

SASA NEWSLETTER - February 2014

President: Linda Howe-Ely

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www.sasa-artists.co.za

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Patrons: Alice Goldin, Sam Nhlengethwa, Conrad Theys



Secretary Liz Pearson - PO Box 2574, Clareinch 7740 Tel. 021 671-8941 secretary@sasa-artists.co.za

Treasurer Mike Daubermann

□ Diary



FEBRUARY

Wednesday 5

Merit Exhibition Closes – Collection of work

Thursday 13

Paint out to Chart Farm, Wynberg

Thursday 27

Monthly Meeting: AGM and Drawing Competition

MARCH

Thursday 27

Monthly Meeting: Demo

A good drawing is like a wicker basket...from which one cannot remove a single cane without making a hole in it.

Henri Matisse

□ President's Letter

Dear Members

Many of you have already heard that Mike Daubermann is seriously ill in hospital with a lung infection. We are really missing his cheery presence at our events as well as his efficient handling of SASA's finances and many other matters. We all fervently wish him a full recovery. Are there any members who would be able to help out with the treasurer's portfolio while Mike is recuperating, as this is a job that needs more skill than I have? Please let me or Liz know if you can assist us.

The 2014 Merit Exhibition has ended with 80 sales, worth over R160 000. This is an excellent number; the previous record number of sales at a Merit Exhibition was in 2004, when 91 works were sold. Many of our regular buyers came to the opening and there was quite a buying frenzy, intensified by the credit card machine playing up. Gavin Collins gave an excellent and inspiring speech. Visitors have been generous with their praise of the work. Well done to all who took part, and to those who didn't sell, don't be despondent; sales really depend on who walks through the door at every exhibition.

"Generous" was also the word used by many members to describe Jenny Parsons' talk at our January meeting. Jenny spared no effort in explaining her art making process, and included many slides illustrating her preparatory drawings, and suggestions to help artists get going. Some of them were: "Show up at the canvas, no matter what. Get to the studio early. Paint on consecutive days."



SASA members have been asked for their help in tracking down works by Frank Sydney Spears, 1906 – 1991, who joined SASA in 1934 and was President from 1945 to 1947. He established a high profile as an artist, broadcaster and actor, and was also known for his success in business activities and as a designer of boats. His son, John Spears is sponsoring an exhibition of his work to be held at the Irma Stern Museum at the end of this year, and wants to compile a complete list of his works - a massive task as Spears was a very prolific artist. Art historian Angela Lloyd Read is writing a book on the artist to accompany the exhibition.

Frank Spears took part regularly in SASA exhibitions as well as other shows. His early painting style was impressionistic. In 1949, he travelled in the USA, and his style changed in response to the growing orthodoxy of abstraction there. He began to experiment with non-figuration, but was unable to relinquish his attachment to figurative elements. A personal mysticism began to shape much of his thought and he became interested in the relationship of painting, poetry and music. This was well received by critics bored by the conservatism of SASA exhibitions in the 1940s. One of his paintings, entitled "Eileen Joyce plays Chopin", made a quite a stir at the SASA Members' Exhibition of 1950 and he was specially commended on it. His painting "Roses" is in the IZIKO SANG Permanent Collection, and was included in SASA's Centenary Exhibition there in 2002. Spears returned to England in 1969, but continued to exhibit in SA. He also designed the rose window for the south transept of St George's Cathedral in Cape Town; this was erected in 1957.

Please let me or Liz know if you own a work by Spears, or know of anyone who does.

Linda Howe-Ely

□ Member News and Happenings

Please make use of the notice board which is in the drawing room at all our monthly meetings. 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 021 434 8355 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.

Now with the Festive Season well and truly over, we welcome the following artists who joined in January:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ☆ Margaret Haslewood | ☆ David Staude |
| ☆ Charmaine Treherne | ☆ Gert Grobler of Johannesburg |
| ☆ Amanda Arora | ☆ Martin Warburg |
| ☆ Gilly KaMangena | ☆ Monya Kröhnert |
| ☆ Rhoda McMaster from Napier | ☆ Jenny Tullis |
| ☆ Judith Bouwer | ☆ Daniele Kronenberg |
| ☆ Glynis and Neville Craemer of Aurora | ☆ Barbara Mayers |
| ☆ Vera van der Molen | ☆ Banie Stafford |

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'.

