

Art Newz

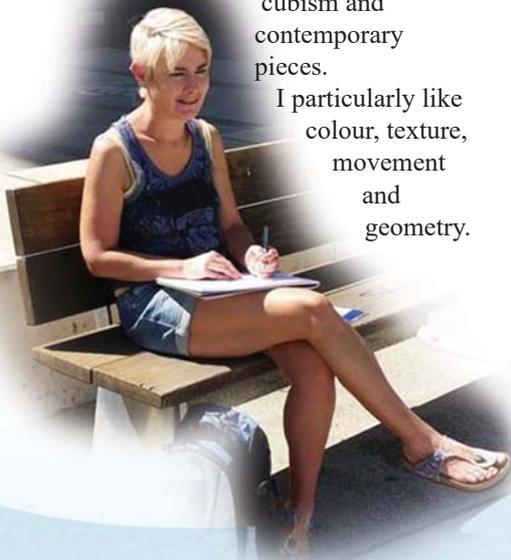
September 2018

Practising art and other things

I've been painting with the Box Hill Art Group for around 10 years. During this time I have attended a number of different classes and have had many different tutors. I first started attending on a Wednesday evening and then added to this the occasional Wednesday afternoon and Monday morning session. I now attend Saturday afternoons.

I love creating acrylic and mixed media abstracts, semi abstracts, cubism and contemporary pieces.

I particularly like colour, texture, movement and geometry.



I am continuously learning and thinking of new ideas influenced by observation of the world around me. My latest idea has been to incorporate some of the sketches I've captured during our sketch together plus lunch days into my larger works.

I also look after the Box Hill Art Group website, Facebook, Instagram and Meetup page, in addition to distributing the Mailchimp emails that you receive from us.

I'll be painting on site at our annual exhibition so come and say Hi.

To see more of my profile and the profiles of six other members, please visit www.boxhillartgroup.com.au on the Members Profile Page. You too could have your own profile added to this page which would promote you and your art.

To see more of my work follow me on Instagram ([kathybest.art](https://www.instagram.com/kathybest.art)) or visit my online store: <https://bluethumb.com.au/kathy-best>

Kathy Best



Abstracts by Kathy Best

Netherlands adventure

I was expecting flat and boring but was only half right.

Yes it's flat which is terrific if you're going to go on a cycling holiday

which we did – but boring, NEVER – it's a painter's paradise.

From the magnificent canals of all shapes and sizes, the barges, historic

villages, and rural agriculture surrounding fields of wildflowers and forest, there is always something beautiful to frame and paint.



BLANK!



The biggest killer of creativity

Did you hear about the painter who lost confidence in his ability to paint so he stopped trying? What a shame, and so unnecessary.

All creators of art are riddled with self-doubt at some point, it's normal.

Celebrated New Zealand songwriter Neil Finn said that the most frightening part of what he did was to face a blank sheet of paper as he played various chord progressions on his guitar in the hope that something would come – and if it didn't, he would invariably think that he could no longer write songs. Wrong!

While it's common for artists to lose confidence in their ability to create their particular art form, it's important to have a good mindset on the matter.

For instance, many people maintain that they can't create their art without inspiration, but many others believe in the Thomas Edison wisdom that inspiration only accounts for 10% of the process, while the remaining 90% comes from perspiration – meaning how you do it.

Being inspired by a great idea is terrific but at the end of the day, it's what you do with that idea. How you use it. And if one way doesn't work, try another way to realise your inspired idea, but keep going.

Not everything we create is going to be a masterpiece so relax, enjoy the journey, but practising your art regularly is paramount.

Talking about writing, Winston Churchill said, "You should go to your room every day at nine o'clock ... and say to yourself, 'I am going to sit here for four hours and write!' ... if you sit waiting for inspiration, you will sit there till you are an old man."

Hints for rediscovering your passion and regaining your confidence.

1. Don't engage with your negative self-talk.
2. Do take some lessons to reinvigorate your skills and approaches to your creativity
3. Do mix with other artists
4. Do practice creating your art regularly

Review

By Robyn Jenkins

Ben Winspear's Portrait Workshop – July 2018

Ben Winspear is the professional artist who was the winner of the \$50,000 Alice Bale Travelling Scholarship in 2016 and his prize included a study trip to the Florence Academy of Art.

