

# NELSON SUTER ART SOCIETY

May 2018 - NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you for accepting me as President of The Society for 2018. 2017 was a pleasure.

I would like, firstly, to thank our Patron, Gabrielle Coote, as the Patron for 2017. I warmly welcome her back as Patron for 2018. Congratulations Gabrielle!

We have had a stunning year in the new space, with many awesome and varied exhibitions, including: Bridges (Margaret Johnston and Jimena Munoz)  
Enroute: Travelling Light (Claire Bywater, Kirsten Baldwin and Rahel Brodie-Sherock)  
Uncovered – Cathy Jones  
Moving Water – Steven and Caroline Bellamy  
Together (which welcomed 9 new members)  
#lost childhood (stunning installation by Anne Braunsteiner)  
April New Members Exhibition again featuring 9 new artist members  
Links – Lynette Cain, Lee-ann Dixon, Carol Hargedon, Cathy Jones and Jane Sussmilch.

Amongst these we also held our annual Autumn Exhibition, selling 18 works at a value of over \$11000. Our Spring exhibition sold 12 works totalling more than \$4000. And the Summer Cash n Carry sold 39 works (totalling over \$10000).

Earlier this year Colleen Elvines and Anne Deegan's Paint to Pots Exhibition came close to being a sell out exhibition with 51 works sold and

only a few pieces remaining. Congratulations to the sisters for such a cohesive and stunning use of space to showcase their combined talents.

These stunning exhibitions and opportunities could not happen without the many hours volunteered by our members especially our Committee members. The Society exists for its members, both exhibiting artists and art supporters alike and is run by our members voluntarily. *All the time given is greatly appreciated.* As such I would like to formally acknowledge and thank all those who have been on the Committee the past year and are stepping down for various personal reasons:

- Ross Whitlock (9 years),
- Angela Nicol (8 years!),
- Lynette Cain (Has been on the Committee regularly over the years),
- Jane Sussmilch,
- Jason McCormack,
- Michael Doyle,
- Vicki Charles (last years Treasurer)
- Judith Ritchie.

**Thank you to All volunteers – your time is beyond appreciation.**

A huge Thank you also, to The Suter staff, Julie Catchpole and Sarah McClintock for working in with us for the Spring and Autumn exhibitions, and your advice when sought. This is greatly appreciated.

Throughout the year we trialled a few new initiatives – one of which being the new NMIT Graduate Award. The

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recipients last year, Sarah Arnold and Yael Pochin, will be exhibiting in May this year. Keep an eye out for this emotive exhibition / installation. Congratulations to both Yael and Sarah on winning the inaugural award jointly. We look forward to seeing your exhibition in May.

Our focus is on giving artists and art lovers / supporters new opportunities / art adventures... and as such we are happy to take on new ideas and initiatives. Please direct these to the newly elected committee and / or volunteer yourself to activate something exciting for us all to enjoy.

#### Life membership

And lastly - The hugest Thanks go to Kate Coote and Nick Duncan who have been on the committee for 7 years.

Between the two of them – they have supported the Art Society relentlessly with many volunteered hours,

ideas and various skill sets.

This is warmly appreciated and probably taken for granted by many.

The committee would like to formally acknowledge all that they have done and do, nominating them both for life membership.

Nick and Kate... I would like to congratulate and thank you with honorary life membership.

Congratulations.

Again, I sincerely thank all those volunteering to maintain the running of such an awesome Art Society of which I am personally proud to be a part.

Welcome all. May 2018 be another stunning year.

Warm Regards,

Larisse Hall  
**NSAS President**

## "AUTUMN EXHIBITION"

There was only one place to be in Nelson on Wednesday March 7th and that was the opening of the NSAS Autumn Show. There were familiar names exhibiting and many new names which represented a broad cross section of society members and their 2D and 3D art. The guest artist Jeff Thomson showed a range of sculptures, including a full size bicycle attached to the wall. Wonderful wall shadows added another element to the display.


All chairs were filled and many standing at the back ready to hear president Larisse Hall thank all those involved behind the scenes and introduce speaker Barbara Speedy, Director of The Diversion Gallery, Picton and representing sculptor Jeff Thomson. It




was an interesting insight into both his work and character from someone who knows him well.