□ 2014 Membership Fees

Membership fees are now overdue. We have allowed a grace period of 2 months for payment, so please make sure your subs are paid by the end of this month (February). You can make payment via the internet to SASA Nedbank Constantia, branch code 198765, account number 1088006981. If you pay by cheque, please make your payment out to the South African Society of Artists (in full) and in the interim post to:

Linda Howe-Ely, President SASA
8 Coronation Avenue
Plumstead
7800



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

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Ordinary members | : R240 |
| Country members | : R150 |
| Students (full time under 25) | : R150 |

The joining fee will remain at R100 and this will be applicable to those members whose memberships lapse during the year.

□ 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 30th January - Jenny Parsons Talk: If you missed Jenny's talk, you missed a truly inspirational evening. Talking to a 'full house' Jenny was both fascinating and informative. Thank you, Jenny, for a great talk and a great start to 2014.

Thursday 27th February: Annual General Meeting and Drawing Competition: Our AGM is held every February to elect council members and to advise on the current financial status of the Society. There are also changes to the Constitution which need to be discussed and approved. If you have any comments on these changes, you can email secretary@sasa-artists.co.za and these will be tabled at the meeting. This is your society and we would encourage you to attend this year's meeting. If you would like to help your society by standing for Council, you can propose members from the floor, or you can email your proposals to secretary@sasa-artists.co.za. There will be a need for one or two new Council members this year.

The Annual SASA **Drawing Competition** will follow the Annual General Meeting. We hope you have been drawing and sketching like mad in this summer heat – a perfect time for the chosen theme of "Summer".

RULES FOR THE DRAWING COMPETITION: *(Please read carefully, to avoid disappointment)*

- All works should be new, *recent* works that are appropriate to the theme.
- There will only be *one* category for entries, with prizes awarded to the top three chosen works.
- Only members present on the evening are eligible to vote.
- All paid-up members *present* on the evening are allowed to submit *one* entry.
- Please ensure that your work is suitably mounted, or, if presented in a sketchbook, please provide bulldog clips to open the book to the appropriate page and a firm support in order to prop up the page for viewing.
- The competition 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 drawing media may be used, such as: pencil, graphite, conté or pen.
- No work containing brushwork or solvents will be allowed. (For example, watercolours or pastel diluted with turpentine are not permitted.)
- Work **may not** be submitted if it has been done in a class convened by an art teacher, nor if it has been previously entered in any SASA competition or exhibition.
- Printmaking is ineligible in this competition, although the preparatory sketches on which it is based are welcome.
- Please observe the spirit of the competition and abide by the above guidelines
- Please remember when working from source material (such as photographs), that these must be your *own*, or those to which you *own the copyright* by express written permission. Images from magazines, newspapers and other artists' work are automatically protected by intellectual property law and are subject to copyright protection. Our standard copyright rules apply, and if in doubt please contact Liz Pearson, 021 671 8941, for clarity.
- Work submitted must be the original hand-made work and cannot be a photographic or electronic reproduction.
- Please do take note of this now, so as not to be disappointed on the evening.
- 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 drawing media may be used, such as pencil, graphite, conté or pen. No paintings will be accepted on the evening.

"Drawing is the fundamental prerequisite for success in representational painting. There is no way around it. No excuses to be made if an artist wants to be an excellent, or even a simply competent painter. Good drawing is inextricably linked to good painting."

In spite of everything I shall rise again: I will take up my pencil, which I have forsaken in my great discouragement, and I will go on with my drawing.

Vincent Van Gogh

□ Exhibitions

Merit Exhibition 2014

The Merit Exhibition has just ended and sales have been outstanding. Well done to those who sold, and especially those who sold a number of works. The work was really great this year.

Also a special thank you to all those members who helped hang the exhibition last month. Some of you weren't even on



show and still volunteered your services.

Please remember that all the work done at exhibitions, monthly meetings, etc. is done on a voluntary basis, and if you have work going on exhibition, your help is also necessary for a successful show. Please send your names to Glenda Chambers at gchambers@mweb.co.za so she can call on you when she needs your help.

Art in the Park:

We are hoping to have our 3rd Art in the Park at Rondebosch Park this time. Glenda Chambers has asked the City Council if we can hold it there on Saturday the 1st of March. We are awaiting their reply and will let you know as soon as the date is confirmed.

