



The Botanical Art Society of New Zealand Inc

P.O. Box 29568 . Fendalton . Christchurch 8540
BASNZ@ihug.co.nz www.botanicart.com.au

March 2013 Newsletter

Coming up in this newsletter!

- **BOTANICA 2013 Exhibition Review!**
- **Introductory Beginner's Workshop May 1st, 2013**
- **Colour Green Workshop with Rebecca Brown-Thompson- Review**
- **Gordon Harris Acrylic Demonstration April 5th, 2013**
- **Bits and Bobs**
- **AGM - April 24th 2013**

BOTANICA 2013 Exhibition -Review



Many congratulations to all our members both in Christchurch and further afield, who made such a huge effort to contribute works to our annual exhibition. Described by the Canterbury Museum as a “stunning collection of botanical artwork”, we have to agree!

Special thanks go to Jenny Coker, Janet Marshall, Pam Hollows and Rebecca Brown-Thompson who each went to a lot of trouble to complete magnificent work and then courier the pieces from their respective homes across New Zealand, down (or up!) to Christchurch. Many congratulations also to Lorraine Thompson and Jacquie Carran who were exhibiting for the first time.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to all those members who so kindly gave up their time to help man the exhibition. A number of members had to drive considerable distances (Wanaka, Dunedin, West Coast, Darfield and Cust) to get to the Museum and others squeezed in time, amidst busy working schedules. We are enormously grateful, as without your help, the exhibition could not have taken place at the Museum.

The visitor's lounge proved itself to be a wonderfully light and airy space for an art exhibition and many compliments were made by a steady stream of visitors throughout the sixteen days. Under Jo Ogier's experienced eye, the paintings were beautifully arranged and assembled for hanging, a task then expertly undertaken by the team at the Canterbury Museum for which we were most grateful.

The works looked stunning and many visitors commented on what a wonderfully peaceful and serene atmosphere the paintings created. Well done to all!!

Introductory Beginner's Workshop May 1st, 2013

The Botanica 2013 exhibition generated considerable interest in a beginner's workshop. The first of these will be held on:

Wednesday May 1st, 2013

10am. – 1pm

Cost \$40

The Boardroom, The Lodge, Mona Vale, 40 Mona Vale Road, Fendalton

The workshops will be for a small group ie: 4-6 people and will be followed up by an Intermediate workshop later in the year. For more information or if an alternative date would be more convenient, please contact Helen Nutt at <mailto:basnz@ihug.co.nz>

Colour Green Workshop with Rebecca Brown-Thompson

On Saturday March 16th and Tuesday March 19th, twelve botanical artists had the good fortune to benefit from a day with Rebecca learning how to create greens by mixing or by glazing, using either watercolour, colour pencils or acrylics! Set in the wonderful Longueville Gallery, the day flew by as we started by identifying whether our primary colours were warm, cool, staining, non-staining, transparent or opaque, granular or non granular. We then moved on to create a myriad of wonderful greens by glazing. Our final task was to embark on the drawing and painting of a leaf. A really great day with so many useful tips and ideas, so thank you Rebecca and thank you too Sharon for the wonderful home made scones and biscuits!



Longueville Gallery showcases emerging New Zealand artists alongside those who are more established. Nestled in the tranquil setting of Otahuna Valley, Tai Tapu, it is just a short 25 minute drive from the centre of Christchurch and with wonderful cafes and wineries nearby, it is a really great place to visit. For more information on opening hours, do visit the website, the link for which you can find below.

<http://www.longuevillegallery.co.nz>

Gordon Harris Demonstration – Friday April 5th, 2013

At a Wednesday BASNZ meeting in late 2012, Rebecca Brown-Thompson gave a demonstration on painting in acrylic. If you are interested in learning a little more about painting in acrylic and you live in Christchurch, then you may be interested in a demonstration on Friday April 5th, 2013 at Gordon Harris.

Gordon Harris says...

“If you're serious about painting in Artists' Acrylic this demonstration is an opportunity not to be missed. Learn more about the properties of Artists' Acrylic paints, mediums and the techniques for using them developed in collaboration with some of the world's leading artists. This fun, informal demonstration will cover Binder, Pigments, Matting Agents, Colour Mixing, Gels, Pastes, Golden OPEN, Fluids, Heavy Body, Iridescent, Interference, Mixed Media, Digital Grounds, Skins, Transfers, Pouring and Layering.”

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL - LIMITED PLACES

Date for demonstration: Friday 5th April - 5:30-7:30pm
Gordon Harris - 34 Southwark Street, Christchurch
Tel: 03 377 3617

Bits and Bobs

NZ Post New Zealand Native Ferns

Perhaps you too have admired the stunning February 2013 New Zealand Native Ferns stamp issue! Members at our weekly meeting at Mona Vale were full of admiration and wondered who was responsible and so with a little bit of detective work, we discovered the following....

The presentation pack was written by Patrick Brownsey, a Research Fellow at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington. He is co-author of *New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants* and has published more than 100 scientific works on New Zealand, Australian and Pacific ferns.

The artwork was created by 2di4 Design in Wellington, the business of Di and artist/illustrator husband Stephen Fuller. Di kindly responded to our enquiry about the stamps and how they were created, saying the following.....

“The illustrations; the black and white renders are 'digital' pencil. The colored pictures are 'digital' oils. They were done at a very large size, for example the coloured ferns were done at A2 size (594mm x 420 mm) so we could get all the detail. When I say 'digital' my husband, Stephen draws straight into the computer with a pen and tablet (rather than a mouse), and he uses a computer program that replicates different painting and drawing medias. He is a traditionally trained illustrator and artist, but in today's world, the good old traditional piece of art isn't used any longer in the commercial world, and digital it has become.”

On being asked about the importance or relevance of traditional art training and in particular the place of botanical art in the modern digital world, Di replied...

“Stephen totally is reliant on his traditional training and skills, that is what makes him exceptional at what he does, because he has that traditional training and understanding of using traditional medias. I call him 'old school', because he comes from a family who are artists, sculptors, potters etc, so very much has the traditional grounding unlike a lot of illustrators coming through now. But for commercial work of this kind, all sketches and thinking are sketched straight to computer. We do have paper in the office, and often sketch ideas for ideas based jobs, but with this one, paper wasn't required :-) We are great fans of traditional artwork, and that kind of work will never die, and we enjoy producing paintings in our free time and exhibit. Commercially, it just isn't viable now-a-days in the industry we are in. So for botanical artist, there is a place for their work, just more so now in a gallery.”

Di and her husband Stephen work with a variety of businesses here in New Zealand and abroad, including design and advertising agencies. Their website is a superb showcase for their combined creativity and if you would like to see the stunning work done for the New Zealand Native Trees Stamp issue, just follow the link below.

<http://2di4design.com/home/native-new-zealand-trees/>

AGM 2013

Finally our 2013 AGM will be held on Wednesday April 24th at 10.00am at The Lodge, Mona Vale, Fendalton.

As always all members are most welcome.

Canterbury Plains Florilegium

A final reminder to all artists participating in the Florilegium, that the cut off for all drawings to be signed off by our consultant botanist is the end of April. September 1st remains the date for the final acceptance of work.

Newsletter Editor
Suzy Abbott