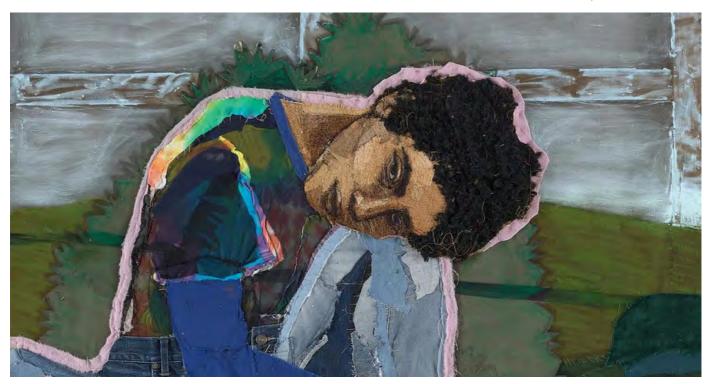
MAY 2023, ISSUE 119



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my second article for the newsletter since taking on the role of President. A huge thank you to everyone for your kind words of congratulation and support. Being part of the BVAC team is very rewarding and we look forward to taking on the challenges moving forward.

#### WHAT IS BVAC?

The Brisbane Visual Arts Community, is as its name suggests, a community of people who come together to promote and foster artistic endeavours within our community. It is NOT a building.

The member groups that form our Visual Art Community are diverse and unique and it is this diversity of skill, thought, interest and capabilities that strengthen our community's endeavours. Your representative on committee is a valued member of the BVAC Management Team and is your voice in planning and decision making.

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING

Each member group has been asked to complete a questionnaire so the management team can better identify the needs and aspirations of BVAC member groups. Once this has been received it will be mapped against our stated Strategic Plan. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR SAY. The results of this will be discussed by your representative member after the July meeting so we have a clear plan moving forward.



contact: bvac2015@gmail.com PO Box 7098 Holland Park East Q 4121

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#### **ARTICLE**

WANDERING GYPSY ARTIST About Colin Merrill

DRAWING FESTIVAL QLD Art Gallery

FINAL WORD
WHAT'S IT WORTH?

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

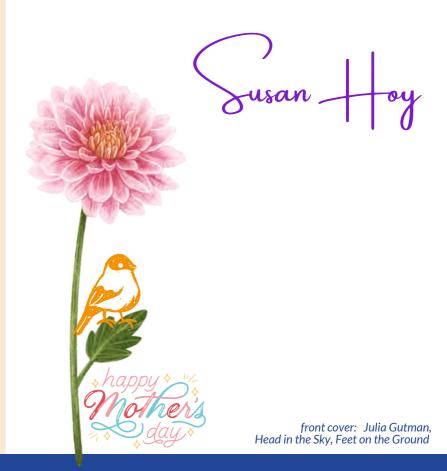
At the April meeting, we decided to move forward with a professional development plan for members. The first of these will be held on Thursday 3rd August, and will be hosted at the Bag End Studio. The cost of the one day workshop will generously be covered by BVAC and member groups are asked to nominate their participants. The presenter has limited places to 20 so we are initially seeking 2 participants from each group. Names of proposed participants must be emailed to Anna Margot, bvac2015@gmail.com no later than the end of May. Participants will then be contacted with full details.

The workshop is for a full day and will be facilitated by Cara Ann Simpson as part of the Flying Arts Initiative. The workshop topic will be Curating and Promoting an Exhibition. We would also like to invite any member of BVAC who wishes to run a professional development workshop to contact us at bvac2015@gmail.com

# DO YOU HAVE SMART IDEAS FOR PROMOTION OF BVAC?

BVAC is also seeking any member who would like to form part of the promotions team. Our events and activities rely heavily on effective promotion and many heads are better than one.

I am very excited about the possibilities for our Visual Art Community and have many ideas I'd like to work on with member groups now and into the future.



# The Archibald Prize Winner - Julia Gutman

Julia Gutman's work, *Head in the Sky*, *Feet on the Ground* is a very different winner of the Archibald Prize in 2023.

