



GLEN EIRA ARTISTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024

Glen Eira Artists Society Inc

ABN 72-436-357-743

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From the President

Spring is soon upon us; the world ever changes. We still vacillate between hope and despair with new birth, and violent, terrible devastation in wars and conflicts. For us, art provides a unique space to consider our stirred emotions and cope with a zany world.

Our Annual Membership Exhibition is just a distant memory. The adjudicator Liz Moore Golding did a splendid job, as did the exhibition subcommittee. In the lead up to the exhibition two mentoring sessions were held, one by Robert Lee David and the second by Colin Sinclair.

The exhibition also attracted new members. Consequently, we expect a significant rise in activity with the approach of Spring.



Shark Bay Study 1 – Connie Powys

We ask all members to consider joining the Committee and sub-committees, to give creative input to forward planning and effective discussion in the lead-up to the AGM. Please consider taking up an active role. We are only as effective as the level of participation rate: as the old adage says "If it's to BE, it's up to ME!"

Exhibition 2024

By all accounts the annual exhibition was a great success. For the first time we had the use of the entire gallery, a move that motivated many of our members to paint large works and to experiment with different art genres.

With such quality and variety of the works on show no doubt Elizabeth More Golding (adjudicator) faced an arduous task when selecting the winners.

We congratulate the winners of this year's Adjudicated Awards:

1st Prize: "The Joy of Life" by Margaret Holloway

2nd Prize: "Strata" by Angeline Battholomeusz

3rd Prize: "Easter" by Carmel O'Connor

Highly Commended: "Morning Walk" by Margaret Holloway

Encouragement Award: "Morning Sun" by Bernadette Polak.



"Morning Sun" – Bernadette Polak

In line with past GEAS tradition, at the traditional afterparty attended by many members and partners, the Rotary Club of Caulfield announced the recipients of its Peoples' Choice Awards:

1st Award: Diptych "Rod and Voyage d'un Visage" by Gillian Schofield.

2nd Award "The Journey and Holiday Cruise: by Sara Longwood.

3rd Award "I'm Doing This" by Benjamin Levin.

We thank RCC for their generosity yet again.

Era of Upcycling Exhibition

The purpose of this exhibition was to highlight the wastefulness of the “throwaway society”. It revealed the artists’ creativity and ingenuity in preventing unnecessary waste, by preventing items found on kerbsides going to landfill.



The recipients of this worthy exhibition were:

1st Award: “Victoria” by Susan Fajnkind

2nd Award: “Recycled Car” by Benjamin Levin

3rd Award: “Madonna” by Lee Hirsh

Activities Report

Studio Art has enjoyed a resurgence in the number of participants, some of them new members of the Society. Art sessions are now lively with the eruption of new creativity.

GEAS decided to discontinue Life Drawing following Rob Gudan’s resignation as Convenor, and the difficulties in securing a suitable replacement.

Portraiture sessions continue to be popular and well attended. We are still exploring options to resurrect Art and About.

We also introduced “Share Your Art”, a new activity that combines socialising and discussing art in a convivial environment. The first event was a great success, and we look forward to more of them.

Freda Kahlo – Kylie Castan

[Ekphrasis – writing inspired by a well-known artist](#)

I look within to see an image of the quintessential woman, with a clean, crisp blouse allowing four parrots to roam upon her countenance.

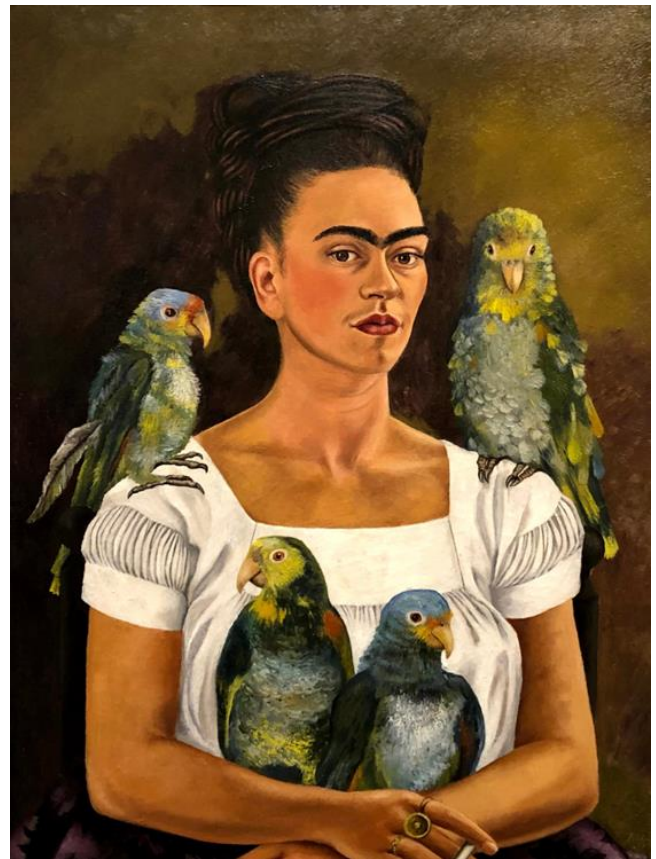
Two parrots nestle on her knees, reminding her to manage, I imagine, all that besets her.

