

SASA NEWSLETTER – January 2015

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□ Diary



JANUARY	Tuesday	20	Paint Out: Simonstown Yacht Club
	Thursday	29	Monthly Meeting: Vicki Norcliffe Pastel Portrait demo
FEBRUARY	Wednesday	4	Hiking and Sketching Outing, Newlands Forest
	Thursday	26	Monthly Meeting: AGM and Drawing Competition
March	Saturday	7	Art in the Park: Rondebosch Park

To bring anything into your life, imagine that it's already there.

Richard Bach

□ President's Letter

Dear Members

Best wishes to you all for a happy and productive 2015!

If you are in need of some inspiration to get you started there is an article "**7 Tips for a New Start in Art in 2015**" on the blog "**Making a Mark**" which you may find useful; here is the link: <http://makingamark.blogspot.co.uk/2015/01/7-tips-for-new-start-in-art-in-2015.html>

Many members seem not to know the details about Fellowship, how is it achieved and what is involved, so I have written about that this month, including how it started and has evolved. Below is a brief explanation; all the information has been taken from years of minutes!

The idea for the establishment of SASA Associates and Fellows was first proposed by President May O'Shea in November 1992. This was approved by the members at the AGM in 1993.

This is how it worked then:

To become an **Associate**, a member had to receive, for three consecutive years, one of the **eight** highest marks awarded for a work exhibited at the Society's Annual Exhibition.

Once this was achieved, they could aim for **Fellowship**, which required the Associate to receive, for any further period of three consecutive years, one of the **eight** highest marks awarded for a work exhibited at the Society's Annual Exhibition.

In 1998 the above condition was amended, and members needed to achieve one of the top **ten** highest marks, and over three out of **four** consecutive years.

Mary Serrurier became the first Associate in 1995, followed by 7 others over the next ten years. All current Fellows are listed on our website on the "Honoured Members" page.

During all these years no member had yet achieved the grade of Fellow. After much discussion, the Council proposed making Fellowship "more accessible" by giving Associates the option of becoming Fellows, and at the same time introducing a new, computerised scoring system based on the sum of the points for each of the three works submitted to the Annual Exhibition selection. The new system was incorporated into the Constitution and approved by the members in November 2005. From then on, to achieve Fellowship, members were required to achieve a total of **90** or more points (out of a possible 108) over three out of four consecutive years. The grade of Associate was discontinued.

Since that time thirteen new Fellows have been added to SASA's ranks. The details of how the present system works are in your copy of the Society's Constitution, under point 24c.

All this is especially important now, as Council is considering some changes, which YOU as a member will need to approve (or not) at our Annual General Meeting next month. You will be informed beforehand of any proposals, so that you can think them over before the meeting. The Society belongs to ALL its members and any changes to its Constitution must be made with the consent of the members present at the meeting.

Linda Howe-Ely

☐ Member News and Happenings

The noticeboard is put up at every monthly meeting and the latest news from the art world put up for your information. You are invited to bring along your own bits of information to post on the board. Members are also welcome to put up notices advertising their art related products or classes. If you want to know more, contact Solly Gutman on 079 2477 532 or send an email to brights@telkomsa.net or if you have any news you would like to share, email secretary@sasa-artists.co.za.

We hope your Festive Season was relaxing and joyous and we look forward to a rewarding and painterly 2015.

We welcome the following new members who joined at the end of 2014 –

- ☆ Dave Croad
- ☆ Daniel Novela from Klerksdorp
- ☆ Michela Mercoria
- ☆ David Hirschman
- ☆ Andrew Rogers
- ☆ Penny Franz
- ☆ Karin Krige of Hartebeespoort

A special welcome to Hanien Conradie who is the new Michaelis recipient of the 2015 SASA prize. Some of you may have met Hanien when she gave a talk at the June monthly meeting on indigenous flowers as subject matter in contemporary South African painting

We look forward to seeing you all at our monthly meetings.

South African artist and SASA member, Rodney Gee, was awarded the first place in the **2014 Ceramics United Surface Design Competition**. An official World Design Capital Project, the competition was organised by Harvard Graduates to showcase South African creativity.



The piece entitled 'Cyvase, when perception gets messed' is vibrantly surreal and eye catching. The prize includes a museum exhibition in one USA's major metropolitan cities in 2015! Congratulations Rodney and good luck with the forthcoming exhibition.



