



Art Gallery Society of New South Wales An Overview For 2018

For the year ended 31 December 2018

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Presidents Report 2018

The Art Gallery Society of New South Wales

The Art Gallery Society of New South Wales was established in 1953 as an independent body with one primary goal: to support the Art Gallery of New South Wales. For 66 years the Society has achieved this in a remarkable variety of ways: by engaging members through a vibrant and diverse program of events, fund raising for art acquisitions, and sponsoring exhibitions and programs.

The Art Gallery Society is extremely proud of its contribution to the cultural life of the institution, our members and the public of NSW, through art enriching experiences and education. In 2018, we welcomed many new members and continued our relationship with long-standing members, some of whom had been with the Society for fifty years. Our relationship with the Gallery is positive and mutually supportive.

The Year in Review

2018 was another successful year for the Society, with many achievements celebrated as the Gallery moves towards the Sydney Modern Project expansion. The Society attracted 20,011 memberships, comprising 29,802 members, through the implementation of new strategic campaign initiatives and the support of volunteers and staff. Well-established and new events were well supported by members, who continued to actively embrace the vibrant and diverse Society programs on offer. I am happy to report that this success is reflected in the very positive budget position.

Members Programs and Events

The dynamic 2018 Events program included lectures, parties, concerts, bus tours, walking tours and workshops. These events significantly contributed to member appreciation and understanding of art more generally, with a particular focus on our institution. In 2018, the Society presented 437 members events, attended by 38,798 members and guests. This does not include *Collection Circle*, free lectures, world travel programs, or free members viewings, which were attended by a total of 7,490 members, and contributed to a grand total of 46,288 program participants.

The *Art Appreciation* lecture series *The Hidden Language of Art* proved popular, with many members continuing their long-standing subscriptions to the Society's flagship program. The 2018 lecture series commenced with a lecture by Art Gallery of New South Wales Director, Dr Michael Brand, and explored topics that varied from Ancient Greece to modern and contemporary art across continents. The Society's program of lectures and courses were attended by 28,013 members and visitors during 2018, with 96 individual lectures delivered accounting for 72% of all bookings.

We are particularly grateful to the *2018 Art Appreciation* lecture series coordinator and volunteer guide, Anne Woodham, for her expertise, enthusiasm and commitment to this important program.

In 2018, we delivered 238 art making workshops for children and families, teenagers and adults, with 2,577 participants. Our members created a diverse range of works - from sculptures and watercolours to origami and travel sketchbooks. Workshop participants drew inspiration from the Gallery's collection and exhibition program. In its seventh year, the Society's annual Kids Drawing Prize continued to inspire our young artists by challenging them to draw an interior from their home.

The 2018 events program catered for a great range of members' interests. The average audience capacity for booked events in 2018 was very strong at approximately 82%, with a remarkable 47% of all scheduled events booked out.

Event highlights during the year included – both Wednesday & Thursday *Art Appreciation* lecture series; the *Learning Curve* lecture series – *1918* and *Vanished Kingdoms*; Resonate Concerts – *Bandaluzia*, *Simon Tedeschi and John Bell*, two members' parties – *An evening with the Archibald*, and the end of year celebration: *Summer in St Petersburg* (with a new dinner format). Concert highlights included the dinner dance *Soirée Française!*, with an address about Bastille Day by Gallery Trustee Ashley Dawson-Damer AM, and the two jazz concerts at the Gallery – Emma Pask and James Morrison. The special lecture, *Kimberley rock art: an historic treasure* was well received. Special events programmed for Young Members also attracted renewed interest during the year.

In 2018, our annual Travel Draw fund raising campaign included ten luxury prizes packages from 36 supporters. The first prize was a luxury holiday to Amsterdam for one lucky winner and a friend which included Business Class flights with Singapore Airlines, an Amsterdam art package from Renaissance Tours and a \$1,000 transactional account courtesy of Arab Bank Australia. We sold 43,201 tickets and thank our members for another successful year.

World Art Tours

In 2018, the World Art Tours (WAT) program continued its extraordinary growth by visiting 25 countries, almost a 20% increase over 2017, which encompassed diverse and alluring destinations including: Oman, the Caucasus, Zanzibar, Iran, India and Western China, as well as more familiar destinations such as Italy, Spain, Portugal, USA and Scandinavia.

