



# THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the

Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc.

**NOVEMBER 2024**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

The end of the year is quickly approaching, everything is growing and flourishing. So many blooms are visible in our environment and in our gardens.

Our Spring exhibition has now been and gone; it certainly proved to be a wonderful weekend. I just loved the whole two days, and I thank everyone for their participation in this great event.

Enjoyable for all with heaps of great energies and beautiful works of art and crafts.

Our visitors enjoyed meandering through the exhibition.

The café was efficiently and beautifully run by Caroline and her wonderful helpers. Thank you to all who brought delicious cakes to grace our table and to sell.

Kim Toft and the team did a wonderful job of hanging the works. The way that the room was set out gave the impression that one could stroll through the room to view the art works from different viewpoints. Enthusiastic visitors diligently chose their favourite hanging work and favourite craft table.

The craft tables were a delight to peruse, and I believe most stall holders were pleased with their takings. Ten paintings were sold.

The people's choice for the artwork was "Message in a bottle" by Kim Toft, and the people's choice for the craft table was Barry Magnay. You will both be able to receive your prize at our next monthly meeting on Tuesday, 5 November.

The raffle was drawn at 3.00pm.

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Deb's beautiful weaving was delivered to the winner, Frances.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Jewellery box was handed to the winner, Jan Macdonald; and the
- 2 Cherry Street Sports Club vouchers were posted to the winners, Maryann Bienke and Valda McLerie.

Geoff Maclean sent in the following financial sums, over the 2 days the:

- raffle earned \$1,130.00.
- Pop Up Café earnings were \$934.20; and
- donations came to a total of \$548.70.

A more detailed financial update will be given at our next meeting.

We will be donating \$1,500 to MND. Amanda Sproule, Communication Officer of MND, will be presented the cheque at our next meeting.

Finally, to celebrate the end of the year, we will be meeting on Tuesday, 3 December at Andrew Watson's lovely home. It would be great if you could please bring a plate of goodies to share, a drink and a small (\$10) gift wrapped for "Secret Santa".

May you all have a great month.

***Warm regards***  
***Françoise Sauvère***

### WHATS COMING UP?

#### **Monthly meeting:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 5 November 2024

**Time:** 5.00pm for 5.30pm start

**Show & tell:** June Hoffman

**Location:** Boardroom  
Cherry Street Sports Club  
Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets  
Ballina

## LENNOX NEWS

### Controversy in Art

Continuing on with the theme controversy in art I'm now writing about how art is used as a political tool and as a way to get a message across!

Although it is now 35 years ago in 1989 a group of artists named "The Guerilla Girls" asked the question:

*"Do you have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?"*

These girls were a group of feminist activist artists, who use fact, humour, and outrageous visuals to expose gender, ethnic bias and corruption in politics, art, film, and pop culture. They designed a billboard aimed at criticizing museums for underrepresenting female artists and objectifying women. The Public Art Fund rejected the piece deeming it too provocative, so they rented spaces on NY buses and ran the billboard themselves.



### Ai Weiwei, dropping a Han Dynasty Urn in 1995

it was called an act of desecration to which he replied

*"General Maio used to tell us we can only build a new world if we destroy the old one."*

Ai Weiwei is one of the greatest provocateurs of our time. His work heavily criticises the Chinese government and he fights for freedom of expression. The image depicts Ai Weiwei -as he smashes a 200-year-old ceremonial urn of significant symbolic and cultural worth. He was prevented from leaving China for many years but now lives in Portugal.



### Damien Hirst

One of the most controversial figures in art today. Preserved dead animals sell for as much as £100,000 he is one of the highest paid artists of all time and one of the most heavily criticised.

"*For the Love of God*" is a platinum cast of a human skull encrusted with 8,601 diamonds. This artwork sold for the highest price ever paid for a work by a living artist, £50 million. It cost £14 million to produce. The artwork is supposed to question the morality of art and money.