And long standing Johannesburg based SASA member, Eileen Bass, has been honoured by being elected an **Associate Member (ARMS) of The Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers** in the UK. This is an incredible achievement and we are all proud of you, Eileen.

Please remember to let us have any changes in your details. Check your 'spam' boxes every now and then to see if any SASA correspondence has found its way into them. It's also a good idea to make sure your mailboxes are emptied as many emails are returned because your boxes are 'full'. Add SASA as one of your contacts – possibly that will help with any future spam problems.

☐ 2015 Membership Fees

Membership fees are now due. You can make payment via the internet to SASA Nedbank Constantia, branch code 108809, account number 108 800 6981.

If you pay by cheque, please make your payment out to the South African Society of Artists (in full) and post to:

The Treasurer
PO Box 2574
Clareinch
7740



Email proof of payment to secretary@sasa-artists.co.za and use your name as the reference.

Ordinary members	: R260
Country members	: R160
Students (full time under 25)	: R160

Please remember that the library will function only on membership numbers and no items can be taken out without your new number. Your new card will also allow you your 10% discount at Italian Artshop, Village Brush and Canvas and all branches of Deckle Edge. The art shops will not give you your discount without your new card.

Remember it is important to renew your membership timeously, especially if you are taking part in our exhibitions.

Once payment is made, a new 2015 membership card will be made. This will be available at all SASA meetings and exhibitions, so please remember to collect your card. Country members' cards will be posted to them.

Please note that if your membership is not paid by the end of February 2015 at the latest, your membership will lapse and you will be required to pay the joining fee of R100.

☐ SASA Programme - What's on

Monthly Meetings

SASA Monthly Meetings are held at the Athenaeum, Boundary Terraces, off Campground Road, Newlands, on the last Thursday of every month at 19h00. Entry is R10 for members and R20 for guests, including refreshments. The library will be open from 17h45 to 18h45 – your membership card is your access to the library.

Thursday 27th November: Eleanor Palmer Competition and End of Year Function:



What a fantastic end-of-year function. And congratulations to everyone who took part in, firstly, the Eleanor Palmer competition, and secondly, the 'pub quiz' organised by Ros Molteno and Christine Cherry-Jones. That was great fun and the winners have boasting rights for the rest of 2015. There were some easy and some very difficult questions, all art-related, that tested the best.

And well done to Laura Wenman who won the Eleanor Palmer trophy for her painting 'Gypsy'. Second was Bill Brown with his landscape, 'Shadow in the Gorge' and third was Haydee Breganski with 'Kenyan Girl'. A big thank you to the Italian Artshop for sponsoring the prizes.

And to crown it all, we were graced by the presence of a small self-portrait by Rembrandt van Rijn which was borrowed from the Michaelis Collection at the Old Town House, where a Rembrandt exhibition is currently on display. Many took the opportunity of having 'selfies' taken with the portrait.

Thursday 29th January: Vicki Norcliffe Pastel Demo.



Vicki is well known for her portraits in both pastel and oil and she will be giving a demonstration at our first meeting of 2015. Using pastels Vicki will do a portrait from life, explaining how she goes about her process.

Vicki is an artist and teacher who works and exhibits in both Cape Town and London, and Desiree, who modelled at one of our life drawing sessions last year, will be sitting for the portrait.

Thursday 26th February: Annual General Meeting and Drawing Competition:

Our AGM is held every February during which a synopsis is given of the previous year's activities together with the financial status. This is your society and we encourage you to attend this year's meeting.

The AGM is also where you can get involved by volunteering your (or a fellow member's) services for the SASA Council. We also elect a new Council and if you would like to become part of the team, speak to one of the current Council members to find out what it entails. To put your name forward for election, please contact the secretary on secretary@sasa-artists.co.za telephone 021 671 8941.

The Annual SASA Drawing Competition will follow the Annual General Meeting. The theme for the competition is "Coffee", a broad, all-encompassing

theme! But please, no dogs/cats etc. called Coffee! So get out those drawing implements and put your skills and imagination to the test.

Please remember that this is a monochrome (single-colour) drawing competition. Therefore, only drawing techniques are permitted, using **one** drawing medium in any **one** colour. For example, charcoal on paper or support (an unpainted surface). Other single drawing media may be used, such as pencil, graphite, conté or pen. No paintings will be accepted on the evening. Rules and regulations will be detailed in the February newsletter.