The program has gone from strength to strength, offering members the opportunity to travel with experienced and knowledgeable tour leaders - many of whom are well-known to members through the Society's lecture program - who created fascinating itineraries highlighting outstanding art, architecture and archaeological sites, as well as histories, religions and regional cultures.

We are particularly grateful to the WAT Coordinator, Liz Gibson, for her remarkable work and indefatigable commitment to creating an extraordinary art focused travel program, both-internationally and within Australia.

The Society continued to work with Renaissance Tours, the proud partner for the World Art Tours program over the last ten years and a supporter of our Travel Draw's First Prize since 2015.

Communications

Once again, *LOOK* magazine delivered a wealth of stimulating articles by curators and specialist writers and provided members with an insight into Gallery exhibitions, events and acquisitions. In preparation for the 2018 – 2019 *Masters of modern art from the Hermitage* exhibition, magazine editor John Saxby travelled to St Petersburg to conduct interviews with the Deputy Director of the Hermitage and the curator of the exhibition. Singapore Airlines provided the international flights to enable this investigative trip to happen.

The Society had a growing online presence in 2018 with its two-regular email distribution marketing (EDM) channels to Gallery members: *Peek* and *Fuse*. The *Peek* EDM is distributed on a fortnightly basis to all members who subscribe to receive email communications. *Peek* provides information on Gallery exhibitions and members' events, benefits fundraising efforts and helps promote special offers and competitions. Subscriber numbers are approximately 29,000. The *Fuse* EDM is distributed on a fortnightly basis to Young Members, with a range of content directed to a younger age demographic of 18–40 years. Total subscriber numbers are approximately 10,000.

The Gallery distributes the *Artmail* monthly EDM to approximately 184,000 subscribers. The Society is represented in the Gallery's popular e-newsletter with a dedicated module to promote 'Joining the Gallery', the benefits of membership, members' events and key fundraising campaigns, such as the Collection Circle Acquisition Program and the members' Travel Draw.

Administration

The Society's Operational Plan was finalised in 2018. This plan clarified objectives, key actions and targets, enabling the Society to fulfil the aims and goals of its Strategic Plan.

An important improvement saw the Society implement in-house printing of membership cards for the first time. This has significantly reduced the waiting time for members to receive their membership cards, which were previously produced off-site.

Volunteers

The Art Gallery Society is extremely appreciative of the loyal and generous support provided by the dedicated Task Force volunteers and volunteer guides. The Society benefited directly from Task Force members who staffed the Society's Membership Desk, assisted with behind the scenes programs and events, and provided a range of support in the Members Lounge, including the Wine Bar and the Society Library. Their work on the Members Desk facilitated the recruitment of 1,207 new members in 2018. We are particularly grateful to the Task Force Committee, led by Councillor Sue Dadswell, for their commitment to both the Society and the Gallery.

Task Force volunteers contributed to a review of Task Force operations led by external pro bono consultant Julie Thompson. A data gathering workshop for Task Force members was conducted during the review. All Task Force members were invited and 42 attended. The workshop gave all those participating the opportunity to consider key aspects of the Task Force, both operationally and strategically, by engaging in rich conversations in small groups.

Recruitment of new Task Force members remained suspended in 2018, pending implementation of the report's recommendations in 2019.

Volunteer guides have provided many informative tours at our new members evenings as well as coffee morning tours of major exhibitions.

Sydney Modern Project

In 2018, the NSW Government approved the State Significant Development Application for the Sydney Modern Project, paving the way for construction of the new building. Feedback from the public has been overwhelmingly positive. The Society Council unanimously support the Sydney Modern Project, which will enable the people of NSW to enjoy viewing more of the institution's outstanding art collections; increase the Gallery's ability to attract and present major international art exhibitions and offer new opportunities for the Society to grow the membership base; and ensure the Gallery remains accessible and relevant for generations to come.

Members Lounge

One of the most valued benefits of membership is having access to the Members Lounge. During 2018, we welcomed 58,775 members into the Members Lounge who enjoyed the new couches as well as the regular curated displays of art, which referenced the Gallery's exhibition program. A future focus for the Society is the expansion and upgrade of the Members Lounge.