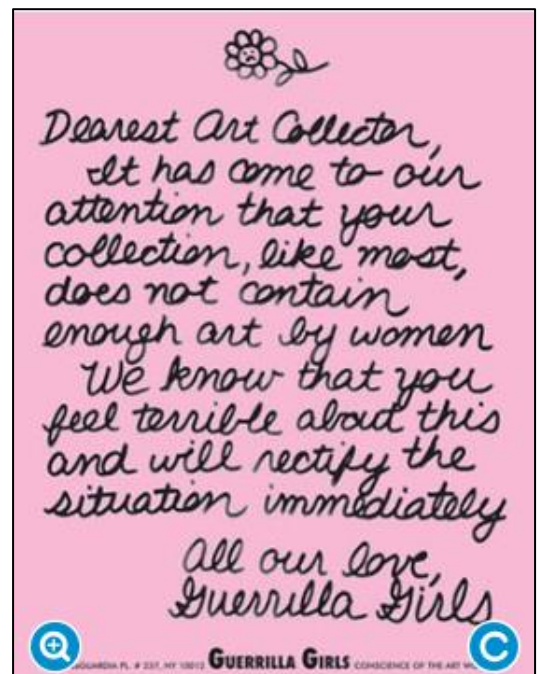


All these works are points of contention, seeking justice or trying to get a point across.

Is it a legitimate use of art?

As you see by the articles it's been happening for a long time, and I think will continue happening in the future ... "**Art with a message**"

### Lesley Ryan



## ARTISTS PROFILE

### Christine Jones

I have been creative for as long as I can remember, always trying a new art or craft. For the past 20 years it has been textiles, in particular knitting and weaving.



Knitting has seen me travel overseas to attend workshops in France and conferences in New York, where one of my knitted dresses walked the runway as a finalist in an international knitwear design competition. I knit every day and enjoy occasional freelance design work.

More recently I have been creating woven items on a Japanese Saori loom. Saori embraces the philosophy that each woven creation is a unique reflection of the weaver's inner self and emotions. Unlike traditional weaving methods that adhere to strict patterns and uniformity, Saori encourages freedom of expression and experimentation.

I find it a meditative process and the end results are both functional and decorative. I enjoy making the cloth and then transforming it into individual pieces of clothing.

I joined BACCI earlier this year. It is wonderful to be part of a supportive like-minded group of artists, and I have been able to exhibit my weaving and share my love of Saori weaving.

[www.yarnaboutyarn.com](http://www.yarnaboutyarn.com)

Instagram: @yarnaboutyarn



## CREATIVE ARTISANS GALLERY NEWS

**Featured artist(s) for October are:**

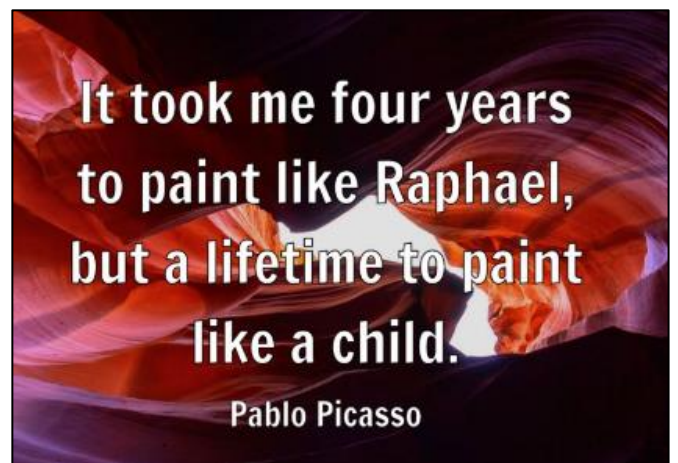
### **1. Karyn Fendley (for the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks)**

Karyn Fendley is a contemporary landscape artist based in Mullumbimby. Her landscape paintings, with their bright skies, deep shadows, and silhouettes, capture the essence of the Australian landscape.



Karyn was raised in Brisbane and studied at Queensland College of Art. Since relocating to the north coast of New South Wales, she has held regular solo exhibitions and exhibited in many group exhibitions and competitions. Her artworks are housed in public and private collections worldwide.

Karyn's artwork investigates how we remember places we have visited and how to capture the essence of those locations with simple imagery. After spending time in the field, she returns to the studio to paint, blending memory and observation to capture the atmosphere of the place that inspires the work, rather than detailing any specific view. Dramatic composition, extremes of lightness and darkness, and flattened perspectives are hallmarks of her painting practice.



