

ARTEL

QUARTERLY ■ NEWSLETTER

MRAGM SPRING NEWSLETTER 2011

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mragm
MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY MEMBERS

[above] Euan Macleod exhibition opening
at Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

FREE

S raphine

*Delicious seasonal menu
Divine coffee and sweets*

HOURS > TUE - SUN // 9am - 4.30pm

Breakfast > 9 am to 11 am

Lunch > 11.30 am to 2.30 pm

Cakes are served all day

> The Art Gallery > Caf * <



Gallery Caf  phone > 02 4934 7264

**Located at Maitland Regional Art Gallery*

Art Gallery hours Tue - Sun 10am - 5pm

Gallery Shop hours Tue - Sun 10am - 4:45pm

230 High St Maitland NSW 2320 // www.mrag.org.au



THE GALLERY SHOP

Looking for something interesting, unique, beautiful, quirky or locally crafted? We invite you to explore our Gallery Shop where you will find the perfect gift.

The Gallery Shop hours : Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 4:45pm
230 High St Maitland NSW 2320 | 02 4934 9859
artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au www.mrag.org.au



ARTEL > THE MRAGM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Artel > **Artel** of Artists («Артэль художников») was a cooperative association (**artel**) and a commune of democratically-minded artists headed by Ivan Kramskoi. It was established in 1863 after some of its future organisers had been expelled from the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts because of the “revolt of fourteen”, who refused to paint an exam picture on the given topic.

Source: <http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org>

The Artists' Artel was formed in 1863 by graduates of the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts who left the school in connection with their refusal to create paintings on a single theme for competition (the so-called revolt of the fourteen) and who formed a commune. The artel, led by I. N. Kram-skii, included F. S. Zhuravlev, A. I. Korzukhin, K. V. Lemokh, and A. I. Morozov. It disintegrated in the early 1870's. Many of its former members became part of the *peredvizhnik* movement (the Society of Wandering Exhibitions).

REFERENCE

Punina, I. *Peterburgskaia artel' khudozhnikov*. Leningrad, 1966.
The Great Soviet Encyclopedia, 3rd Edition (1970-1979). 2010
The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved.



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Hello and welcome to the Members Spring newsletter. Spring – at last! Did you feel it was a very long winter this year? It certainly seemed so to me, with the first snow falling in May. Well not only is it Spring, but you may have noticed we have given this publication a name “ARTEL”. Artel is a very old word, apparently once used to describe a group of artists or craftspeople working together. We hope it will help to imbue our members with the feeling of being part of a co-operative group, working together to promote the continued success of our great Regional Art Gallery.

Speaking of working together, on the 26th of October it will be the Annual General Meeting of the Members and, again, we are calling for nominations from you to be a part of the Committee. Normally, meetings are only held every second month, so it is not something which will take up too much of your time. It is however, very rewarding to play an integral role, in conjunction with the Director and Staff in fundraising, promoting and guiding the activities for the Members of the Gallery. So give it some positive thought and complete the nomination form enclosed with your letter advising you of the meeting details. We are looking forward to our State Member of Parliament, Robyn Parker, joining us and there will be refreshments before the meeting. So please come along and be a part of the energy that makes Maitland Regional Art Gallery such a great place. Hope to see you there.

Jeff Sinclair
Chairperson, MRAGM

P.S. Late news! I'm very pleased to announce that the Committee has been successful in securing funding from Xstrata Coal who has generously donated \$5,000 toward the cost of printing this newsletter for the year.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

[right] Reg Mombassa, Joe Eisenberg, Euan Macleod and Janis Wilton at the Euan Macleod | Portraits exhibition opening.



I am told that you do not ask for a Government enquiry unless you know what it will discover when it hands down its report. That way you don't find out something that might make your life harder.

With this in mind, and with some trepidation, I am opening the doors to you The Members and asking what would you like to see happen at MRAG that will bring you in and also entice you to pay return visits.

For the best three suggestions as voted by the staff (after all they will need to assist The Members but not do all the work themselves as everyone is already busy, far too busy. However we all can help!) I have signed books by our late Patron Margaret Olley and a number by Salvatore Zofrea.

As I said you now can come up with all sorts of ideas of what MRAG and in particular The Members can offer the people of Maitland and visitors from further afield. I take it for granted that the print sale (which raised almost \$15,000) will be an activity which The Members will want to do each year. It was truly successful, well beyond my dream. Apart from raising much needed funds and having a wonderful exhibition some purchasers may now be on their way to commencing their own private collection.