Members' 1: 5th – 18th May. Although it's only February, Members' 1 will be on us before we know it! Remember you are allowed to put up two works of art, plus two portfolio pieces. After the success of the Merit, we are expecting great things for our first full Members exhibition.

Other Exhibitions:

Art Connection is holding a group exhibition at The Studio Kalk Bay, The Majestic Village, 122 Main Road in Kalk Bay, from 27th February to 12th March. Amongst those exhibiting will be SASA members Laura Wenman and Helen van Stolk. For more information, please contact Priscilla Schoonbee at priscilla@theartconnection.co.za or 082 463 6307.

Original Cape Art will be hosting an exhibition of works by 21 Cape Artists at the Sanlam Hall, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Open daily from 10.00 to 17.00, the exhibition will open on Saturday 15th March and will run until Sunday 23rd March. For further information contact 021 799 8621 during exhibition hours.



Artists of the South are exhibiting in the Simonstown library Hall from February 6th to the 9th. Open from 9am to 5pm. Please contact Pauline Fine on 021 7825472 or 0828311578, email paulinefineartist@gmail.com.

The Cape Gallery, Church Street in Cape Town is currently holding an exhibition by women who are stepping outside their traditional role of 'home makers' and 'child carers'. The exhibiting artists are observant, occasionally playful, cognitive of the pain and the pleasure of being a woman. Their work exerts an emotional presence that will engage the attentive

viewer. Amongst those participating are SASA members Elinor Carleton-Smith, Lesley Charnock, Jill Colley, Sylvia de Villiers, Shirley Howells, Di Johnson-Ackerman, Sybille Lampe, Mandy McKay, Nola Muller, Lyn Northam, Veronica Reid, Marilyn Southey, Frederike Stokhuyzen, Helen van Stolk. Duration: 2nd February – 1st March 2014.

□ Plein Air Outings

The weather is certainly fantastic for outdoor painting at the moment.

The next outing will be at **Chart Farm in Wynberg** on Thursday, 13th February, 09h30 till 12h30

Chart Farm, for those of you who haven't painted there before, is a rose farm with wonderful views of the vineyards and has an old Manor House and tea garden. To there's plenty to



choose from, lots of shade and a really safe environment. Drive past Wynberg Park on Trovato Link, turn left into Klaasens Road, pass under the M3 bridge and turn left, up the gravel road to Chart Farm. Please

confirm with Yvonne on 083 280 1693 or email yvonnea@soft.co.za.

The Fish Hoek Art Society are having a paint out on Tuesday 18th February from 9h30 at The Grange, Spaanschemat Road, Tokai (stone church). There are some wonderful trees to paint there. Contact Ann on 021 782 6297 for more information.

□ Arty Facts



Long considered the finest charcoal for drawing, **Nitram Académie Fusains Charcoal** is the preferred charcoal of professional artists, academies, and ateliers. Nitram Fine Art Charcoal has been an essential component of the artistic community for nearly 50 years and this is the only charcoal used by the Florence School of Fine Art, and many other prestigious art academies around the world.

There are four different types of Nitram charcoal:

Soft: For the discerning artist that requires a rich black for drawing, then Nitram B is the answer. It is very soft, yet is still able to carry a point for working rich blacks into the paper or canvas.

Medium: This medium soft charcoal is the one most preferred for drawing and sketching. Nitram HB's superior hold is perfect for homogenizing tones and retaining tonal detail.

Hard: Nitram H can be sharpened to an extra fine point for creating fine detail in your drawing. Also, the unique hardness of Nitram H makes lighter and mid tones easier to attain.



Cretacolor Graphite Aquarelle. Very fine quality graphite and only the purest clays are combined to make this water soluble,

3.8mm lead diameter, graphite pencil. Excellent for sketching and mixed media as well as dramatic or subtle line and wash effects. Depending on the grade used, bold and free sketching can be achieved with the 8B grade and fine, detail work can be achieved with the well sharpened HB grade.

Library

Many thanks to those members who returned their library items at the end of January. There are, however, still a few items outstanding, so please check your book shelves to see if one of the SASA items isn't tucked away amongst your personal art books or DVDs. Our stock take will be done this month and the library will be open for business as usual at the February meeting.

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.