A new initiative was a People's Choice award, with ballot voting. A \$100 gift voucher was sponsored by

Impressions Nelson for the winning artist.

The People's Choice Award winner was Dana Rose with her painting "Madonna of the Meerkats (grazie Raphael)." 

**Congratulations**, Dana, and thanks to Impressions Picture Framers and Art Supplies of Richmond for donating the prize of \$100.

Jeff Thomson gave an extremely interesting floor talk to a large audience on March 24th, with a history of his art career, discussion of his methods and exciting pictures of many of his sculptures and installations. 

Written by Claire Bywater.



## GUEST ARTIST PROFILE

### Jeff Thomson

The news will no doubt have got around by now that the guest artist for our Autumn Exhibition was the renowned and popular Jeff Thomson. I was lucky enough to be asked to follow up an email exchange for some photos Jeff was going to provide and write a little about him.

All the photos here are taken by brother Rory Thomson – obviously an artistic family.

Jeff is widely known as the “Iron Man of Australasia” for his sculptures and numerous WOW entries in corrugated iron. His fascination with the material began in 1980 whilst walking in the Otago Peninsula on a study break from Elam School of Fine Arts.

Starting small with rural letterbox sculptures, by 1985 he had installed a herd of life-sized corrugated iron elephants in Auckland's Albert Park.

Today Jeff has sculptures all over New Zealand and the rest of the world. His experimentation never ceases and one of his latest innovations is a corrugated iron press made to create waves on a monumental scale.

Jeff describes his process:

“Using a roading roller, I flatten objects and then put these between the two moulds and have either a big forklift or a log grabbing machine come down on top with 3-4 tons of pressure to force the flattened object into the shape of the mould.”

*Written by Claire Bywater.*



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# UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

## 7-27 May

### **"More is More".**

A Pop-up exhibition by 17 members, 15 two-dimensional artists and 2 with three-dimensional work: Kerry Aitkin, Marilyn Andrews, Didi B, Steven Bellamy, Tania Bostock, Claire Bywater, Vicki Charles, Liz Downey, Janice Gill, Shaune Hatrick, Mags Meechang, Alicia Molloy, Lynn Price, Sally Reynolds, Jane Smith, Jane Sussmilch, Jan Thomson .

## 28 May-10 June

### **"Pause".**

An exhibition by Sarah Arnold and Yael Pochon, the joint winners of the NSAS-sponsored Graduate Award for NMIT Students.

## 11 June-1 July

Exhibition by 9 new members.

## 2-10 July

### **"Light Nelson".**

Five members of the NSAS will present light-based work in the McKee Gallery, located within the Suter Art Gallery, Te Aratoi o Whakatu. Featuring Jason McCormick, Maggy Johnston, Jane Sussmilch, Ann Braunsteiner and Lee Woodman.

## 11-18 July

### **"A Timeline of Crewel Work".**

Exhibiting 17th to 20th century British and American antique textiles, accompanied by modern crewel work inspired by them and embroidered by Philippa Turnbull, an English Embroidery artist.

## 19 July -12 August

### **"Revue".**

A mix of new and older works by Wanda Tait.

## 13 August-2 September

### **"Double Take".**

by Natalia Chaplin

## 12 Sept-30 Oct

### **NSAS Spring Exhibition.**

[Receiving Day 3 Sept, Opening 12 Sept]



## DOUBLE TAKE

Natalia Chaplin



'Double Take' is an interactive 'guess who' exhibition by **Natalia Chaplin**, full of pastel portraits of people you might just recognize – singers, actors, producers, etc.

With the focus on the eyes the exhibition is engaging and focuses on the fun of art, get up close to see the texture and vibrancy of pastel.

Also, watch the portraits take shape in a time-lapse. Guess them all correctly and be in to win a piece of Natalia's art when the winner is drawn at the end of the New Zealand tour.

## NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILES

### Cathy Jones

*Painter of acrylics, DipTchArt, ADAC*

I have been painting for several years, while also working as a professional botanist. Now that I am semi-retired, I welcome this chance to give something back to the NSAS which has given me friendships, encouragement and exhibiting space over the last 20 years. I have had three solo exhibitions at the NSAS' McKee Gallery since 2004.

Having decided five years ago to become more of a fulltime professional artist, I chose to study at The Learning Connexion in Wellington. I am currently finding my way through a web of new ideas after graduating with an Advanced Diploma in Art and Creativity a year ago.

I am discovering a new level of freedom and imagination while my paintbrush continues to explore twin passions of botany and figure-work. I like to link plants to humans in unexpected ways combining my two themes to create an interesting marriage, spiced with a subtle level of humour and ambiguity.

I am looking forward to being useful to my fellow artists and immersing myself more deeply into the art world of Nelson.



### Jennifer Walker

*Watercolour Artist*

I've always had a fascination with nature from an early age growing up in Nelson and St Arnaud where gardening, trout fishing, pottery and painting became a large part of my life.

Although mainly self taught over the last twenty years I've attended various workshops including Nancy Tichbourne and Susan Harrison-Tustain who have been an inspiration to me for painting watercolours. I love the luminosity, moodiness and atmosphere that watercolours bring.

I was an active member of Craft Potters in Hope for over 10 years, and am currently a member of Watercolour NZ, Art Group Nelson, The Nelson Trout Fishing Club and NSAS. My current project is renovating a 100 year old cottage at St Arnaud with my husband, Ross.

I am looking forward to my position on the NSAS Committee as the Membership, Volunteers and Social Co-ordinator.



### Peter Copp

My work is inspired by a response to the local Nelson scenery, in particular to the quality of light, which is ever changing and integral to the mood of the painting. I often sketch outside but predominantly paint in my studio. I "rough in" the landscape and then paint intuitively, so that the work does not become stifled by restrictions such as photographs or detailed drawings. My paintings relate to the local Nelson landscape, and usually depict places with which I am most familiar, such as the Ruby Bay cliffs, D'Urville Island, the Abel Tasman Park, the Moutere and Waimea estuaries, and the "big sky" that is often present. I try to convey a sense of place, yet also allow the viewer to make their own interpretation of what the painting represents.

I like the depth of colour intensity of oil paint, used in direct and gestural brushstrokes, which asserts the texture of the oil paint and of the painting's surface. I usually work in oil on MDF. The meaning or intention of the work emerges from an ongoing discussion I have with the painting, the issues that arise and are worked through. The composition and light are determined, and the painting progresses, sometimes quietly, sometimes with a struggle, to a satisfactory conclusion. I am fascinated by the ability of oil paint to express things which cannot be put into words, such as the intensity of light and the depth of colour that can be achieved.

Revisiting scenes that I have previously painted, allows me to explore various ways of interpreting changing conditions and always results in paintings that are totally different.

I have been painting and exhibiting regularly since leaving school and have paintings in private collections in Europe, USA, Canada and New Zealand.





## NEW MEMBERS

**We have recently welcomed the following artists as new members to our Art Society -**

Cameron Blaisdell, Ronnie Martin, Sarah Arnold, Yael Pochon, Joanne Marcon, Paula Fitzgerald, Margaret Fairs, Gary Gibbens, Natalia Chaplin, Prue Wilson.

## NEW MEMBERS' ARTIST PROFILES

### Cameron Blaisdell

I was one of those kids who never stopped drawing. I would draw on anything, anywhere, especially if I was bored or had to be at a grownup function I didn't want to be at. I was pushed harder to go further with my creations in art class and one day I discovered, or was told, I had "talent." Really, I just loved to draw. Eventually in University I learned I could sculpt too and ceramics became my medium of choice given the infinite possibilities ceramics afforded me as an artist. While I still love to draw I find that bringing creative ideas into the third dimensional adds more sensation and depth to the meaning of the work.

I received my Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina in the United States and shortly after graduating I moved to New Mexico to live a new life in the wild west. In the southwest I was surrounded by cultures that were intimate with nature-based mythologies and celebration the relationship between life and death in festivals like Dia De Los Muertos. Books such as "Where the Wild Women Run" had influenced my work in University, and living around Hispanic and Native American cultures, as well as vast tracks of undeveloped land, continued to inspire the direction of my work.