☐ Exhibitions

Art in the Park: Rondebosch Park, Campground Road, Rondebosch: Sunday 30th November: 09h30 – 16h00

What a great day out for everyone who took part and for the visitors who took advantage of the choice of paintings that were on display. Sales totalling nearly R160 000 were achieved, so well done to all who sold.



Get ready for the next one which is just around the corner on March 7th.

Merit Exhibition: Friday 6th to 19th February:

The Merit Exhibition is an invitational exhibition, extended to those members who achieved excellent results on the previous Annual Exhibition Selection. According to the scores achieved, invited artists are permitted a related number of artworks, as part of a new body of work.

Hanging day for this year's Merit will be on Friday 6th February with the opening in the evening. Well known South African artist, John Meyer has agreed to open the exhibition for us. Invitations will be sent out to everyone in due course.

Other Exhibitions

Currently on at Kirstenbosch is the **Cape Professional Artists' Exhibition** featuring some very prominent Cape Town and upcountry artists.

The Constantiaberg Art Society will be holding their first exhibition of 2015 from the 16th to 25th January at the Sanlam Hall, Kirstenbosch. For further information please contact Fran Sexton at fran@frontdoor.co.za or 021 788 9222 / 082 967 0042.

At the **Irma Stern Museum**, Cecil Road, Rosebank, there is currently an exhibition of the work of **Frank Spears** (1906–1991). It should be of particular interest to SASA members as Frank joined the Society in 1934, participated frequently in its exhibitions, and was elected President in 1945. His daughter-in-law, Rosalind Spears, will be conducting a walkabout of the exhibition on Tuesday the 13th January at 11am, so if you haven't seen the exhibition, this will be an

Conditions of Entry and Entry Forms have already been sent out to those participating. If you haven't already replied, please let Liz know at secretary@sasa-artists.co.za how many works you will be submitting. Glenda Chambers is also asking that you send good, high resolution jpg images of your work for possible inclusion for the posters. Her email is gchambers@mweb.co.za.

To those who have been invited to participate in the 2015 Merit on the 6th February, **please remember to renew your membership otherwise your work cannot be accepted.**

opportunity to learn more about the artist. The works are all on loan from their owners. His style was impressionist bordering on abstract, and his subject matter was varied.



The exhibition closes on the 17th January. There is a R10 entrance fee, and plenty of parking outside.

□ Plein Air Outings



The next outdoor painting session is planned for the **Simonstown Yacht Club** on Tuesday 20th January. Meet at 9.30am till 12.30 at the yacht club. There are clean toilets, a small restaurant and tea and coffee on sale. You will be required to pay R 10 for a temporary day membership, but the painting opportunities are more than worth it. Sign in at the security gate; tell them you are an artist as Yvonne will have advised them accordingly. To get there, drive past Jubilee Square on the Main Road and take the first turning to the left. Parking should be plentiful. Please let Yvonne know if you are going or if you need further information. Email yvonnea@soft.co.za.

For the more adventurous, there will be another **hiking and sketching outing**, this time in the **Newlands Forest**, on Wednesday 4th February from 9h30 – 13h00. We will meet at the Newlands Forest parking area, off the M3, and walk gradually up for about 45 minutes to the ruins of Paradise, a former VOC post, and later used by Lady Anne Barnard. There will be plenty of shade!

Please pack everything in a day pack; don't forget water, food, sunhat, sunscreen. Sketching things: pen, sketchbook, pocket watercolour set, etc, nothing heavy! Folding stool optional if you can fit it in. Please contact Linda on 021 797 2601 or 073 5644 845 or lindahe@vitalitybroadband.co.za if you will be attending, or have any queries.



Fish Hoek Art Society will be having a paint out at the Cape Point vineyards on the 20th January. Please contact Cindy on 082 925 2935 or Ann on 083 503 6972 for more information.

□ Workshops, Classes and Information

Your 2014 membership card will allow you to claim your 10% discount from the following art shops:

Deckle Edge – all branches. The Italian Artshop. Village Brush and Canvas. The Art Shop in Hermanus. You will need to present your new 2014 membership card when claiming your discount, so please ensure that you collect your card at the monthly meeting. All the art shops have instructions to only give the 10% discount to paid up members.

