



THE CRAFTY ARTIST

Newsletter of the Ballina Arts & Crafts Centre Inc. OCTOBER 2025

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another month has gone by, Spring has arrived with colourful blooms and dry weather which is enjoyable after our wet winter. Before we know it, we will be sweltering in the summer heat.

At our last meeting, Alexa Grunner gave us a show and tell of her artwork. It was fascinating to hear how she works on her art via the medium of drawing and how her work keeps on evolving. Her artwork is creative and beautifully detailed.

I really appreciate, and I am sure you also do, our fantastic members who are able to share the process of their diverse art and craft practices.

Each story is fascinating, full of reflection and beautiful examples of the evolution of their own work.

Thank you to all who have been able to share their work at Show and Tell.

During the month of September, I was able to visit two exceptional exhibitions.

- One named "[Cézanne to Giacometti](#)" in Canberra at the National Art Gallery, which displayed beautiful art works from the Museum Berggruen in Berlin. The gallery covers a huge space and has many fabulous works by Australian and international artists. Two days were not too much to cover everything. Outside the gallery Lindy Lee's beautiful stainless steel Ouroboros sculpture is magnificent and very spectacular when seen at night.



- Then in Sydney at the NSW Art Gallery, [Yolngu power the art of Yirrkala](#) was a powerful exhibition showcasing different artists from Arnhem Land. That was just fabulous, so much talent is displayed with stories and techniques that take your breath away. Very worthwhile exhibition that helps the viewer to observe the world through indigenous knowledge.

As artists, it is our duty to witness all forms of art that help us understand and see our very complex world.

At the end of the month we will be having our own exhibition, and I certainly look forward to seeing the wonderful works by BACCI's members.

***Have a great month.
Françoise***

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Next monthly meeting is:

Date:	Tuesday, 7 October 2025
Time:	5.00pm for 5.30pm start
Show & Tell:	Sue Fraser
Location:	Boardroom Cherry Street Sports Club Cnr Cherry & Bentinck Streets Ballina

LENNOX NEWS

Some interesting facts you might not know about the art world:

1. **Claude Monet** was a popular caricaturist working under the name 'Oscar Monet' before becoming the renowned impressionist painter we know him as today. His original caricatures sold for just 10-20 francs each. In 2019 one of his early sketches was sold in New York for \$37,575.
2. **William Hogarth** had a pug called **Trump**, who famously features in several of his paintings. Louis-François Roubiliac created a sculpture of Trump in terracotta to accompany a bust of Hogarth in 1741.
3. **Rembrandt van Rijn** signed his paintings in many different ways. His early work is often initiated with a Latin monogram: RHL (Rembrandus Hermannii Leydensis). He also used RHL-van-Rijn before settling on a simple signature of just 'Rembrandt.' Although his artwork is now some of the most famous and highly priced in the art world, he died in poverty in 1669.
4. Some art historians believe that Dutch master **Johannes Vermeer** used a camera obscura to create his paintings. This was an invention which could project a scene onto a wall in a dimly lit room. This theory came about as scans show that Vermeer didn't use initial outlines for his paintings and yet was able to achieve a near-perfect perspective.
5. **Vincent Van Gogh** fell in love with his cousin Kee Vos Stricker. On one occasion he asked to marry her, putting his hand over a candle to show his love for her and saying he would not remove it until they could marry, however, Kee's father blew out the candle and banned Van Gogh from their house.
6. When it comes to **religious art**, symbols are very important. You can often spot which saint is which by knowing what to look for. The apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all have specific figures which will help you to know who you're looking at. Matthew has a winged angel, Mark a winged Lion, Luke a winged bull and John an eagle.

7. Olympic events are now associated with sporting achievements, but the founder of the modern games began with the aim of artistic talent as being just as great as that of athletes. Between 1912 and 1948 numerous medals were awarded for sport inspired architecture, sculpture, musical talent, paintings, and works of literature. The **Olympic art events** ended in 1954 because artists were considered to be too professional, while the athletes were required to be amateurs. Since 1956, the Olympic cultural programme has taken their place instead.
8. **Vermeer's masterpiece Girl with a Pearl Earring** is not a portrait. She is a character known in art as a 'Tronie' – a figure typically found in Flemish Baroque art that is used to convey an emotion or allegory. Tronies are typically found in generic paintings of elderly people to examine themes of old age, or figures laughing and pulling dramatic expressions.
9. **The Pietà** is the only piece of work that Michelangelo ever signed. He later saw this as an embarrassing display of his own pride and never signed an artwork again.