I love sculpting assemblages of bones, flowers, plants, and shells. My art reflects the reverence I have for the natural world. Many of my pieces symbolize the rhythms of natural cycles and their greater intrinsic blueprint through the aesthetic use of pattern and design. I draw inspiration from natural objects and use them to communicate the idea of impermanence, fragility, and the mystery found in the cycles of nature and in particular the cycles of life and death.



### Ronnie Martin

[www.ronniemartin.co.nz](http://www.ronniemartin.co.nz) | [ronniemartinnelson@gmail.com](mailto:ronniemartinnelson@gmail.com)

I am a textile and mixed media artist working in the lovely Nelson Region.

My artwork is about Mark making and layers. I am fascinated by the marks we make as humans to record and communicate. The marks may be stitched, drawn or painted. My textile works will often include my own hand painted surfaces, using the stencils, stamps and print blocks I have created to give richly textured surfaces which I then stitch into by both hand and machine.

My paintings are usually acrylics. Sometimes I choose to paint realistic interpretations of places I have seen and visited, and sometimes I prefer to explore my ideas in a more abstract way. I have exhibited in many group exhibitions both in New Zealand and overseas, and have had several solo exhibitions. I have been featured in several New Zealand and International magazines. I am an experienced judge for quilt and fibre exhibitions. I have a certificate in Quilt judging through the American Quilt Society.

I am the Creative Director for "Changing Threads," the Awards show for contemporary fibre and textiles which is exhibited at the Refinery Artspace Gallery around March each year. This prestigious exhibition aims to challenge the public perception of fibre and textile art. The work should be conceptual, with a high standard of technical skill. I have been on the Executive of Arts Council Nelson for several years. ACN is responsible for fostering and promoting the arts in Nelson and the wider area. Part of our role is to oversee the running of the Refinery Artspace Gallery which aims to foster Community arts through exhibitions, festivals and other events.

I work with Jo Kinross and David Ryan to run Creative Journey Workshops. We organise workshops and classes, encouraging students to learn in a supportive environment with highly skilled professional tutors. We work with individuals, small groups or will develop a programme to suit the needs of larger groups. We delight in sharing the arts with visitors to the Nelson area and are happy to run art exploration experiences to suit. We can be contacted through [www.creativejourneys.co.nz](http://www.creativejourneys.co.nz) I offer classes in many areas of textile and mixed media.

I specialise in encouraging students to discover their own voice through creative exploration.



## Sarah Arnold

For the last three years, these two artists have shared both a studio space and a creative journey, culminating in the works presented in this exhibition. Sarah Arnold and Yael Pochon won the inaugural Nelson Suter Art Society Graduate Award for their final works exhibited in the BAM 2017 Graduate show. This award included a year's membership to the society, and an exhibition to be held in the McKee Gallery from 28th May until 10th June 2018. Both compositions to be exhibited, although disparate in form and style, compel the viewer to pause and contemplate the complexities of memory and the subconscious.



Sarah Arnold: Remember. A word, heavy in sound and connotation, carrying the weight of its antithesis, all that has been, or might yet be, forgotten. Countering the limitations of what is knowable, Beyond Measure is engaged in a reconstruction process. Rebuilding memories from archival fragments, the work does not judge, blame or glorify, it simply remembers even as it reminds viewers about the promise, renewed annually on April 25th, that we will remember them, the soldiers.

## Yael Pochon

UTTERANCE forms a visual journey through ancient legends collected by French author Charles Perrault in the 17th century. This body of work gives light to the hero's journey at the heart of all tales to suggest that these narratives have the power to push the human spirit forward towards the revelation of inner wisdom. Images have their reflection in the subconscious mind where the hero archetype is in resonance with universal truth.