If you would like your classes included in the newsletter, please contact secretary@sasa-artists.co.za

□ Library

Once a year (in February) we do a stock take of the library items. As such, all items taken out in November need to be returned at the January meeting. **Please** make an effort to return all items so that we don't spend unnecessary time trying to find out where the 'missing' items are. Also a reminder to all members with outstanding library items, especially those outstanding for more than two months! can you



please make every effort to return these items this month.

Because of the stock take, no items can be taken out this month, but we will be open for 'business as usual' in February.

If you have any queries regarding any aspect of the library, please contact Audrey Innes. Her email is audsinnes@hotmail.com.

□ Arty Facts

Understanding the Difference between Water Colour and Gouache Whites <http://www.winsornewton.com/>



How many times, when using watercolours, do you remember too late that you should have left that little bit of white paper showing through! So in order to correct that, we reach for that tube of gouache white. But

why not the watercolour tube or block of white that sometimes comes in the box?

Within the traditional water colour technique, the white of the paper provides the white used as highlights in a painting as well as providing a light-reflecting background which contributes to the overall brilliance of water colours.

The difference between the gouache and watercolour whites is the amount of pigment in the two ranges. Gouache is more opaque which is why it is used for block colour.

Both ranges are intermixable; gouache can be used with watercolour and vice versa when painting in layers or the two can be mixed together to achieve varying degrees of opacity.

Due to their opacity, Gouache whites are frequently used with water colour to create highlights on water colour paintings.

However, there are different artist quality watercolour whites available to use as an alternative to gouache. Many artists use Chinese white at the end of their painting for highlights or to dull some colour mixtures during painting. Introduced by Winsor & Newton in 1834, Chinese white is the most popular white in water colour. It is semi-opaque and has a blue undertone. Titanium White (Opaque White) is the whitest, most opaque white. It has a high tinting strength and a high covering power.

Appreciating Your Skills

Be Thankful for the Skills You Already Possess

Article by Arizona based artist, [Lori Woodward Simmons](#), who regularly paints with Richard Schmid and Nancy Guzik.

"My friend and mentor, Nancy Guzik, has often encouraged me with this phrase: Be thankful for what you already can do. Sometimes we artists get so hung up on what we can't do that we become thankless self-loathers.

"One of my favorite blogs by Clint Watson is called, 'Living Recursively'. From a software programmer's point of view, he talks about how new information is built upon previous information. What this says to me is that I am continually building new skills that rest on the foundation of my existing skills. Over time that foundation grows larger – and therefore I have a greater knowledge and skill base to build on.

"Another line that Nancy keeps in reserve, 'You owe me a quarter for every time you say, I can't'.

"I owe her a lot of money! Nancy is not suggesting that we ignore our artistic weaknesses – she doesn't want us to entertain the negative postulation that we can't conquer our difficulties. Yes, it takes time, a ton of effort, but we most certainly can get to the next level – especially when we consistently strive to educate ourselves and seek out high quality mentors and educators - and - when we put what we've learned to use.

"I understand that you might be thinking, how can I get a mentor like Nancy Guzik? Well... it's safe to say that Nancy is already over booked for that position, but there are many artists out there from whom you can learn the very same academics that Nancy teaches. Never before in history have artists had access to educational books, videos and workshops like we now do. Long before I met Nancy, I depended

on books and workshops for my education, and by the time I met her, I was ready to apply advanced artistic concepts. In other words, I had a pretty good foundation of skills and knowledge to build upon.

"Here, I'll sum this up with a few lines of advice - most of which I've learned from my peers and mentors:

"Acknowledge the skills you already have – keep them sharp and build on those skills. Be thankful for what you have already learned and conquered, and don't hesitate to take advantage of the broad range of educational tools available. When you read about new techniques or theories, try them out, and practice them until they become part of your artistic repertoire."

MAYBE THE MOST
IMPORTANT PART IN
ANY CREATIVE
PROCESS!



THOSE TEN MINUTES AFTER
YOU WAKE UP, STAY IN BED,
AND THINK ABOUT
EVERYTHING YOU'RE
GOING TO MAKE THAT DAY.

-STEVEN WEINBERG

HYPERALLERGIC

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