More next month ...

I will give you an update on the Lennox Lions Town and Gown Art exhibition. We've had 220 entries, and I'd like to thank the BACCI members who supported this event

Happy creating
Lesley Ryan



Trump, in a detail from
[William Hogarth's Painter and his Pug](#), 1745

CREATIVE ARTISANS

GALLERY NEWS

Featured artist(s) for October 2025:

1. Alyssa Joy Black

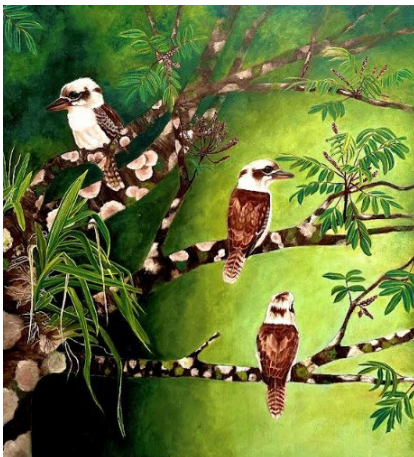
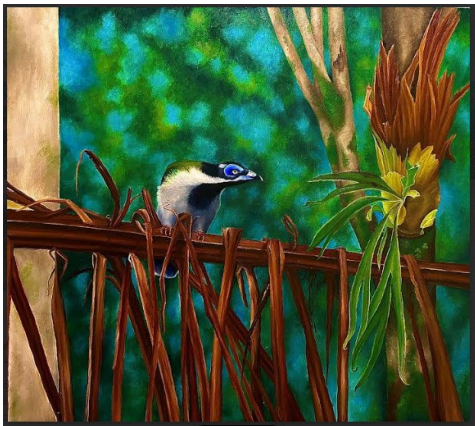
Alyssa is an artist based in Alstonville, NSW. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Curtin University, majoring in both Fine Art and Visual Culture, and now is working primarily in oil paintings.

Throughout her studies and early solo and group exhibitions, Alyssa's work explored the lived experience of severe mental illness, a challenge she has faced since childhood. Her paintings from this period gave visual form to the complex emotional and psychological dimensions of that journey.

Following a recent significant episode, Alyssa's practice has shifted to embrace a more restorative approach. Turning to the natural beauty of her garden, she began creating her *Awakening* series — paintings that celebrate colour, light, and the simple yet profound delight found in nature. These works embody a dialogue between inner struggle and external beauty, offering viewers a glimpse of joy and brightness even amidst darkness.

Through her art, Alyssa seeks to share this sense of solace and visual wonder, inviting audiences to experience the healing and transformative power of nature.

Cheers
Pauline Rutten



An ode to Olley

BY SONIA CAEIRO ALVAREZ

THE latest exhibition in an exclusive series inspired by Margaret Olley and her legacy opened at the Tweed Regional Gallery last week.

Ode: Margaret Olley and Sally Anderson brings together still life paintings by Olley spanning four decades, including masterworks such as *Banksia 1970* (Maitland Regional Art Gallery), works from the Art Gallery of NSW and rarely seen pieces from private collections.

Sydney-based artist Sally Anderson created a new body of work as part of her 2025 residency at the Nancy Fairfax Artist in

Residence Studio.

Anderson said her approach was to juxtapose Olley's objects with her own and invites audiences to reconsider Olley's still life practice in a new light.

"I've deliberately positioned objects borrowed from Olley's home studio re-creation alongside personally significant items within my compositions to give them new context and meaning," Anderson said.

"I find the arrangement of Olley's home studio re-creation completely fascinating – the layers of objects, surfaces, textiles, smells.