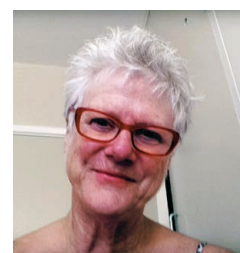
The tales I grew up with have always appeared to be infused with hidden meanings and symbols. Thereupon, through the legends collected by Charles Perrault in the 17th century, my work rises from a yearning to understand what lies beyond our conscious knowing and the appearances of our world. Revisited well-known narratives, I have considered their meanings to be about the unfolding drama of life and the signifiers for personal growth and transformation. At the heart of it stands the hero, the symbol of self-victory.

This work received the Suter Art Society Graduate award 2017.

## Marg Fairs Artist

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- I have been painting all my adult life.
- I am mostly self-taught having taken courses e.g. Life drawing night classes for a year at a secondary school and watercolours with Beth Dawson in Devonport.
- Known predominantly as a watercolourist, oils have been my medium of choice for the last 10 years.
- Life in New Zealand has provided me with endless subjects. Coastal subjects a large source of inspiration as is gardening and portraiture.
- The light in New Zealand is so bright and clear I find I lean toward bright colours.
- I have been chosen in the past to exhibit at the Molly Morpeth Awards in Whakatane and the Miles Awards in Tauranga.



## Joanne Marcon

Moving to and growing up in urban Auckland from a toddler, the youngest daughter of Co-Vicars, some of my youth was spent playing in crypts and bell towers of Churches surrounded by Christian symbols, stained glass windows and kowhaiwhai panels. My early art involved prop making and creating background scenes for Sunday school plays. As an adult my art is still inspired by my surroundings, by people, by stories, my pets, the oceans I visit, social commentary and expressive dreams.

I usually use oil on canvas or board. I like the medium of oil as I can work with it for a long time before it starts to dry. Oil has vibrant colour results and I can create various textures with it.

After school Certificate Art, I focussed on obtaining my degree in Anthropology and Education which I achieved in 2000 after a hiatus to work as a landscape gardener. Then I began successfully exhibiting paintings and photography at Galleries in West and North West Auckland. Being selected in 'Our People, Our Place' Waitakere Central Community Arts Council Exhibition was a highlight.



Having recently relocated to Nelson/Tasman where my ancestors arrived in New Zealand in 1842 I am learning more about my families past and I am currently using photography to reference it. A shed my Great Great Grandfather built still stands in Belgrove. The beauty of the local area coupled with my links to the past here are igniting my creative passion as I work from my studio in Upper Moutere. This is an exciting time and I am interested to see how my paintings evolve. My hope is for the viewer to see the emotion in my work and to feel moved in some way.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due in March each year. For details see the NSAS website [www.nsas.net.nz](http://www.nsas.net.nz)

For those who wish to pay by internet transfer our bank account number at the SBS is:

**03 1355051 5964 00**

Please quote SUB with your payment and your NAME. If you pay this way please email us if there are any changes needed to your contact details and how you wish to receive information from us. Otherwise subscriptions can be dropped into the Suter reception or posted to PO Box 751, Nelson 7040.

## CONTACTS AND DEADLINES

### Secretary (Advertising):

Kate Coote

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### Compiler / Editor:

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**Deadline:** Please forward all copy for August newsletter to Cathy Jones by **6 JULY 2018**. Photos should be sent separately, not embedded in documents

## COMMITTEE

- Gabrielle Coote (*Patron*)
- Larisse Hall (*President / B.I.G.*)
- Nick Duncan (*1st Vice President / E.H.T*)
- Kate Coote (*Secretary / Members Registrar.*  
*Newsletter: Advertising*)
- Philippa Eberlein (*Treasurer*)
- Dana Rose (*Exhibitions Officer / B.I.G.*)
- Jenny Walker (*Membership / Volunteers / Social Co-ordinator*)

- Richard Blunt (*General Committee / E.H.T*)
- Georgie Hoby Scutt (*General Committee / B.I.G*)
- Peter Copp (*General Committee / B.I.G*)
- Cathy Jones (*Newsletter Co-ordinator*)
- Robert Thompson (*General Committee*)
- Ken Laws (*General Committee*)
- Sandy Paterson (*General Committee*)
- B.I.G :** Brilliant Ideas Group
- E.H.T :** Exhibitions Hanging Team

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