of ‘good’? (eg ‘great’, ‘excellent’ etc) Are we talking about from the artists point of view or the viewers? The confounded question is obviously dependent on the point of view of different eyes-of-the beholders! Mega confusing. Help!

Ah inspiration! Firstly, what is our motivation? Are we hoping that we can recognise a ‘good’ piece when we are done? Do we want it to be ‘good enough’ to gift to family and friends? Do we want to exhibit and received the ultimate affirmation with sales? Do we want to do commission art? Brain muddle remains. As Charlie Brown would have said, “AARRRRGH!”



Lindsey Kilminster an artist at work creating...

If sales are desired, then this perhaps suggests we want to please our target viewers and encourage them to gravitate to and scrutinise our artwork more closely and hope for an emotional response from them. A recognition of a place they have visited, a brightly lit stark object that recalls a memory, or a moody atmospheric piece which enhances the beauty of a pedestrian subject?

Research suggests that often the opposite is also true. If we express ourselves passionately without trying to create something that we think others will like, and it is “good” art, perhaps we will appeal to many viewers? But how do we know we have made good art before we show it to others? Lots of questions but not many answers, so we should try to resolve what the characteristics of good art are.

Art Educator Robbie Benve makes a great attempt in his article on the website www.feltmagnet.com. He says that most good paintings have three things in common. Technique and technical aspects, Personal and emotional involvement, and Novelty. Click on the search button and type in ‘Elements of a good painting’ and you will be taken to Benve’s article. He explains in simple terminology. It is a great website for all sorts of help for artists.

Page 2

I believe that as artists we usually don’t struggle with inspiration.

Holiday photos, walks in the bush, beach or garden, even reading a magazine can be inspiring. I gave my hairdresser a surprise when I let out a gasp of pleasure while reading a women’s magazine. I found a photo for Emirates Airlines that perfectly captured the morning light in the Wolgan Valley. The colours were spectacular. My hairdresser impressed with my enthusiasm finally let me rip out the page from the magazine to take home. Inspiration in action.

But then came the hard part. Actually, creating something from this inspiring stimulus.

My house, and particularly my art room, is full to the brim with “inspiration”. I have piles of photo albums. I have inspirational books, cards, pictures and sketch books filled with enthusiastic stimulants. In fact, I’ve seriously contemplated not ever taking another photo, ever again, due to a surplus of inspirational material.

Art Tips: Holiday Inspiration

By Lynne Wong

The struggle I have is finding the motivation needed to convert inspirations into something tangible. Yep, definitely struggle with that, especially in the holidays.

Marion Art Group exhibitions certainly get me painting, and during this COVID-19 year the smaller group exercises have helped me, and others, to stay motivated. But it all gets a bit harder during the holidays, but I make a list of paintings I want to complete which helps. A space on the wall to fill, a friend’s or relative’s birthday, an exhibition or competition to try for, can help with sluggish motivation.



More floral inspiration by Norene Cutts



Inspirational Flowers by Linda Huppertz

And now see below for some normal routine in 2021...

PORTRAITURE PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



1st Monday of Month.

MAG Charity 2020

This year, Marion Art Group will be supporting **Lion Hearts Learning**. If you would like to find out more, check out their website: <https://www.lionheartslearning.com>

Have a go at STILL LIFE



2nd Monday of Month.



Holiday Inspiration: Lyn Thomas’ Sea Turtle exhibited at Brews and Views

The weekly stimulation of MAG studio sessions has been fabulous this year and it’s great that the latest lockdown was brief, and we didn’t have a longer holiday than anticipated. Let’s hope that we can all get vaccinated and return to MAG exhibitions next year. It’s been a rocky end of year, but we can all paint rocks, and that’s inspiring indeed. Happy Holidays everyone.

~Lynne Wong

Joke:

Q: Why do artists sign at the bottom of the painting?

A: So, they know which way is the right side up.

For members who prefer to pay their fees etc by bank transfer, the bank details are as follows:

Account name: MARION ART GROUP INC.

BSB number: 085 333

Account number: 77773 7765

IMPORTANT: Members will need to put their surname in the reference box, so we know who the payment is from.

Photos in this edition have been taken and provided by Maryla Wawrzyci, Lee-Anne Kling, & Lyn Thomas



Page 3