

Pamela Fairburn

Period of Presidency: 2005-2008

Significant moments during that time:

This was probably a time of change and expansion in the Art Society's leadership, committee, place of exhibitions, meetings, demonstrations and membership. I took over the presidency after our past president, Francis Hackney Frohlich passed away. She had been our leader for 34 years.

During this period, there was a very dedicated and enthusiastic committee who tried to modernise the society and get our art presence in the community increased through members exhibitions, lectures, workshops and showcasing our local artistic talent within the broader community of Lane Cove. The Lane Cove Council and Lane Cove Rotary helped with the Lane Cove Municipal Art Award. These exhibitions took place annually in the new Council Chambers in Longueville Road. Members exhibitions were held at The Lane Cove Music and Cultural Centre on 266 Longueville Road (previously The Lane Cove Women's Bowling Club.) Art Society meetings, workshops and lectures were also presented there. Committee meetings were usually at my house or at one of the committee's houses. The need for a modern and larger Gallery space in Lane Cove was starting to become a real issue for our art society.

Why you value the LCAS?

Artists need each other! We can produce works by ourselves but we need the support and creative ideas to bounce around in our artistic community! We support each other, it gives us strength to grow as artists and individuals. Lane Cove Art Society is a very friendly, non judgemental group (Lloyd Rees, our founding father, set that ideal up many years ago). I have made many friendships over the years I have been a member since 1978 when We moved into Lane Cove. Plus the whole community is enriched when its members are encouraged and rewarded. All people in our community need a creative outlet!

What got you interested in art?

I have always had Art in my life! My mother had been to National Art School East Sydney in 1930s. She was always interested in all arts, crafts and floristry. My father was very handy with his hands, a builder and inventive. I loved anything to do with art at school. I majored in Ceramics and Painting in HSC Art and went on to become a High School Art Teacher and Specialist Special Education Art Teacher. I went to Alexander Mackie College Sydney (now called COFA) where I gained my Degree in Education (Art) and Graduate Diploma in Visual Arts. I majored in Sculpture and Painting. I was very fortunate to have had amazing teachers there.... Australian renown artists who inspired me. Kevin Connor, Keith Looby, Colin Lanceley, Rodney Milgate, Liz Ashburn, Ken Reinhardt, Colin Levy, Guy Warren and Lloyd Rees are all wonderful artists who have had an influence on me.

What is your main interest in art?

I am always interested in the creative process and self expression. Whether it be painting, printing, sculpture, weaving, ceramic, jewellery or drawing. Our unique marks or gestures are important. How I express myself has always lead me to experimentation and discovery. I love the Creative Process. I also enjoy exploring different mediums such as using wax, pigments or a combination of them. I am also interested in using collage in paintings where 2D and 3D merge.

Who has influenced you either from a mentoring point of view or from a mark making perspective?

Kevin Connor had a great influence on my drawing and painting. His layering of his drawings and painting where he would reassess the lines and overdraw. He insisted that mistakes become part of the integrity of the art work...this is inspirational. I also admire Raoul Dufy's watercolours where his loose, free colourful layering and decorative linework speaks of the purity and essence of the subject, whether it is a landscape, portrait or still life. He makes the works sing with their freshness. My other hero is Henri Matisse. I think his paintings and collages changed art in 20th century. Purity of shape, line and colour and texture is so evident in all his paintings, drawings and collages.

What is the value of art in today's world?

We live in such a fast and changing and sometimes frightening world, our creativity keeps us connected to a human world. Life would be a sad, desolate place without Art. We are all human, we need each other, we all need Art!

Website link: www.pamelafairburnart.com.au