The events which you may come up with should primarily, in some way raise the public's awareness about all things art. The print sale did this in buckets. Although one of the aims of The Members is to raise funds, any activity (a cultural

one hopefully) will bring the public into MRAG and thus people cannot but help to view art. And once bitten, in a 'nice' way, you want to come back for more and more.

I have many ideas of book launches, artist talks, concerts, weddings and much more but MRAG belongs to you and as a Member it would be nice to hear what it is that you would like from your Art Gallery and what you would like to help in achieving that goal. After all you as a Member are part of the Art Gallery and the staff values your ideas but you need to remember that you must help in making the activity occur and ensuring that it is a success.

All this reminds me that Judy is still looking for a member to take on bus trips to other cities to visit galleries, and artists in their studios. Judy is prepared, and so am I, in assisting anyone who is 'keen'. We can walk you through the tasks, assist with ideas, give phone numbers – all we are looking for is someone who can manage and do the bureaucratic parts. You will have fun I promise.

So, as I have said, I open the door for any Member to come up with idea(s) and you may be rewarded by getting a signed book, getting a good feeling and supporting your fellow Members and other people who will be advantaged by your idea. And of course you will assist in raising awareness in the visual arts and raising funds for a great Art Gallery, MRAG – but hey I am biased I work at MRAG. So good luck and I await your responses.

Joe Eisenberg OAM
MRAG Cultural Director



ACCESSIBLE ARTS WORKSHOP AT MRAG



[left] MRAG staff development day, Accessible Art's workshop.

Accessible Arts provides education, training and skill sharing opportunities to the arts and disability sectors with the aim of improving access to the arts for people with disability either as artists or as audience members.

In recent years Accessible Arts has provided training for the Sydney Festival, National Portrait Gallery, Sydney Opera House, Museums and Galleries Foundation, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney Theatre Company, Historic Houses Trust, the Museum of Contemporary Art and a number of regional galleries and recently MRAG staff were participants in a workshop.

We began with some facts;

The Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1998 identified 19% of the Australian population as having a disability; at that time equalling 3.6 million Australians. The figure most commonly used by the disability sector is 1 in 5 people.

Disability is not an isolated experience, friends, families and colleagues are also affected by poor services or inadequate access so the number of people affected is far greater than 1 in 5.

Australia uses a 'social' model acknowledging

that it is the barriers created by society that are 'disabling' to an individual, and that it is our collective responsibility to remove these barriers.

MRAG shares Accessible Arts vision of a society in which people with disabilities can contribute to and fully experience the arts and cultural life.

We aim for full inclusion, access and cultural opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities and aim to make our venue and services more suitable for people with disabilities.

Throughout the day our training was interactive and participatory and encouraged a sharing of skills and knowledge through small group work and group discussions. We also analysed individual scenarios and viewed a great short film.

The outcome? An increase in confidence in considering access issues and engaging with individuals with disabilities. The learning was informative, interactive and our guest speaker was generous in spirit and happy to answer any question we could throw at her – a positive experience for all involved.

*Linda Greedy
Education Curator, MRAG*



FROM THE COLLECTION > MARGARET OLLEY

[left] Margaret Olley *Bedroom Still Life*, 1997, oil on board, 61 x 91cm
[right] Margaret Olley, *Yellow Tablecloth with Cornflowers*, 2008, Multi-plate coloured etching, Ed A/P, 65.2 x 59.5cm



MARGARET OLLEY AND THE MRAG COLLECTION

Margaret Olley was much loved by many and it was a sad day for MRAG when she passed away on the 26th July.

MRAG was proud to have 'Olley' accept the honour of being a patron of Maitland Regional Art Gallery, and she delighted all who attended the grand re-opening of our gallery in August 2009, alongside our other gallery patron Ray Wilson.

There are two wonderful paintings by Margaret Olley in the MRAG collection which we currently have on display in the gallery, in tribute. *Banksias*, is a large oil on board painting by Olley from 1970 and this work was kindly donated to MRAG by William Bowmore in 1976. The other, smaller painting, *Bedroom Still Life*, painted in 1997, reveals a mirror reflection of Olley and a glimpse of some of the ephemera and still life subject matter, which eventually filled her home. This work made its way into the collection with the financial assistance of the Art Gallery Society in 1998.