She is irreverent, bold, visceral and honest about the pain in her life – her paintbrush is like a wand with a diamond, cutting through the myth, the lies, the unnecessary.

To be insolent and rebellious, she holds a fuming cigarette between two fingers. She is modern, bold and true but hides the difficulty and struggle within an air of confidence. Hiding within the hidden, is the embers of creativity, smouldering without the heart of things with a broken heart.

Yet there is a distance from the struggles, she shows the world beauty and the staring eyes of knowing how to feel life. Fresh water and salty olives trickle down her throat when all is lost, now forgotten.

The parakeets squawk in their own language of loudness to reveal the strong vitae of her experience. Blood red ruby lips utter their notions.



Self-portrait with four parrots (1947)

Members’ News

We welcome the following artists who joined recently, and wish them a long and creative association with our Society:

- Margot O’Callaghan
- Mary-Louise Distasio
- Rebecca Wilkins
- Benjain Levin
- Jane Xing
- Judith Aronovitch
- Khin Khin Htwe (Daisy)
- Helen Edge (recently rejoined)

“My Way” – a brief history

A brief history of the song “My Way”

While singer-songwriter legend Paul Anka has left a long trail of hits over his 60-year career, he admits that early on, he was terrified to write a score for Frank Sinatra. “He’d always tease me, ‘hey kid, when are you going to write me a song?’” Paul Anka remembers. “But I couldn’t. I was scared to death and I was writing all this teen stuff.”



Paul Anka

Frank Sinatra

Of course, nowadays there are very few music lovers today who are not familiar with the poignant ballad that Paul Anka eventually crafted for Sinatra – “My Way.” Some dub it the most powerful of Anka’s many songs, which also include classics like “Puppy Love,” “Put Your Head on My Shoulder” and even Johnny Carson’s theme song for “The Tonight Show.”

Anka didn’t think twice over fifty years ago when Sinatra called him out of the blue and declared, “kid, we are going to dinner.” “When Sinatra says ‘we are going to dinner’, you drop everything and you go to dinner,” recalls Anka, who as a budding Vegas headliner in the 1960s had a friendly tie with the Rat Pack.

During the meal, Sinatra dropped a stunning surprise: He was about to quit showbiz. “He said, ‘I’ve had it. I’m fed up. But I’m doing one more album and you never wrote me that song’.” Anka felt the

pressure. Still reeling over the news at 1am in his apartment, he found himself toying with lyrics to a melody he had heard in France. “I thought, ‘What would Frank do with this melody, if he were a writer? And all of a sudden, it just came to me: ‘And now the end is near, and so I face the final curtain.’”

He finished the song at 5am and called Sinatra on the spot, promising him a song for his final album. “I knew I had something I wouldn’t be afraid to give him,” Anka said. The next day, he recorded a demo of the song and flew to Las Vegas, where Sinatra lived. “I played him the song and he looked at me and said, ‘I’m doing it.’”

Two months later, Sinatra called Anka again. This time, with better news. “He says, ‘kid, listen to this,’ and puts the phone up to the speaker,” Anka remembered. “I heard ‘My Way’ playing for the first time, and I started to cry.”

Paul Anka never knew what a legacy he had created when, at the request of Ol’ Blue Eyes, he wrote this song for Frank’s presumed retirement. Frank Sinatra had a mega smash hit with it, followed by the Three Tenors, Pavarotti and numerous other big stars who covered the song over the years.

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 contact Mary: 0418 377 965 or geartists@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 pages for artworks from the exhibition, Kylie Castan, and Sara Longwood

 <p>Rotary Club of Caulfield</p>	 <p>City of GLEN EIRA</p> <p>PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL</p>	 <p>Murrumbeena Community Bank® Branch Bendigo Bank</p>	 <p>Melbourne ARTISTS' Supplies</p>
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SELECTED WORKS FROM THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION



"No.32#100 Heads Challenge" – Corinne Renshaw



"No.33#100 Heads Challenge" – Corinne Renshaw



"Dancing Corals" – Jane Xing



"Young Mermaid at Play" – Merve Ritter



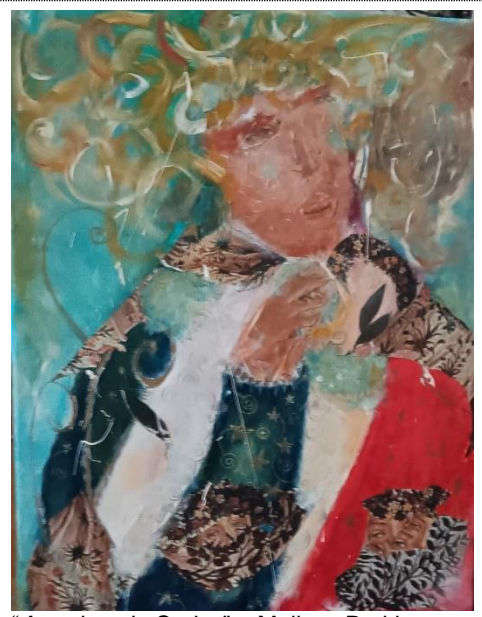
"Helena" – Liz Coyle



"Sunset at Valencia" – Bernadette Polak



"I am Doing This" – Benjamin Levin



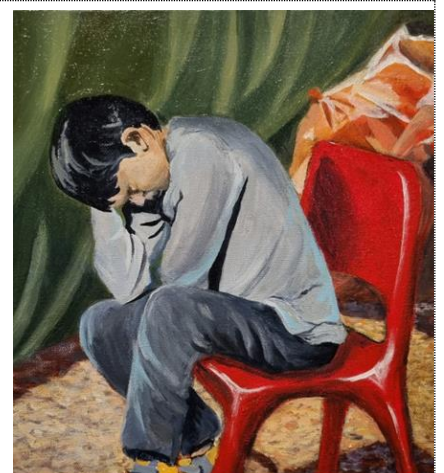
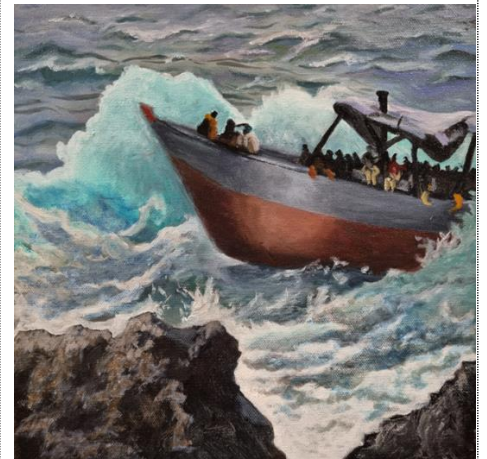
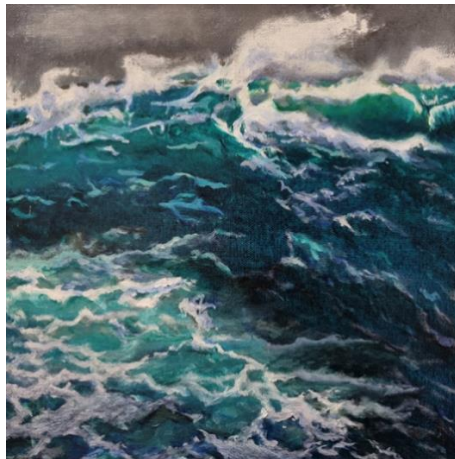
"Amadeus in Spring" – Melissa Parkinson

WORKS BY SARA LONGWOOD

This compendium of important artworks deserves to be described in Sara's own words.

"For many years I have been aware of the cold and uncaring treatment of refugees applying for asylum by Australia. It exaggerates the inequities in this world. I hoped to enable viewers to see refugees as people like them that only want a safe environment to raise their families.

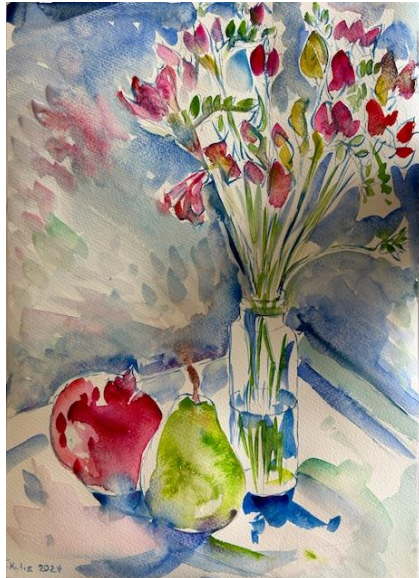
Do we stay? Do we go? Who can we trust? Leaving one's home and moving countries under duress results in the loss of culture, roots, family connections, only to wait... and wait... and wait. Boat trips often do not end the way families wish."



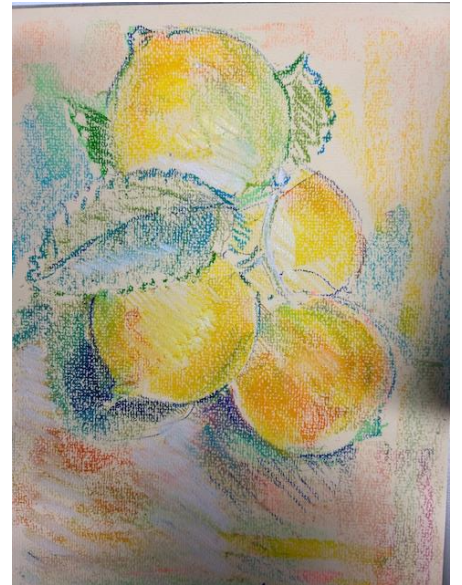
WORKS BY KYLIE CASTAN



"Cherubs"



"Freesias"



"Lemons"



"Cherubs"



"Cherub"



"Ballet Shoes"



"Handle with Care"