## 2. Christmas gift ideas

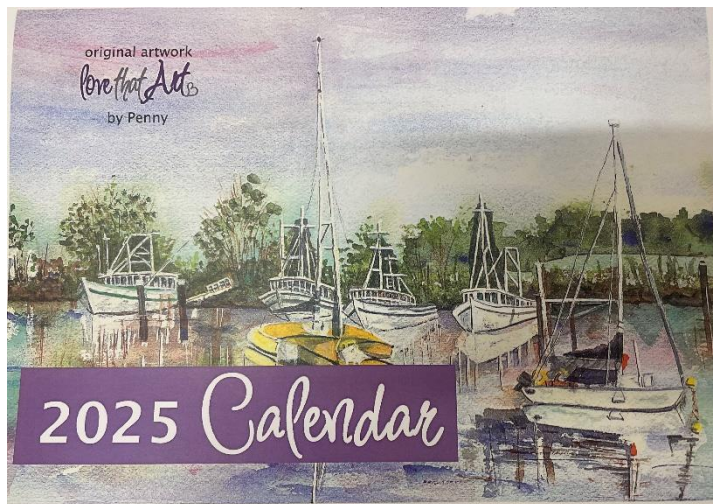
(18 November and during December)

We are promoting affordable presents for **Christmas**, from the week beginning Monday, 18 November up to Christmas, Shop 8 will be decorated to celebrate the Christmas Season.

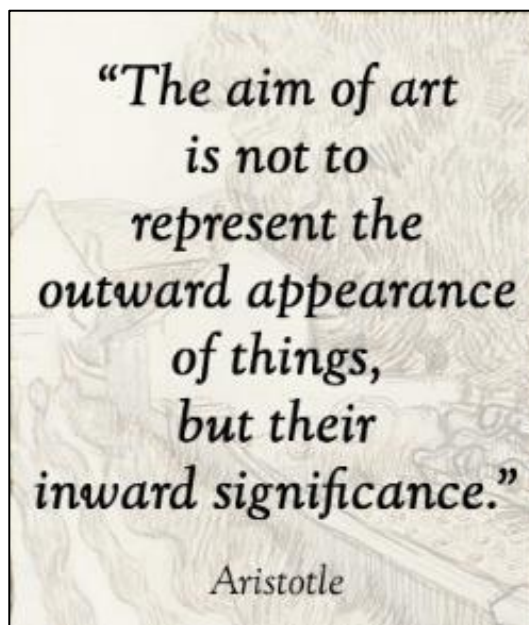
We have asked our artists to join in and think outside the box, to create Christmas decorations and gifts with many being under \$100. To help people with small gifts for teachers, friends, workmates, toys, and ideas for children.

That special present for your loved one, and much more is offered, we want to add to the Christmas joy in our community.

Come in and see what our talented artists have come up with, hopefully, we can help with your Christmas shopping.



**Cheers**  
**Pauline Rutten**





## 'Good' Busy by Kim Michelle Toft

September remained a very busy, just as the previous 2 months had been. However, I am glad to report it was all 'good' busy.

The month started with a trip to Coral Cove, near Bargara, for a 2 week stay with close friends. It was a combination of workshops and presentations and catching up with friends. I also spent lots of time in the great outdoors. Lots of walks through the bush and along the beach, at Mon Repos and K'gari, also known as Fraser Island. It always amazes me just how beautiful our wilderness areas are in Australia.



I got back to Ballina and hit the ground running. I had a series of workshops at Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, in my studio and at Rosebank Public School. I also finished my last online art lesson with Simply Homeschool for term 3.



I was honoured to be a guest at the reopening of the new school at Empire Vale. It was like a step back in time for me, as my daughter, Casey, went there between 1996 - 2002. I was also president of the P&C for a number of years. It is so wonderful that the Education Department has fully embraced the need for smaller schools in rural areas and see the importance of rebuilding these schools that were devastated by the floods over 2 years ago. Wardell Public School also reopened and the children's silk paintings they did with me in August adorned the walls. Both schools are now fully flood proof and are state of the art.



October was another 'good' busy month, as Casey, Sebastien, and my two beautiful grandsons, Leo (who turned 3 recently) and Max (7 months old) arrived from Canada for a 3 week holiday ... and so the whirlwind trip began:

- 4 nights on North Stradbroke Island,
- 3 nights at Lennox Head,
- 4 nights at Coolangatta,
- 7 nights in Adelaide, and then finally,
- 2 nights at South Bank in Brisbane.

There was lots of swimming, sightseeing and walks in nature. I am so excited to show the boys our beautiful country.



However, before they arrived on 16 October, I had a list!

- recording 12 online art lessons for children,
- tours at Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue (during the school holidays), and
- the BACCI exhibition.

I am continuing to renovate my factory space into a gallery. The painters came in while I was away. Which means I will then be one step closer to opening to the public. I will keep you posted re the opening.