Olley not only supported the gallery in spirit as patron, but also in a more fiscal fashion. In 2008, Olley donated to MRAG a number of limited edition, multi-plate, coloured etchings, some to join the collection and others for MRAG to raise funds at auction to support the gallery. The etchings are beautiful reproductions of her still life paintings of

flowers, fruit and blue and white china. [The blue and white china in these prints remind me of my own moment with Margaret Olley; when she first arrived at MRAG for our grand opening event, Olley left everyone waiting as she was distracted by the blue and white china in our new shop. She eventually purchased half the items in the cabinet – all for future paintings no doubt!].

Olley was also well known as a great supporter of other artists and would purchase works by emerging artists then gift them to public galleries. Olley donated the Cressida Campbell wood block painting, *Oblique View*, to MRAG as a gift at the grand opening. Later that year she assisted MRAG purchase a large Nicholas Harding work on paper, *River figures (paddle and hat)*. An interesting connection, as MRAG was gifted a Nicholas Harding portrait of Margaret Olley, donated to the gallery by Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth the same year.

Vale Margaret Olley AO AC



SCULPTURE BY THE SEA > BUS TRIP

MRAGM are again taking a coach to Sydney's Sculpture By The Sea. It has become a proud tradition of MRAGM to offer our members and their guests a value added day out. As well as being delivered to the start of Sculpture By The Sea walk at Bondi and collected at the Tamarama end you will also have the opportunity to visit Danks Street Gallery Complex.

So forget the drive to Bondi, and the hassle of trying to find a park once you get there, and relax and join our group for a great day out.

> COASTAL WALK FROM BONDI BEACH TO TAMARAMA BEACH

DATE: Saturday 5th November 2011

COST: \$60.00 members
\$75.00 non members/guests

RSVP: Saturday 29th October 2011

DEPARTING TIME & ITINERARY:

- > From Maitland Regional Art Gallery: 7.00 am on the dot! Please be at the gallery at 6.45 am.
- > From Bluetongue Brewery: 7.30 am for the Novocastrians
- > There will be a stop between Newcastle and Sydney for Morning Tea/Coffee
- > In Sydney we will visit Dank Street Galleries art complex in Waterloo, and have a private guided tour of Wilson St Gallery within the complex.
- > Lunch will be either in Waterloo or in Bondi, bring your own or eat in one of the many quality eateries. (Danks Street Depot is within the building or famous pastry chef Vincent Gadan's 'Patisse' is next door).
- > After Lunch we will make our way to "Sculpture by the Sea" and explore, at our own pace, the marvellous pieces of sculpture exhibited along the coast line between the beautiful Bondi and Tamarama beaches; this year over 100 sculptures have been selected from 20 countries around the world.



- > The coach leaves from Tamarama Bus stop at 4.30pm.
- > There will be a raffle on board the coach with terrific prizes up for grabs.
- > A detailed brochure will be sent to each member in October but for the moment, mark the day in your diary.
- > And remember to book early as seats are limited and popular.

[left] Snapshot from last years Sculpture by the sea bus trip.



SHOP > ARTIST PROFILE WENDY HATTON AND DOROTHÉE HEIBLE

[left] Wendy Hatton beaded necklace with matching earrings, [right] Dorothee Heible glass tile artworks



We are now representing Wendy Hatton and Dorothee Heible in the gallery shop. Next time you are visiting the gallery be sure to check out the beautiful work of these talented artists.

Jewellery designer Wendy Hatton explores the diversity of different mediums, using beautiful freshwater pearls, crystals, semi-precious stones and seed beads together with silver, mixed metals and sometimes gold.

Wendy has taught design and jewellery construction in many parts of Australia. She has also written for Beads Etc magazine and featured in Textile Fibre Forum magazine.

Since her journey into the beautiful tactile world of jewellery, Wendy has participated in an exhibition at Back to Back Gallery, Newcastle and exhibited on the North Coast of New South Wales.

In 2007 Wendy won The Australian Jewellery Designer of the Year award presented by Beads Etc and The Stitches and Craft Show.

Hunter Valley artist Dorothee Heibel, is a self taught painter who enjoys pushing the boundaries of what is considered to be the 'correct' way of painting. Dorothee prefers using the humble cotton tip rather than a conventional paint brush.

Swiss born and raised, she travelled extensively with her family before falling in love with Australia's raw beauty.