"I think a lot about arranging;

how we arrange thoughts, time, memories, households, feelings, gardens, furniture, objects, colour – and how rearranging the order of things ultimately shifts meaning, revealing new truths, narratives, and histories.

Gallery Director Ingrid Hedgecock said the exhibition highlights Olley's continuing influence on contemporary artists.

"Seeing these works alongside Anderson's bold interchanges between abstraction and representation, we bear witness to Olley's continuing influence as one of Australia's most significant painters of still life and interiors," Hedgecock said.

"A lot of people look at the re-creation and see chaos, but to Olley it was a carefully gathered world of subject matter for her paintings."

The exhibition will run until March 8, 2026. Sally Anderson in Conversation with Professor Lisa Slade will take place on Friday, September 19, at 6 pm.

For tickets, visit gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/whats-on

LEFT: Study of MO's still life in green 1947 with a banksia for dad, GM orchid and PP Bathers postcard 2025 by Sally Anderson. Image: SUPPLIED. RIGHT: Sally Anderson painting during her 2025 residency at the Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio.



TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

Ode to Olley – Ode: Margaret Olley and Sally Anderson from 12 September 2025 - 8 March 2026



Sally Anderson (b. 1990)
Study of MO's still life in green 1947 with a banksia for dad, GM orchid and PP Bathers postcard 2025
acrylic on polycotton, 137 x 153 cm
Image courtesy the artist © The artist



Margaret Olley (1923–2011)
Banksia 1970
oil on board, 122 x 98.5 cm
Gift of William Bowmore (AO OBE), 1976
Maitland Regional Art Gallery Collection
© Margaret Olley Art Trust



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

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

Details needed for article are:

- 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 Ballina Wave artist profile (as a word document) and your pictures and to Rosie (ballinabacci@gmail.com) by the 1st of the month
- if you are unsure how to do the above, maybe a family member or friend could help you
- please also please email this document and pictures to Maria (mariaheaton@hotmail.com), she will post this on BACCI's [Facebook](#) page
- it would be great if all members could take advantage of this opportunity, **please** email your document and pictures to Rosie (ballinabacci@gmail.com)

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



RANSW 2025 Workshop Program



In 2025, Regional Arts NSW is running a monthly program of online industry workshops to provide regional artists and arts organisations with advice and guidance.

The workshops will cover a different subject each month, run by different experts from across the industry, and will be free for RANSW Members.

Tickets are available now, click on this link ([Regional Art NSW](#)) to view workshops and registration



Lismore Art Club

Hi All

If you're interested in Visual art, then become a part of the Lismore Art Club.

Info on our new look website ...
<http://www.lismoreartclub.com>

Explore your creative side.

New members and beginners welcome.

Linnea Hannan

Secretary Lismore Art Club.inc
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BACCI Exhibition

Saturday, 1 and Sunday, 2 November 2025

- You will find a copy of the entry form our show on Saturday, 1 and Sunday, 2 November in the email Rosie sent our dated Monday, 22 September 2025
- Reminder – entries opened Friday, 26 September
- Attached to Rosie's email (referred to above) you will find the entry form, in a:
 - Word document (this can be completed online and then emailed to Jill at bacci.ex@gmail.com)
 - PDF (print, complete, scan and send in an email to bacci.ex@gmail.com or hand completed form to Jill at the October meeting)
- Please:
 - ensure that **all** correspondence relating to this show uses this email address ... bacci.ex@gmail.com
 - read the instructions carefully
 - remember to sign up for roster duties; and
 - enter our exhibition – we need a few more paintings



Girl With Balloon

[Girl with Balloon](#) is undoubtedly one of Banksy's most recognizable works. The image of a little girl reaching towards a red heart-shaped balloon was created as part of a London series of street art works starting in 2002. As well as being one of Banksy's most famous pieces, it's also one of his most optimistic, as the original mural was accompanied by the words "There is always hope".

None of the paintings from the series remain on the streets but sets of limited edition Girl with Balloon prints were released during the 2000s, and are now incredibly valuable. In fact, a print of the girl reaching for a purple balloon sold for over \$1 million in September 2020 — the most expensive print sold in an online auction.