Support for the Gallery

The Society continued its annual \$250,000 sponsorship of the Gallery's Wednesday evening *Art After Hours* program. 2018 heralded the 15th anniversary of this popular program,

which attracts a wide range of visitors to the Gallery and has broad recruitment potential for new members.

In 2018, funding for the painting by Charles Conder, *Rainy Day* 1888 was completed. There was no forthcoming request from the Gallery's curatorial staff to acquire a new work of art for the permanent collection this year.

Sponsorship

The support for our sponsors enables the Society to provide members with a broader and richer experience of our programs. *Resimac* has generously sponsored the *Art Appreciation* lecture series for twelve years, and 2018 was their final year. We are incredibly grateful for their longstanding support and we will continue to work with the Gallery's Business Development department to seek sponsors for new as well as existing programs. This will enable the Society to continue to offer members stimulating, high quality events and memorable cultural experiences at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Art Gallery Society Staff

The wide-ranging and vibrant program of members' events and numerous other operational initiatives, which were greatly enjoyed by members, would not have been possible without the enthusiasm, commitment and hard-working staff of the Society. We are particularly grateful to the Society's Executive Director, Ron Ramsey, who has ably led this dedicated team to outstanding operational achievements.



Brian Ladd
President, Art Gallery Society of New South Wales

Position Holders

Patron

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales.

Honorary Life Governors

The Hon Bronwyn Bishop
Peter Flick
Dorothy Holt
Raymond Kidd
Joan Levy
Max Sandow AM
Carolyn Ward
Leslie Walford
Diana Walder OAM

Distinguished Service to Council

Prue Allen
Nancy Cash
Robyn Flick
Inge Grant
Annette Jameson
Adam Johnson
Christine Liddy
Les Moseley
John Pearson
Natasha Serventy
Ross Steele AM
David Stewart-Hunter
Caroline Storch

Councillors from March 2018

President Brian Ladd

Vice President Paula Latos-Valier AM

Treasurer Brian Greenacre

Anastasia Economou

Sue Dadswell

Jenny Green

Jill Keyte (until October 2018)

Edward Palmisano

Jo-Ann Smith

Ex-Officio

Dr Michael Brand

The Hon Ashley Dawson-Damer AM

Honorary Lawyers

Allen & Overy

Task Force

Task Force Committee 2018

Coordinator

Susan Dadswell

Functions Roster Officer

Ine Harrison-Latour

Assistant Coordinator

Judy Embrey

Concierge Roster Officer

Rex Secombe

Secretary/Treasurer

Ruth Attwood

Family Activities Roster Officer

Jenny Parker

Registrar

Lea Clarke

New Members Officer

Margaret Symes

Members Desk Roster Officer

Georgina Gye

Assistants

Ruth Olsen

Lynda Vaculik

Task Force Volunteers January – December 2018

Melanie Anderson

Julie Apps

Greta Archbold

Ashmore Mara

Ruth Attwood

Bridget Austin

Meredith Aveling

Chris Baines

Julia Baldo

Kaye Barrett

John Bartholomaeus

Sandra Beesley

Diana Berlyn

Georgina Blythe

Lorraine Boyer

John Buchanan

Geraldine Bull

Jennifer Carey

Nelli Carrel

Mary Casey

Susan Charlton

Lucy Cherkasov

Stephanie Chinneck

Annie Clarke

Lea Clarke

Susanne Cody

Judy Cormack

Linda Cox

Susan Dadswell

Beverley Darby

Francine de Valence

Gail Dendle

Susan Denenberg

Diane Devine

John Doherty

June Donsworth

Rosemary Douglas

Jutta Dubiel

Catherine Duggan

Gordon Elliott

Judy Embrey

Jean Fairfax

Eva Feher

Coralie Ferguson

Phillip Forsyth

Christopher Gingell

Monique Gingell

Phillip Good

Linda Gough

Patricia Governor

Maria Greene

Mary Grice

Georgina Gye

Aiko Hagiwara

Sue Hancock

Ine Harrison-Latour

Jennifer Hayes

Fran Hellier

Ann Henderson

Mary Hillier

Madeline Hunter
Teresa Jakubowski
Felicitia Jennings
Teresa Jirsch
Krystyna John
Nita Jones
Vere Kenny
Juliette Khouri
Ursula Knight
Triny Lademann
Brenda Lee
Kesini Madanayake
Grace Malanos
Margaret Marshall
Jane Matkovich
Glen McLellan
Marlene McPherson
Emma Mendelsohn