Simonstown Art Group will be hosting Jackie Clayton on Thursday 20th February at 19h00 at the Simonstown Library Hall. She will be giving a talk on the paintings of Leonardo da Vinci. Visitors R10. Tel Pauline Fine 021 782 5472 for further information.

The Iziko S A National Gallery is hosting an art history class, which is open to anyone interested in learning more about the art movements of the 1940s to 1990s, such as abstract expressionism. It is being held on the occasion of a retrospective exhibition of Kevin Atkinson, an important and influential South African art educator and artist. One of the classes includes a visit to Atkinson's studio,

The Fish Hoek Art Society is hosting an evening with Hazel Soan at 19h00 on Wednesday, 26th February at Nerina Gardens, Upper Recreation Road, Fish Hoek. This will be an informal talk about the challenges of working in watercolour and how everyday items around us can prove interesting subjects. All are welcome to attend. Cost for visitors is R25. Booking is essential to secure a place. Contact Cindy Bath on 021 785 5033 or Ann Zwetz on 021 782 6297.

Alyson Guy has a **Potter's Wheel** that she would like to find a home for. As she lives in Hermanus, you need to have the means to collect it. Please contact Alyson at mag@hermanus.co.za or telephone 084 510 0952 for more information and to make arrangements.



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which is not open to the public. The first class was on the 2nd February and the second one will be on the following Sunday morning, the 9th February. If you would like more information, or an application form please email Liz Pearson at secretary@sasa-artists.co.za.

The Importance of Drawing

Drawing, by [Donald Fox](#) from FineArtViews Daily Newsletter | Friday, January 11, 2013 | Issue 1424

“Drawing generally is a form of artistic expression that reveals the most about the thinking process of the artist. Much of the time artists use drawing as a preliminary to painting or other more permanent art, but there are a number of artists today who use drawing as a primary form of expression. These drawings tend to be more polished and finished and often can look like either grey scale or coloured paintings that are done with traditional drawing media. Here I’m thinking more about the drawing as a form of study, as a quick visualization of an idea, or as a way of thinking on paper. Much of my own drawing is done to study shapes in space rather than as sketches for paintings...

“If I were to list a dozen artists whose drawings I go back to time and again, I would name Rembrandt, Picasso, Alberto Giacometti, Ben Shahn, Egon Schiele, Cezanne, Degas, Holbein, Goya, Piranesi, Andrea del Sarto, Leonardo, and Fragonard. That’s an even dozen, but there are others I could easily mention... Rembrandt and Picasso are the most varied in their approaches, and each is quite inventive with graphic expression. Giacometti relates to space as a sculptor, and his frenetic linear interior settings are always exciting to see. Shahn and Schiele, although temperamentally very distinct, make wonderful use of line as an expressive tool. Cezanne carves planar forms in drawing much as he did in painting; I especially love his pencil and watercolour drawings/paintings. Degas’ black chalk drawings create powerful presences that are often expressive and full of tonal nuance that is unparalleled. Holbein’s portrait drawings are so clearly observed and deftly rendered that I feel like I’m getting a master lesson every time I see one. Goya is incomparable as a graphic artist for his realism, expressiveness, and imaginative visualizations. Piranesi created incredible interior spaces long before Escher explored his quirky and impossible perspectives. Andrea del Sarto has given us some of the most sublime figure drawings in the history of art. Most artists have a clear understanding of Leonardo as the multi-faceted genius, but to see several hundred of his drawings at one time as I did some years ago is a truly mind blowing experience. The range of subjects covered in his sketchbooks is nearly exhausting. The masterful subtleties that Fragonard coaxes from red chalk for me has a musical quality that I experience with no other artist I can think of.

“Drawing is a powerful tool for the artist, but photography and direct painting have reduced drawing’s role in the lives of many artists today. This is a shame since there is much to learn by utilizing this most direct form of artistic expression. It is probably also the most ancient form of image making although this may only be conjecture. Still, it is most likely that early man drew with a stick or charcoal before stumbling upon the use of pigments. Modern man would be wise to follow that example.”



**It is only by drawing often, drawing everything, drawing incessantly, that one fine day you discover to your surprise that you have rendered something in its true character
Camille Pissarro (1831 - 1903)**

We are an associate member of the



South African National Association for the Visual Arts (SANAVA)
www.sanava.co.za