She is one of the prize's youngest winners and she is only the eleventh female to win in just over one hundred years. The award sees her take home \$100,000 in Australia's most prestigious and popular art award.



Julia Gutman

Gutman is a multi-disciplinary artist who reuses found textiles to produce painted 'patchworks' that merge personal and collective histories to explore themes of femininity, intimacy and memory. The subject is the singer Montaigne, who represented Australia in the Eurovision song contest in 2021.

This year's Archibald Prize attracted 949 entries, the second highest number of entries ever, and for the first time, there are more works by women (30) than men (27) in the Archibald finalists. What it also attracted was controversy.

Gutman's practice, which she has described as "painting with fabric", often riffs on the iconic poses of women in art history. She works with textiles donated by family and friends, creating layered figurative tableaux referencing personal and shared histories, which often recall imagery from canonical paintings.

The first controversy that enveloped the Archibald Prize was way back in 1943, when William Dobell's painting of Joshua Smith was awarded the prize leading to the biggest controversy in its history.

In an era of experimentation in art, the portrait was described by many as a 'caricature', and not a "real" portrait. I met Joshua Smith many years later and he was immediately recognisable from the portrait.

Record crowds flocked to the Gallery, with opening hours and the exhibition period both extended to meet visitor demand.

Now Gutman's work is controversial. Is it art, or because the work uses applique technique, is it craft? And did it meet the entry brief? Gutman has noted that she is interested in creating her own forms and approaches rather than strictly adhering to any one tradition.

One answer I found sums up craft as something that is expected, but art is definitely unexpected and places Gutman's work as a worthy winner.

The Wynne prize for Landscape and Sculpture was established in 1897, and in 2023 was awarded to Zaachariaha Fielding with his painting *Inma*. The Sulman prize is awarded in the categories of genre (everyday life), subject (imaginative historical or mythological). or a mural. In 2023, the winner was Doris Bush Nungarrayi with her work *Mamunya ngalyananyi* (*Monster coming*).

It is good to see that local artists are already gearing up for the Brisbane Portrait Prize.

Also reminding readers that Museum of Brisbane is mounting a comprehensive exhibition of Brisbane ceramics, "Clay: Collected Ceramics, from 13th May to 22nd October 2023.

# **Sunshine Beaders Workshop Weekend**

Pauline Stevens reports that Sunshine Beaders workshop weekend, over the Labour Day long weekend at the Hub, was a great success with many happy faces and lots of wonderful creations made, all, well nearly all, went smoothly.

smoothly.







Happy, smiley faces at Sunshine Beaders Weekend

But there was a "fly in the ointment" for a wonderful weekend.



Found snoozing behind the bin downstairs on Sunday morning was a carpet snake. This was a first since we moved in in 2012, but was an unforseen result of progress at the Hub.

Our new doors downstairs do not seal as well as the old roller door. We will need to find a way to seal out creepy crawlies and things that slither in.

The intrepid Pauline and the secretary of Sunshine Beaders, Helen Medland, worked as a team (as always) to get him outside and encourage him back into the bush.



Pauline reports that the snake was later seen sunning himself on the path. Participants were alerted by the resident magpies, crows, and butcher birds who set up a loud chorus of concern.

So be aware that BVAC's creature count has been added to, by one. Hopefully, the rat population may have decreased by more than one as a result.

While there is no doubt that this was a carpet snake and relatively harmless to adult humans, our Hub is in bushland and there may be other less friendly visitors. The advice is that if you encounter a snake, don't be brave, assume the worst, and call a snake catcher.



## Notes from BVAC Meeting May 11th, 2023

**Attendees:** Mary Berkelmans (CGG), Lyn McGlade (WSC), Kirsten Farr (CAQ), Joanna Fear (QBG), Judy Hamilton (WSC), Susan Hoy (ATASDA), Steven Norris (AWCG), Richard McLaren (AFW), Anna-Margot Collins (QEG), Perrin Millard (LL),

Apologies: Peter Rayson (WCQ), Pauline Stevens (SB), Joanna Faber (PAQ), Teresa Skirving (WSQ).

