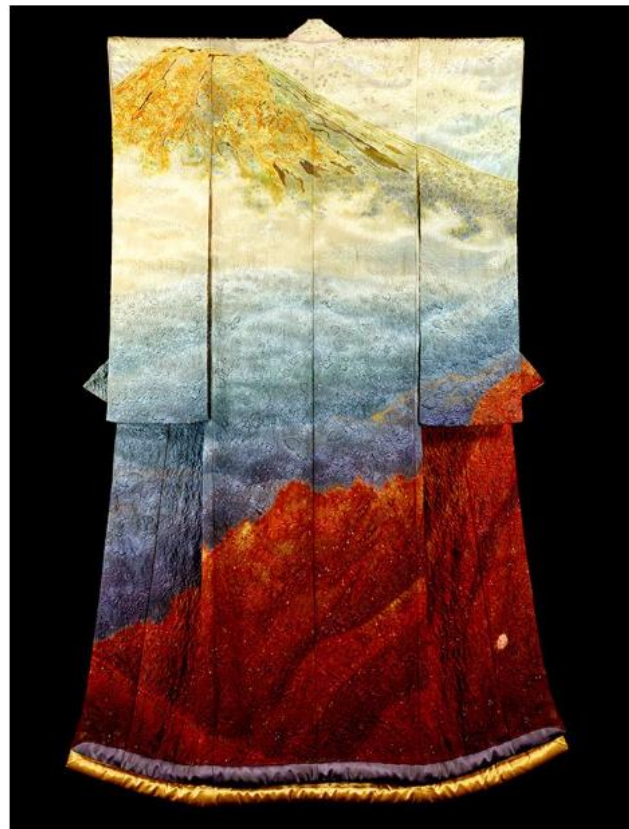




From the President – Andrew Inglis

Last October I was fortunate to be able to travel to Japan, enjoying good weather and an exceptional and intriguing culture. Near Fujisan, with the rest of the tour group, I attended a world heritage art gallery/museum that featured the collected works of Itchuku Kubota (1917-2003) titled Tsujigahana (ornamental kimonos).

This artist almost single handedly revived an ancient art form of tie-dyeing Kimonos using traditional and contemporary techniques, later assisted by a crew of assistants. Each work could take up to one year to complete, using complex stitching, tying, dying, steam-drying and colour blending using very subtle, nuanced stitching, embroidery, textured fabric filling and use of rich brocades and other textural, woven materials.



An Autumn's View of Mt Fuji from its Northern Foothills, 1991

Much like the impressionist masters, Kubota sought to capture how the mountain appeared in different lights, showcasing it standing proudly as clouds billow around, or appearing from the seasonal flora and

fauna that surround its base. For lovers of Mt Fuji, the sight of Kubota's work can be quite emotional.

Kubota would brush on natural traditional dyes and steam iron to fix the dye then remove the threads carefully. He would form head shaped lumps looped 3 times and then double knotted, dyed and hand coloured, to allow controlled colour blending. Steam fixing could take 40-90 minutes. Small scissors were used to remove the thread, using force proportional to the knot strength. Great care was needed to avoid damage to the finish of the kimono, and later additional work of embroidery, gilding or hand painting. Materials were ribbed, crumpled into Buddhist and Shinto patterns and forms.



Fugen – 2004

These methods were inspired by Japanese tie-dyeing methods of the 16th Century.

Kubota was inspired in part by experiences he had as a prisoner of war in Siberia, watching the rising sun from his cell window. He had a major display at the Smithsonian in New York in 1991.

Annual Members Exhibition 2024

Our exhibition is fast approaching. We have the entire gallery, which means that artists will have the opportunity to show more works. We are planning on each artist having **up to 2 to 3 linear meters of wall space**. Artists on the Exhibition Sub-Committee will be entitled to more wall space (TBD). So, those interested in joining the Exhibition Sub-Committee, please contact Andrew (0419 890 772) or Angeline (0421 620 334).

We will need images of your entries by the **first week of JUNE** to prepare the catalogue.

Once again, there will be two adjudicated awards and the formal Opening will be held a week later on Thursday, 11th July. The Mayor of the City of Glen Eira will present the awards.

We are planning two floor talks, one by Diane Soumilas and one by the adjudicator.

The Exhibition Sub-Committee has been busily planning activities including a painting display. More details will be forthcoming with the invitation to submit works.

Activities Report

Activity levels during the Winter months declined significantly, with no attendance at En Plein Air and very low attendance in Studio Art and Life Drawing. The most popular activity was Portraiture that continues to enjoy high participation levels. We expect that Autumn will usher in greater levels of activity.

Members' News

Kate Birrell's "Glen Huntly Station - Then and Now" exhibition was held at the Glen Eira Council Gallery Annexe during 1-15 February 2024.



Angeline Bartholomeusz's work "Summer Legs", featured at the Victorian Artists Society Summer Exhibition.

Amanda Wyness participated in the "Three Aspects" exhibition at the Malvern Artists Society Gallery.

Lee Hirsh is participating in a multi artists exhibition at Minerva Gallery, which will run until 4 May 2024. Check our FB page for full details.

Cityscape

The annual RCC Cityscape was held on Sunday, 19th November. It was a very well attended event that included Pam Andrews as Mentor/Facilitator. Works from that show were exhibited at the Spotlight Centre (Carnegie Central). A selection of the works appears in the last page of this newsletter.



New Members

We welcome our new members Khin Khin Htwe (Daisy), and Andrew Constantinidis and wish them a long and creative association with our Society.

Quotes and Definitions

Quote

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." – *Nelson Mandela*

Definitions

Insanity – "Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result" (falsely attributed to Albert Einstein) as opposed to the clinical definition "a severely disordered state of the mind usually occurring as a specific disorder" (Merriam-Webster).

Governance and Administration

Website

Our website is a work in progress, continuously being updated. For more information about the online gallery and how to take advantage of this opportunity, members should call Mary: 0418 377 965 or write to geartists@gmail.com.

At the Galleries

Frankston Art Centre – Tea Ercole is one of several artists whose exhibitions will run from 28 March until 4 May 2024. The centre provides many other activities and attractions.



“Essence”, Tea Ercole

Era of Upcycling Exhibition

We have become a ‘throw away society’. Items are being sent to landfill which could be given a new lease of life through upcycling.

This is a Rotary Club of Caulfield exhibition that will display the creativity and ingenuity of artists in upcycling items by creating artworks that use ceramics, clothing, furniture, mosaics, paintings and wall-hangings. There are still a few places for some more variety to be shown at this exhibition.

If you are interested, please contact the Convenor of the exhibition, Faye Kirkwood on 0409 570 195 or mail to Fayeian39@gmail.com.

Members are welcome to attend Committee meetings and participate in the deliberations. Please contact us geartists@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Acknowledgements and attributions

We acknowledge the important role and support to date of the Rotary Club Caulfield.

CHECK NEXT PAGE FOR A SELECTION OF CITYSCAPE WORKS