Christmas is getting closer, so please explore my website and view all my books, prints and silk painting kits, as possible gift ideas.

<https://kimmichelletoft.com/>



So until next month, I hope your life is full of good vibes, whether you are busy or not, and let's all continue to nurture nature, art, and education.

Kind Regards

<https://kimmichelletoft.com/>

FB : Kim Michelle Toft - Artist



## **Ballina Wave Magazine** **re 'Artist of the Month'**

Ballina Wave have kindly agreed to give a monthly space to a BACCI member, titled '**Artist of the Month.**'



Details needed for article are:

- First come first served!
- 200 words about you and your work (it would also be great if you could mention BACCI)
- 2 x JPEG photos (these can be of you and your work or just your work)
- email your pictures and your Ballina Wave artist profile to Rosie ([ballinabacci@gmail.com](mailto:ballinabacci@gmail.com)), as a WORD DOCUMENT please, **not** a PDF by the 1st of the month.
- if you don't know how to do the above, a family member could help you
- also please email to Maria ([mariaheaton@hotmail.com](mailto:mariaheaton@hotmail.com)) as she will post this on BACCI's Facebook page
- to take advantage of this opportunity you need to email something to Rosie ([ballinabacci@gmail.com](mailto:ballinabacci@gmail.com)), please!

It would be great to feature one of your stories, and pictures, in a 2023 newsletter.

**Do you have anything to share**, (eg art info, travel adventures and/or photos)? If so, please contact Rosie about your story – you can either mail or email your story and photos, (remember to include your name) to:

The Secretary BACCI  
PO Box 111  
Ballina NSW 2478

OR

E [ballinabacci@gmail.com](mailto:ballinabacci@gmail.com)

## From Rosie, the recent culture vulture

During September and October we spent three weeks in Sydney and got to do so much.

We visited our first exhibition of Czech painter Alphonse Mucha – *the king of Art Nouveau*, (we went in the evening ... it was PACKED!)

I came away genuinely believing he was a genius with the most unbelievable work ethic. Room after room after room of beautiful work. Most of it printed lithographs.



Alphonse Mucha considered himself much more than an Art Nouveau artist, he believed in himself, and proved that he was a serious artist. Between 1910 and 1928 he created 20 huge canvases, the largest 6m x 8m is about the history of the Balkans. These canvases depict the mythology and history of Czechs and other Slavic peoples.

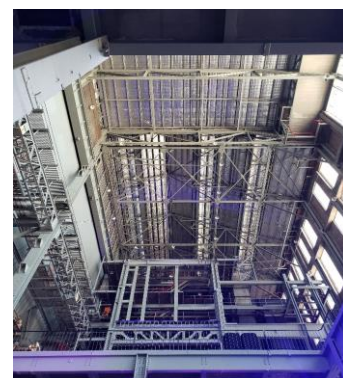
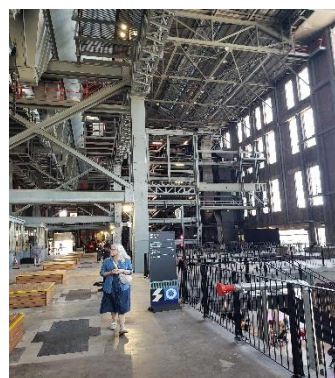
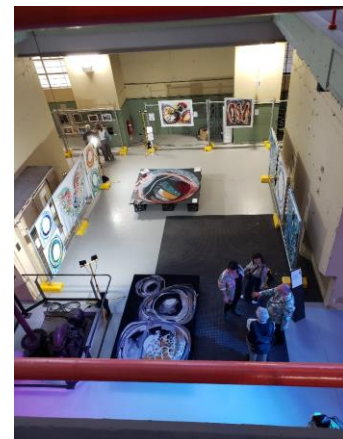
The next day was The Australian Museum where we saw the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year exhibition (2023) – stunning!. The overall winner was Scott Portelli, (unfortunately no picture available).

The day after was The Wildlife Photographer of the year (2023) at the Maritime Museum. Another stunning show and beautifully presented. Good museum and worth a visit, although couldn't handle walking through the submarine! (no picture available here either).

Then on the weekend we walked to White Bay, which was walking distance from my brother's where we were staying. White Bay was first opened to the public in 2023 for the Biennale of Sydney. Another mind blowing place, it's an old power station that is being renovated/restored for public use. There was also a lot of local artists displaying their work, just on open mesh, in my opinion our display is sooo much better.