#### **Presidents Report.** What's Happening?

- 1. Thank you to those who completed the questionnaire and if you haven't I would urge you to do so. This will give us a better understanding of how we are tracking in meeting members needs and where we need to put our time and resources going forward.
- 2. The results from the questionnaire will be mapped against the BVAC strategic plan and tabled for discussion at the July meeting.
- 3. The first professional development activity for 2023 has been booked with Flying Arts. It will be held on Thursday 3rd August and will be hosted by Michelle at Bag End Studio, Station Road Yerongapilly. There is a max. of 20 participants spread across all member groups. Names of participants are to be forwarded to Anna Margot ASAP so that we can get information out to them. The presenter will be Cara Ann Simpson.
- 4. Thank you to all who presented options for the front door of BVAC. This along with other issues of signage will be discussed as part of general business.
- 5. Member groups who would be interested in running professional development workshops could you please advise Anna-Margot by email. Once we have an idea of interest we can then formulate a plan and program.
- 6. Thank you in advance to those who have submitted work for the POP UP SHOP and items for the raffle.
- 7. Also thank you to those who have responded to request regarding workshops for Open Day.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

The balance sheet is very healthy as usual. Cash at bank lower, but the spending spree has come to an end. The P & L shows a loss for the past 12 months. This is due to all our building upgrades. In the past two years we spent \$4000, and in the last 12 months, we have spent \$12 000.

Building and Maintenance: Pest inspection and treatment done. No visible termite activity. The Hub has been treated for cockroaches and spiders and ants so if you see any of these in your rooms, please let us know, as treatment is guaranteed. Safety switch has been done and is good. Small door downstairs had an issue which has been fixed. The keyhole needs to be vertical or it misbehaves. A hard rubber ramp will fill the space under the new doors to exclude unwelcome visitors, and will keep the draft out.

Website Report: Website is going well. "Spotlight" tab to be removed as each group will have their own page to maintain information. Details on access will be coming shortly. Newsletter issues with a state/national library link for back issues will be provided.

#### June 2-4 Pop-up Shop

Pop-up shop 2-4, June 2023, Tables are full. Advertising to Weekend Notes. Need Images for social media campaign.

4



Art Expo: A good selection of workshops are being offered. Workshop descriptions to Anna-Margot by 20th May. A flyer for the Expo will be available for handing out at the Pop-up shop. BVAC will hire 2 x 6x6 metre marquees for the weekend so we can run 2 sets of workshops at the same time. Perrin and Lily Lee have kindly offered to cook sausages and make coffee etc for the weekend, so there will be plenty of food to enjoy.

#### **General Business:**

**Signage:** We are applying to council to move our sign on the road verge to a more prominent position. We need Council approval for the mural on the double doors. Lilly Lee students under Perrin will do the painting. We are also able to attach signs to the wall without permission so we have decided on getting A2/ 460x610mm signs. It will cost each group that wishes to have a sign approximately \$80 including delivery. The sign will mean your group's logo and name will be on the outside of the Hub. If you would like to have a group sign, please email me and we will organise artwork. The signs are being done on aluminium and will be weather resistant.

**Curating Workshop:** The workshop will be held on August 3rd at Bag End Studio and is part of belonging to BVAC. Costs are met by BVAC. Each group may have up to two participants. Limit of 20 participants. Hands on workshop. No food will be supplied, but tea/coffee will be. There is a café across the road. Once we have numbers etc, we will book a table for the group so they know we are coming. The workshop will run all day.

The Scattered Art Competition: Coming along well, with plenty of great sponsors and the entries close June 5th, so don't delay. Forms available on the Scattered Arts website.