Ben showed us the portraits he painted in Florence in the traditional 'chiascuro' style. Chiascuro, meaning 'light' and 'dark' in Italian, is a term used to describe the dramatic effect of contrasting areas of light and dark in an artwork, particularly paintings.

Chiascuro painting techniques involve creating the form and shape of the subject, not by using line, but by painting masses in a range of dark and light tones. Ben advised a range of at least 9 (can be 16 or 18) tonal values can be applied within the painting to further develop the form. He starts with the mid-tones and then applies the darker and lighter tones.

The painting details are only applied after the tones are accurate enough to see a likeness with the subject. Influenced by John Singer Sargent's painting techniques Ben was keen to quote Sargent's thinking, "If you work on a head for a week without indicating the features you will have learnt something about the modeling of the head."



To demonstrate Ben painted a cast head in greys only, using a home-made filter to separate the subject into masses across 9 tonal values in the white-black range. This portrait painting method uses a single light source e.g. a lamp in a darkened room, to create the best contrast and increase the dramatic effect.

However the same principle of contrasting tonal values applies whether you are painting a portrait, a still life or a landscape.

Ben is an enthusiastic and inspirational teacher. He talked about materials, encouraging us to use quality brushes, paints and supports, rather than cheap, aka inferior, products especially if you are planning to sell your works.

He gave us handouts on head proportions and how these proportions change in different positions. Later we were all able to practice painting or drawing from life through the generosity of our clothed volunteer model Ann. Ben provided a lot of encouragement and constructive comments on our efforts. Everyone had a great day of learning through practice.



Review

By Ray Jones



Sketching at the National Gallery of Victoria – July 2018

Winter in Melbourne tends not to be conducive to sketching outdoors in the elements, so the National Gallery of Victoria was chosen for our scheduled destination on Sunday 15 July.

A favourite art venue of members, we attracted 17 keen artists, which included five guests from our Meet Up site.

Armed with an array of pencils and pads plus stools provided by the gallery, we proceeded to the gallery's international collection on level two where we spread out to choose our subjects to sketch and got to work.



Before we knew it, it was lunchtime by which time the sun had come out which enabled a wonderful el fresco lunch outside the Concert Hall. All in all, a wonderfully pleasant day out.

Next scheduled Sketching together plus Lunch is Sunday 14 October at the Box Hill Gardens in Nelson Road Box Hill.



What's Newz

66th Annual Art Exhibition and Sale

Situated in the Box Hill Lower Town Hall from 19 to 21 October 2018, this is our major art exhibition for the year. Entry is open to all current financial members (as at 31 July 2018) as well as tutors from the Box Hill Art Group and Whitehorse Arts Association.

Judged by Mike Kowalski, there will be awards for Best in Show, Best Oil/Acrylic, Best Work on Paper, and the People's Choice Award.

The Best in Show receives the Whitehorse City Council Award which is a monetary prize with appropriate certificate. The remaining awards

attract a certificate with sponsor vouchers for art materials or framing, except the Highly Commended awards which attract a suitable certificate only.

Entry forms are due by 5 October 2018.

This is also the perfect time and place to pick up a bargain to hang on your wall. To register, and for all other details, please visit:
www.theboxhillartgroup.com.au

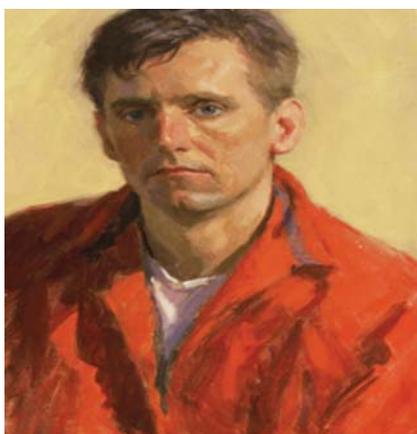
New tutor for Wednesday morning class

Following the sudden illness of Eleanor Griffiths, our new tutor for Wednesday morning's class is Lee Machelak.