Dorothee's range of LICHTFENSTER tiles feature personally selected sections of her original paintings. Translating from German to mean "Light Window" these unique reflective tiles can be displayed vertically to transmit light or used functionally as a paperweight. 'I like to think of my LICHTFENSTER as little windows of joy and light' says Dorothee.

Currently Dorothee's paintings are held in private collections in Europe, Singapore, Japan, the United States and Australia.

Judy Henry
Merchandise Coordinator

SALE
15%
OFF
ALL STOCK

the gallery shop

We are offering a 15% off special voucher for our members only, 28th of September until 26th of October.

Bring your membership card and this voucher to take advantage of the discount. This special offer is limited to one voucher per membership/family.



TYPES OF ART GALLERY – COMMERCIAL GALLERIES

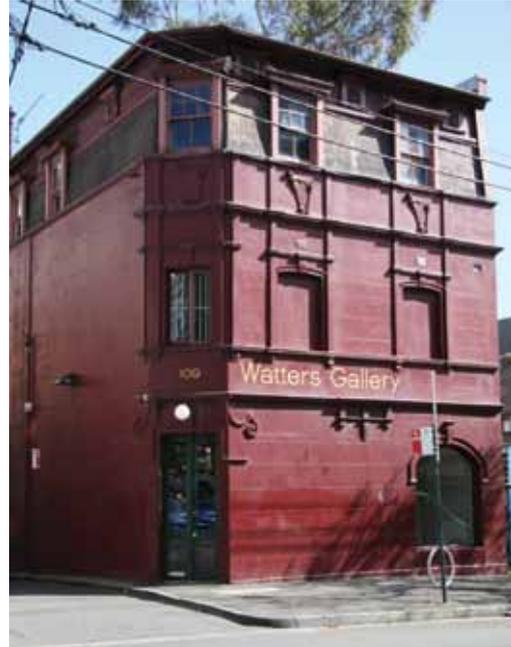
Last issue I talked about Artist Run Initiative Spaces (ARIS) and how artists can approach them to host an art exhibition. As an addendum I would like to add the Garden Gallery at Heatherbrae, located in the beautiful Hunter Region Botanic Gardens. You can get more information by calling 4987 1655.

For this issue I would like to talk about Commercial Galleries

COMMERCIAL GALLERIES

As the name suggests, commercial galleries are a commercial enterprise with an art dealer looking after sales on behalf of the artist for a set commission. As a business arrangement, the art dealer would be looking for artists they feel comfortable representing as a selling agent and in many cases a dealer will represent an artist for many years; Watters Gallery in Sydney is one such commercial art gallery. Co-owners of Watters Gallery, Frank Watters and Geoffrey Legge (recently featured in the MRAG exhibition *Frank's Flat*) are long term business partners who see their relationship with artists as very much a two way thing. Watters Gallery will proudly state they rely on their artists as much as their artists rely on them.

Commercial galleries are very much subjected to the usual trials and tribulations of any business enterprise and many fold early in their first years of operation. Some however are very successful and Watters Gallery has been operating successfully for more than 40 years. To be represented by a commercial art gallery an artist could approach the art gallery and make an appointment with the director or gallery manager to see if they and their artwork fit within the current 'stable' of artists at that commercial art gallery. In some cases an artist's work may catch the eye of an art dealer who would then approach the artist with an aim to operate as that artist's dealer.



[above] Watters Gallery
109 Riley Street East Sydney NSW 2010
Contact (02) 9331 2556, www.wattersgallery.com

Commissions charged by commercial galleries can vary and often artists are locked into an agreement stating they will not sell their artwork with another gallery or within so many kilometres radius of that particular commercial enterprise. To support the artist the dealer will often submit artwork on behalf of the artist to lucrative art prizes such as the Archibald Art Prize and if the artist wins any such prize often the prize is split between the artist and the dealer. Indeed if the artist wins this calibre of prize the artwork produced may then attract higher prices which will equate to a higher commission for the dealer.

Generally speaking it would be important to have had some exhibition experience, usually gained in ARIS or through numerous art shows before approaching these galleries as they really would want to see commitment in the artist's work practice before they would commit to a business arrangement.

Next issue I will talk about public art galleries...