Meeting closed at 10:35

Next Meeting June 8th, 2023 9:30 am





Andrew Lee - QBG, leading the Introduction to Bookbinding Course on 6th & 7th May at The Hub





# **Brisbane Visual Arts Community**

invites you to our 2023

# ARTS # CRAFTS POP-UP SHOP

Friday 2 June

10 - 4

Saturday 3 June

9 - 4

Sunday 4 June

9 - 3

Find us at

100% nid

The Auditorium
Mt Coot-tha
Botanic Gardens





brisbanevisualartscommunity bvac.org.au bvac2015@gmail.com

# **ART EXHIBITION**





HALF DOZEN GROUP

of ARTISTS

Annual

Exhibition

Richard Randall Art Studio Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens TOOWONG

#### FREE ENTRY

**OPENING HOURS** 

FRIDAY 2 JUNE 10 am - 6.30 pm
SATURDAY 3 JUNE 9 am - 9 pm
SUNDAY 4 JUNE 10 am - 4 pm
MONDAY 5 JUNE 10 am - 4 pm
TUESDAY 6 JUNE 10 am - 4 pm
WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 10 AM - 2 pm

The Half Dozen Group of Artists will be exhibiting a wide range of original artworks for purchase and your viewing pleasure.



# Exhibition of Hand painted Oils on Porcelain



June 4th – June 29th 2023
Opening 12.30pm Sunday
5th June

Royal Queensland Arts Society Gold Coast Inc



25 Broadbeach Boulevard, Broadbeach Opening Hours

9 am - 2.30pm weekdays 9 am - 5 pm weekends



Featuring Framed and 3D pieces for sale apatqld@gmail.com

Australasian Porcelain Art Teachers Qld









# THE QUEENSLAND BOOKBINDERS' GUILD

is proud to present



#### THE 2023 AUSTRALASIAN BOOKBINDING CONFERENCE

at the University of Queensland July 7th—9th 2023

#### WITH ASSOCIATED WORKSHOPS

#### RUN BY WORLD FAMOUS PROPONENTS OF BOOK ARTS

With six international speakers and four Australian bookbinding and book arts experts, the Bind23 Conference will explore creating traditional and contemporary bookbinding styles, restoration techniques, artists books and toolmaking.

The Conference will also feature visits to special book collections and the opportunity to learn new bookbinding skills in workshops with Conference speakers.

For more information, please visit the Conference web site, here, or access the QR code.

Members of the BVAC community will find interest and inspiration in some of our

Associated Workshops that will take place before and after the conference. For instance, fabric and paper workers may find the Origata binding of interest, as it requires few traditional bookbinding skills, but a lot of creativity.

A workshop on hand making decorative brass stamps, that we call finishing tools, will have wide appeal. These can be used on book leathers, but will also interest anyone wanting to produce repeat patterns on leather, paper cloth or wood. Create your own signature stamp!

And the workshop on the <u>Nag Hammadi</u> codex binding is sure to impress; you will learn how to make your own model of the oldest book in the world.

Most of these workshops will be held at BVAC, so have a look to see the interesting offerings available.





#### **ESSENCE OF TEXTURE EXHIBITION**

# "Creating with Chenilling" - Gail Stahmer

18th May 2023 9.30-2.30 (includes a 30 minute lunchbreak)

Maximum 10 participants \$50 per person - includes fabric kit.

This workshop will start with the basics and then move on to experimentation to produce a variety of designs.

Only experience needed is to be able to stitch straight lines and think outside the square.

#### Requirements:

- Sewing machine good condition, electrically safe and ready to go go!
- 3-4 bobbins pre-wound with regular machine thread any pale colours
- Machine threads just a few reels from your stash
- Usual sewing notions scissors (pointed blades to cut into corners), pins, quilting safety pins.
- Spare machine needles universal, topstitch or denim needles to stitch through several layers
- SLASH CUTTER for creating chenille effect

### Please label all your equipment!











Tricia Smout is a registered teacher (BA, BSc, Grad Dip Art Ed), and she has been teaching Calligraphy and Paper Crafts in community venues, colleges, and schools for over forty years. Her work has been exhibited and sold in Queensland, interstate and overseas, and published in many international books and journals.