A professional artist, Lee tutors in oils and pastels. Her speciality is in tonal realism and she is best known for her portraits and still life paintings created exclusively from life. Moreover, Lee encourages a direct method of painting that requires little in the way of drawing skills.

Having studied painting and drawing at the Florence Academy of Art in Italy; being a previous winner of the AME Bale Scholarship;

and having taught art for over 20 years; Lee endeavours to steer students towards adopting the 'painterly way' which provides skills for a more convincing likeness to the subject.



Portraits by Lee Machelak

New speciality workshop

Water colour landscapes with textual effects

Presented by acclaimed watercolourist Julian Bruere, this one day workshop will cover the methods and techniques he uses in his paintings, before giving you the opportunity of putting them into practice under his guidance.

Julian's workshop is suitable for both new and experienced watercolourists. Gain new and fresh insights into the dimension of texture that brings more excitement to a painting.

Contact

The Box Hill Art Group

(An Incorporated Association No A0015337S)
ABN: 7559 3958 139

Website www.boxhillartgroup.com.au

Email secretary@boxhillartgroup.com.au

President Ray Jones, 9898 4526

Secretary Eric Harvey, 9801 2173

Saturday 6 October 2018 from 10am till 4pm at the Box Hill Community Art Centre. Please visit: www.theboxhillartgroup.com.au for all details including cost and required art materials for the workshop.

Norfolk Island Painting Workshop

Former tutor of the Box Hill Art Group, Pamela Pretty, is conducting a seven day painting excursion on Norfolk Island between the 9th and 16th April 2019.

If you're interested in taking part, please call Pamela on 0419 323 923 for details, or email her at pamela.pretty3@gmail.com

Art Volunteer wanted!

If you are a painter experienced in water colour and/or acrylic mediums, and are prepared to volunteer to lead an art class once a month, then read on.

Elizabeth Gardens is an Aged Care facility in Burwood which is seeking a visiting artist who can guide aged residents in simple art activities using water colours.

The visiting artist will be supported by facility staff who will provide all of the necessary art materials, under your direction.

While having basic knowledge and experience of art practice, it is more important to be friendly with clear communications, as well as the creativity to come up with stimulating subjects to paint and how to paint them.

Commencing at around 2pm, it is envisaged that the monthly classes would run about an hour and a half, and can be conducted on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

Elizabeth Gardens, Royal Freemasons, is located at 2-8 Elizabeth Street, Burwood.

Please contact Eric Harvey as soon as possible if you can help at secretary@boxhillartgroup.com.au

To our sponsors, we thank you
Box Hill Community Arts Centre
City of Whitehorse

Creative Framing – 9888 8225,
www.creativeframing.com.au

Young Art Studio – 0406 958 558,
youngartstudiosales@hotmail.com

Frame City – 9872 5239,

President's Report

Well! Here we are on the last leg of 2018.

As we go to press we will have completed the last of the mid-holiday workshops. It has been very gratifying to see how popular these events have been with their diverse approaches to the wonderful world of art.

It is also great to see members willing to try something new and out of their comfort zone. We can all get stuck in a style or method of working which can get quite repetitive.

I love to explore and experiment and try not to be too precious about the outcome. Recently I dug out my print roller. One is never quite sure how successful the finished work will be.

The Annual Exhibition is fast approaching. Entries do not close until 5th October however, many entries are left until the last minute to arrive. The maximum number of entries will be seven and the size will be limited to 1.2m wide and 1.2m deep.

This year the Committee decided not to include a special theme, however we will introduce more prizes over all categories. The judge this year will be well known water colour painter Mike Kowalski.

We would love to include members paintings in our Art Newz so please email them to Eric or myself with a brief description of the painting.

All classes are progressing well. Go to our website to check on vacancies.

The father of our Tuesday evening Tutor Craig Rawlings recently passed away. Our thoughts are with Craig and his family.

Ray Jones

Senior Art Fine Art Supplies - Bulleen Store, 217 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen 3105, Phone (03) 9191 7862

Chroma Online Art Supplies - <http://chromaonline.com/landing>