Kim Blunt
Public Program Coordinator



EXHIBITIONS



PAT CORRIGAN

> Collector

16 SEP - 6 NOV 2011

SEAN ROCHE

Hours & Minutes

In the Art Factory exhibition and project spaces

23 JUL - 13 NOV 2011

RIPARIAN RITES

> *Williams River Valley Artists Project*

26 AUG - 16 OCT 2011

JOHN R WALKER

> *Space and time, 10 years
in the landscape*

7 OCT - 4 DEC 2011

STUART SCOTT

> *Faces of Maitland*

21 OCT - 4 DEC 2011

RON ROYES

> *Through My Eyes*

21 OCT 11 - 04 DEC 2011

FACE 2011

> *An exhibition of student portraits
by K-10 Hunter and Central Coast
Students*

21 OCT 11 > 04 DEC 11

A HECTOR TJUPURU BURTON INITIATIVE

> *2011, Men's collaborative paintings
and Women's collaborative paintings*

12 NOV 2011 > 15 JAN 2012

LUCY BARKER

> *Lifestyles of the neither rich
nor famous*

In the Art Factory exhibition and project spaces

12 NOV 2011 > 19 FEB 2012

[left top] Robert Owen, *Model for public seating (Business)*, 1994 -96, acrylic on wood on marble base, 18.6 x 28.2 x 8 cm, © Robert Owen/Licensed by Viscopy, 2011
[left lower] John R Walker, *Untitled*, 2004, gouache on paper, 55 x 75 cm [right] Ron Royce, *The Old Lady*, ceramic, fibreglass, wood and metal, 37 x 15 x 15 cm



TERM 4 ART CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS



Pipsqueak and Art Tuesdays and Thursdays will be back in Term 4. Pipsqueak is a hands on art experience for toddlers aged 2-5 and their carers. Art Tuesdays and Art Thursdays art classes cater for children aged 6-12.

PIPSQUEAK!

**WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
10:30am-11:30am**

*with Mary Coombes
for toddlers aged 2-5 and their parents or carers*

**WEDNESDAYS: 19 OCTOBER – 7 DECEMBER
THURSDAYS: 20 OCTOBER – 8 DECEMBER**

**Book in weekly or for the full term.
\$8 members / \$10 non members per week.
All materials included.**

Pipsqueak is a fantastic art program for young ones. Mary, who has a background in theatre and art, engages the children by looking at art in the gallery, playing games, singing songs, puppetry, book readings and most fun of all... making works of art inspired by current exhibitions from across the gallery.

NOTE: Wednesday and Thursday classes have the same content.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL AND PAYMENT AT TIME OF BOOKING IS REQUIRED.

To book a place and secure your spot, drop into the art gallery or call 02 4934 9859
Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 5pm

ART TUESDAYS AND ART THURSDAYS CLASSES

4:00pm - 5:30pm
For creative kids aged 6-12

**TUESDAYS: (8 WEEKS)
18 OCTOBER – 6 DECEMBER
THURSDAYS: (8 WEEKS)
20 OCTOBER – 8 DECEMBER**

**\$96 members / \$144 non-members per term.
All materials included.**

MRAG's after school classes for creative kids' covers a wide range of techniques with a range of materials. Over the term a variety of new projects will be completed, but best of all, its fun.

NOTE: Tuesday and Thursday classes have differing content



FUNDING

It is with much pleasure that we announce the generous sponsorship of Xstrata Coal. Xstrata have agreed to fund the printing of our newsletter for the next 12 months. You are now assured of the continued high quality of your recently named MRAGM newsletter, 'ARTEL'.

Many thanks to Helen Sharrock and Xstrata



MRAGM AGM - ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!



Annual General Meeting is being held at the Art Gallery on Wednesday 26th October, 5.30pm for a 6pm meeting start.

From 5.30 pm there will be drinks and nibbles from Seraphine with a brief tour by Joe of the current ground floor exhibition *John R. Walker: Space and Time: Ten years in the landscape* before the commencement of the meeting.

Our meetings are brief and are held bi - monthly in a friendly, co-operative atmosphere with the common denominator being that we all love art.

The Art Gallery would love an increased involvement from our members and would support and welcome anyone on board our committee no matter how much or little time you have to give.

Please come along and support our unique and progressive Art Gallery.



2011 MRAGM COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON > Jeff Sinclair **VICE CHAIRPERSON** > Reg O'Brien **SECRETARY** > Kim Blunt

TREASURER > Jean Paul Ruelle **NEWSLETTER SECRETARY** > Linda Greedy

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER > Vicki Woods **GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER** > Helen Sharrock

MRAGM meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Wednesday of the month at the art gallery at 4.15pm.

All MRAG members are most welcome. Our meetings are brief and friendly.