## **MAKING FOLDED AND STITCHED ARTIST BOOKS**

**When:** Saturday 20 May 2023, 9.30am - 2.30pm

Where: The Churn Room, 38 Williams Street, Dayboro

**Cost:** \$70 (includes all materials & comprehensive instructions)

**Bookings: through Eventbrite https://eventbrite.com.au** 

(search term: ATASDA)

Enquiries: contact Tricia - ts@triciasmout.com.au or (07) 3379 1406





The books you will learn to make in these classes are great for storing your photos and memorabilia or for recording your thoughts. You will make samples of many different styles of books. You will also be shown lots of different variations of these techniques (as per the images above) and you can photograph them or make samples of those that appeal to you.

- These classes are for complete beginners as well as those who want to learn new techniques, or refresh their skills.
- · Class numbers are limited to 10 people
- Everything is supplied, but feel free to bring a camera, notebook or your own tools.
- Bring your own snacks, lunch and drinks, or purchase these from nearby bakery or cafe.

#### **FOLDED BOOK TECHNIQUES:**

(left image above)

- single-sheet books
- · concertina books
- · flag & funnel books
- · origami books

#### STITCHED BOOK TECHNIQUES:

(right image above)

- · pamphlet stitching
- · exposed bindings
- figure 8 stitching
- stab-bindings





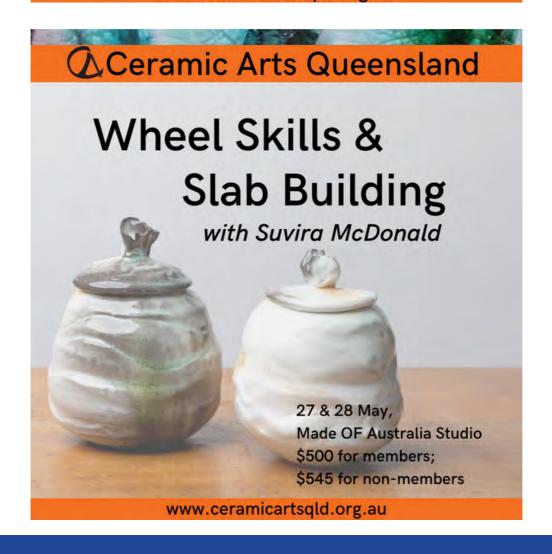
In this two day workshop explore the world of ceramic colour and drawing without using glazes.

With a painterly approach, learn to work in an intuitive, expressive way to achieve layered, sophisticated surfaces, using a mix of underglazes, oxides and glaze stains taking your work to the next level.

Saturday, 20 May, (1-7pm) and Sunday, 21 May, (9:30am-4:30pm) Brisbane Institute of Art

\$500 for members; \$545 for non-members.

www.ceramicartsqld.org.au





# Help us BE BAD In May





# EXHIBIT YOUR KOMBI ART & CRAFTS

# Make Your Mark Free Public Mural









BOOK A WORK SHOP













190 Station Road

Yeerongpilly Creative Precinct www.bagendstudio.net Natalie Parish: 0403656339



# COMMUNE



at Museum of Brisbane
13 May-22 Oct 2023 • #MoBClay

# Colin Merrill: The Wandering Gypsy Artist (1930-2023)

Colin Merrill was an interesting and colourful character, often seen in a flannelette shirt and jeans, even at art openings. Yet, despite his somewhat (to some people) untidy appearance, here was someone who had really seen the world and had experienced it with gusto and passion. It just goes to show that you don't judge a book by its cover, and when you open Colin's cover, you will discover a treasure trove of artistic talents, and travels enough to inspire the most adventurous of us all.

Colin was born in 1930 in India, in the closing days of the British Raj, his father an officer in the Indian cavalry was also an artist, and Colin spent many hours drawing with him, learning the basics of draughtsmanship. Colin stated: "My boyhood could have come out of a novel by Rudyard Kipling." The family returned to England, where Colin attended a school on the Isle of Wight, but Colin had the wanderlust to seek adventure.

He worked his way on a passenger liner bound for Kenya, Africa. After working on a tea plantation, his artistic talents landed him a job as a commercial artist in Nairobi, and he held his first exhibition at the New Stanley Hotel in Nairobi. When he was nineteen, he was even caught up in the Mau Mau uprising: quite a scary time.