Hilary Moxon
Colleen Mulvey
Alexandra Nugent
Deborah Oong
Ruth Osen
Jenny Parker
Judy Preshaw
Cynthia Pretty
Judy Proudfoot
Marie Puntigam
Zorica Rapaich
Deanna Richardson
Annette Searle
Rex Secombe
Neerja Shastri
Cassie Sheehan
Lesley Sommerville
Judith Stefanek

Marsha Swenson
Margaret Symes
Anne Taylor
Menna Thomas
Susan Tompkins
Crystal Tong
Judy Tribe
Ursula Ure
Lynda Vaculik
Adriana Vellar
Beverley von Lucken
Jeffrey Wai-Yee
June Wangmann
Norma Warman
Jennifer Watt
Jenni Wood
Sergio Zampatti

Resigned in 2018

Bonnie Swane
Susan Hartigan
Maria Johnson
Eloise Myatt
Janette Habel
Patricia James
May Steilberg

Sadly Deceased

Patricia Curtis
Anne Blomfield
Robin Amm

Young Members

Young Members Committee January – June 2018

President

Frederick McDonald

Treasurer

Brian Greenacre

Vice President

Elizabeth Robertson

Social Media/Communications

Joey Hesper

Secretary

Emily Rundle

Volunteer Coordinator

Joey Hesper

Supporting Committee Members

Peter Wieland

Joel Gratiaen

Sally Bevan

Timothy Nicol-Ford

Taimika-Lee Lewis

Young Members Committee July – December 2018

Elizabeth Robertson

Emily Rundle

Peter Wieland

Joel Gratiaen

Timothy Nicol-Ford

Taimika-Lee Lewis

Brian Greenacre

Young Members Volunteers January – December 2018

Mariana Arroyo

Valentina Barbera

Phoebe Boyle

Rachel Bryant

Pip Cordi

Jannelle Cruz

Liz Driscoll

Millie Elsmore

Gina Francis

Kersoshin Govender

Madeleine Gracie

Joel Gratiaen

Melissa Hammond

Skadi Heckmüller

Jane Hoskyn

Rebecca Johnston

Ursula Jones

Lauren Kauffman

Yvette Kiddle

Hanna Kim Hong

Hongbei Li

Jiatong Li

Yuan Liu

Elizabeth Playoust

Elizabeth Robertson

Emily Rundle

Ivana Saderova

Gregory Story

Sally Whittleston

Peter Wieland

Ramonne Wilson-Lemme

Jillian Zarate

Sponsors and Partners

Art Gallery Society Sponsors January - December 2018

AxiCorp (Drapac Financial)

Arab Bank Australia

Ball & Doggett

Faber-Castell Australia Pty Ltd

Macquarie Telecom

Whirlwind Print & Lindsay Yates Group

RESIMAC Limited

Art Gallery Society Partners January - December 2018

Bluestar Print

Hutchings Pianos

Art Gallery Society Staff 2018

Executive

Executive Director Ron Ramsey

Assistant Director Peter Lin (until May 2018)

Assistant Director Joseph Alessi (from June 2018)

Executive Assistant Batsheva Abrahams

Finance

Finance and HR Coordinator Roanne Papas

Assistant Accountant Clare Vu

Look Magazine

Look Editor John Saxby

Deputy Editor Sarah Couper (until August 2018)

Deputy Editor Susannah Smith (from August 2018)

Marketing

Marketing Manager Natalie Matar

Membership and Events

Membership and Events Manager Katrina Jones

Membership Officer Daniel Platts (until November 2018)

Membership Officer Rachel Rodd (from December 2018)

Membership Assistant Cathy Shen

Events Coordinator Joey Hespe (From May 2018)

Art Programs Coordinator Dot Kolentsis

Ticketing Manager Jamie Mackenzie

Events Coordinator Sarah Maxwell

Events Assistants Kristy Stewart, Lisa Tarbuck

Members Lounge

Members Lounge Manager Fiona McIntosh

Reception Assistants Rita Ibrahim, Melinda Braun, Michael Beckley, Maria Kerstev, Louise Smart

Additional Support

World Art Tours Coordinator Liz Gibson