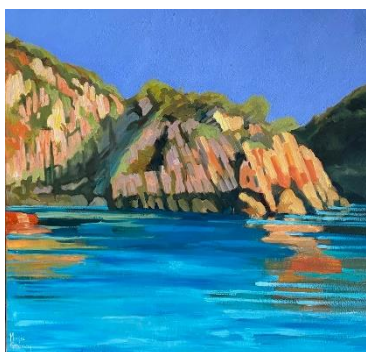
There were also some craft people, (and a terrific ice cream truck!)

Below are 2 pictures of some of the art display set up + 2 of the Power Station itself.



We went back to the Art Gallery of NSW to see the *Infinite Dobell Australian Drawing Biennial 2024*, it was a bit too 3D for my taste. But on the way we lucked into an amazing, self-funded, exhibition by [www.marikegreenway.com](http://www.marikegreenway.com)

Marijke is also amazingly prolific, she has been just about everywhere in Australia and has painted it, see below.



I visited to the Australian design Centre to see the Fuse Glass prize.  
The winner? *The Funny Little Lion*. I thought there was more interesting and original work on show.



*Tom Moore Dandy Lion*

Lots of work there, and I think I have mentioned it to them, a few of our artists could do well there. A hard choice but my two favourites are below.



*Maurice Fernandez*



*Wayne Haag*

On the way back from that show I walked past First Draft Contemporary Art gallery, so of course I went in ... The carpet is made from earth. The other??



*My Soil Farsh (Carpet) Prita Tina Yeganeh*



*Magic Cave - Emmaline Zanelli*

Our final surprise and hurrah were The Other Art Fair at White Bay Cruising Terminal – again walking distance from my brother's.



## Regional Arts NSW membership

Membership with [Regional Arts NSW](https://regionalartsnsw.com.au) gives you access to a number of things in addition to the insurance connection.

We run networking opportunities, at the moment we've been running LAND – a monthly 1 hour online networking sessions for regional artists, (it hasn't taken off in big numbers, but I get to have some really valuable conversations during this session). It's on the first Monday of the month starting at 1pm.

We also run workshops, for example in the last few weeks we have run a funding workshop, and a couple of sessions on applying to the Windmill Trust Scholarship.

We have run things like creative business workshops and will be doing up a new program of work for more workshops soon.

A summary can be found at <https://regionalartsnsw.com.au/membership/>

If you want to have a chat with me about this in more detail, please give me call or send me an email me, my contact details are below.

Tracey

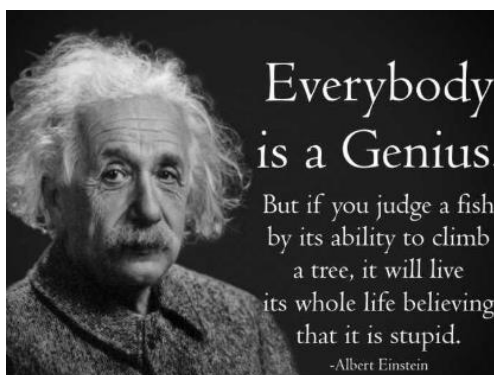
Dr Tracey Callinan OAM  
CEO  
Regional Arts NSW

T (02) 9270 2500  
M 0418 618 688  
E [tracey@regionalartsnsw.com.au](mailto:tracey@regionalartsnsw.com.au)  
W [regionalartsnsw.com.au](https://regionalartsnsw.com.au)

REGIONAL  
ARTS  
NSW



*RANSW acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.*



REGIONAL  
ARTS  
NSW



## Work of Art Showcase and Forum

The Work of Art Showcase and Forum will be a two-day conversation about the future of regional arts practice. Centred around the women of Regional Arts NSW's Work of Art program, the event will celebrate their work and provide an opportunity for both the arts sector and the community to discuss, provoke and imagine new possibilities for creativity outside of major metropolitan areas.

Join us in Orange on 14 and 15 November 2024 for forum discussions, short films, new theatre works, exhibitions, workshops, music, poetry, panel sessions, networking, dance, a cabaret, fundraiser and more.

Work of Art is a business development program for women in creative industries funded by Women NSW and the Regional Arts Fund.



## Donate to RANSW

Regional Arts NSW has been working hard in arts and cultural development for nearly 80 years. If you'd like to help us continue making a difference and to make our program even more ambitious, consider a (tax-deductible) donation, see link below:

<https://regionalartsnsw.com.au/?s=donate>