After marrying in Kenya, he and wife returned to England where he worked as a designer and illustrator for an art studio in London. With his family, he emigrated to Australia in 1967 and settled in Brisbane.

He found work in the commercial art field, but longed to be involved in the fine arts. He began to enter competitions as well as exhibiting. One of his first successes was winning the Telegraph Home Show Art Prize with a quirky oil painting Tiff at the Fair. He had talent for "the narrative" and could weave a story in paint. He joined the Royal Queensland Art Society in the early 1970's. In April 1974 he gave a demonstration in "Portrait Painting", and later that year held an exhibition of his work.

Over the years, he conducted many seminars, workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations at the RQAS. He was fascinated with people and portraits, and finally ditched commercial work to become a portrait artist full time. He was

well known for doing quick, portrait drawings, mostly in pastel, in the local shopping centres. Kenmore Plaza was a regular venue for many years. He captured an incredible likeness, as well as the essence of the sitter.

He contributed further by joining other art societies in Brisbane: Watercolour Society of Queensland, Inala Arts Inc and the Pastel Society, once again lending his exceptional talents to enhance these groups. He often set up his easel and paints at places and events like the Warana Festival in the city Botanic Gardens. When the Brookfield Show Society opened their new "Arts Pavilion" in 1992, Colin was engaged as the show's "Portrait Artist", executing portraits at \$40.00 each.

His reputation grew and he was soon getting commissions for his work. Some of his more important commissions were for Brisbane medico, Lady Phyllis Cilento, RQAS President Harold Richardson and Queensland Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson.

He gained awards in Brookfield Art Contest, Watercolour Society of Qld, RQAS, and the RNA Art Contest (Ekka), to name just a few. A major solo exhibition was "People and Places in the Sun", featuring both Australian and Spanish images in watercolour, at the Oriel Gallery in Ascot in 2004. His work was free and spontaneous and was as good as any Sir Hans Heysen or Sir Lionel Lindsay watercolour. Although he enjoyed painting, drawing and portrait commissions, he felt: "I believe that I get the most satisfaction from teaching."

His work covered all aspects of painting, be it a floral, animals, landscape, interior, fantasy or abstract. As artist Frances McKennariey observed: "It is an engaging game to observe the regular appearance of cats in his interiors and dogs in the landscapes."

His paintings were the product of an inquiring mind, ever expanding, soaking up knowledge and sharing it with others. He was one of those rare, often eccentric personalities that formed part of the art scene in Brisbane for over 50 years. He was a talent that came, stayed and left a legacy in the works he created. Colin Merrill was truly an "Artist's Artist".

Greg de Silva: FRQAS © Greg de Silva: May 2023



## **The Last Word**

Just a quick question. Have you ever been asked the question about your art - "How long did it take you to make that?" The inference is, of course, that the work is too expensive based on the time taken to create a piece.

Pricing our work is so difficult for an exhibition. It doesn't seem right to tell the person that you whipped it up in an hour on a rainy Saturday afternoon, when there was nothing else to do.

I know I have been guilty of adding a bit more to the time taken just to make it more "worth the price". And then I found this quote from James McNeill Whistler:-

# "An artist is not paid for his labor but for his vision."

And that solves it all, doesn't it? What we do as artists is not governed by time. Sometimes a young, inexperienced artist produces a sublime piece of work and virtually gives it away, never realising how good it was. Others may labour for days, weeks, years without ever reaching the creative sublime but think it must be worth a lot because they spent so much time on it.

Brisbane artist, Robyn Bauer, has had a lot of success over the years with her colourful paintings of Brisbane, but she regards the black and white portraits of trees on Brisbane streets in her current exhibition, "Against All Odds - the Natural World in the City", at her gallery in Latrobe Terrace, Paddington, as her best work ever. A lovely feeling when you just know.

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LeatherCrafters AQ: Shirley McCormick

Lilley Lee: Perrin Millard

Papermakers Artists, QLD: Joanna Faber

Scattered Arts: Wendy Goode

Sunshine Beaders: Pauline Stevens

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WS Clayworkers: Lyn McGlade

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