

Showcase for mosaic

Building on the success of the inaugural Mosaic Group Exhibition at Tolarnos in December 93, and the ever increasing public interest in Mosaic, we are pleased to announce an exhibition of mosaics to be held at the Artists' Garden gallery, Fitzroy, for four weeks in November of this year.

In keeping with the garden context of the gallery, the central theme of the show will be mosaic for outdoors. This allows for anything from paving concepts, birdbaths, flower pots and furniture, to purely ornamental pieces.

Open to both members and non-members this exhibition will provide an exciting opportunity to exhibit the great diversity of mosaic applications and the unique creativity of Australian artists working in this medium.

What's In A Name?

The name of the show is yet to be decided - if you have any preference amongst the existing suggestions or wish to add to the current list please advise Lu Skacej (see contact details below)

The list of names so far - Miles of Tiles; Grout About; On The Tiles; Tac-tile Trends; Stone Cuttings.

Entry Details

Send your expression of interest to:
**Lu Skacej, 12 Beach Avenue
Elwood 3184.**

Include name, contact number and postal address and we will mail out entry requirements and an application form.

There will be a nominal entry fee with concession for Mosaic Group members.

Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday, April 30

Time: 3 pm

Place: Elwood Community Centre, behind the Beach House Cafe, Elwood Beach. Enter carpark from Ormond Esplanade, between Beach Ave and Vautier St. Melways Ref. Map 67 B4

In addition to committee progress reports, this year's AGM will also feature a slide talk by our new chairperson, mosaic artist Libby McKinnon.

This will be of special interest to people dealing with issues of large scale and outdoor installations.

All welcome.

Membership News

An election of office bearers and Action Group Committees was held at the Mosaic Group General Meeting at RMIT School of Design on November 21, 1994.

Libby McKinnon was elected Chairperson for 1995.

For the last ten years, Libby has worked in inner western Melbourne as a practising mosaic/public artist and has been active within many community and arts based committees.

Issue 4 of Mosaic News will feature a profile on Libby's latest project.

Heartfelt thanks go to our previous Chairperson, Ms Carolynne Bourne. Carolynne is managing director of International Specialised Skills and a ardent supporter of mosaic in

Australia- it was her initiative that inspired the formal launching of The Mosaic Group in 1993 and Carolynne continues as an active and highly esteemed member of the Group.

New Members

Welcome to Dominique Mitchelson of Victoria and Andrea Ghafty of Western Australia.

For any further details regarding committee members and the Action Groups contact Jenny Loft at the IRC (Information Resource Centre).

Information Resource Centre

The IRC is the central contact point for general enquiries and specific information requests.

The IRC also houses the Mosaic Group Artist Register. Read on for more information on how the Register is working to promote mosaic and members' works.

Contact: Jenny Loft
10 Southam Street
West Brunswick Vic. 3055
Phone: 03 3831064

Artist Profile – *Mary Hall*

In 1972, after two years of working on a translation of the Carmina Burana (a series of medieval Latin poems) I decided it was time to become an artist.

I took a couple of courses at tech, but it was a daytime course at the Workshop Arts Centre, a small private art school at Willoughby, Sydney, that opened the way for mosaic. There I studied basic design principles under Mitzi Finey, a brilliant and eccentric teacher who seemed to have a different approach to everything, and the following year I took part in her mosaic course.

Mitzi did not follow conventional methods of production and from her I learnt to make the actual mosaic material my starting point and to let the possibilities and limitations of the medium dictate both the method and the form. This is opposite to the customary approach of drawing or painting a design and filling it in with tesserae.

From Mitzi I learnt an easy method of sticking the tesserae (four-sided cut pieces of stone, glass, ceramic etc) onto a board. Thus freed from the terrors of cement and the skills involved in traditional methods, I was able to develop my own style.

To make the fullest use of this fragmented medium I make the tesserae do all that it can do.

Altering its format greatly impacts the direction and rhythm of the whole composition. In addition, the use of materials of different thickness and reflective quality makes for a varied and rich surface.

Accordingly, I like to start with a four-sided piece of something (ie. stone, glass or ceramic) make it longer and narrower, or squarer, thicker or thinner, more matte or more gloss, and let these considerations (just as important as colour and tone) achieve the desired effect. Often this happens without engaging the head. When I'm working on my favourite theme - landscape in a slightly abstract, impressionistic style, I don't draw the image before hand at all, but start sketching immediately with the tesserae.

Armed with this style and method, I have worked in mosaic for twenty years. The first of these saw biggish landscapes done for my own delight, but when commissions started to come, I had to venture into other methods and materials. Churches in particular almost always want figurative mosaic and I learnt to depict expressive detail through the human body; the most difficult of these projects being the Stations of the Cross for the Sacred Heart church in Pymble, Sydney, in 1992. These were done on curved

fibreglass forms, as they had to be mounted on columns. The picture size was about 300mm by 450mm and as the client wanted all the details of the story, I had quite a job fitting it all in!

My latest project has been the building of a house and studio on 40 acres of rolling red soil on the north facing slopes of the Strzeleckis, south of Warragul.

Weekend workshop

Workshop With Mary Hall

Sat. 27 & Sun. 28 May

\$150 Members: \$160 non members

- includes one night's accommodation; meals and materials.

For further details, phone Mary on: 056 261452

Mary's studio is at Peterson's Road, Ellinbank, south of Warragul, approximately two hours drive from Melbourne.



Together with my twin sister Venetia we have created a space to suit all our aspirations. The studio is large, well lit and fully equipped. It's fantastic to have all my materials under one roof, despite the huge task of shifting and installing over ten tonnes of marble, granite and slate and the tedious sorting of umpteen boxes of ceramic and glass tiles!

My new studio affords me great freedom not only to do my own projects but also to collaborate with other mosaic enthusiasts and run specialised workshops. With that in mind we have also built guest accommodation and a big living space for people to gather. I am currently designing a floor mosaic for the entrance way and some wall mosaics in the bathrooms. These will be included in a demonstration of installation techniques during the workshops I have planned for this year.

Arts Bendigo A pathway to history...

In November 1994, the Mosaic Group received an invitation from Arts Bendigo Inc., Victoria, to submit an information portfolio for the inclusion of mosaic works in the "Pathway To History", an initiative of the Bendigo Creek Linear Park project.

Opened in 1993, the Bendigo Creek Linear Park links two of the city's oldest parks - Rosalind Park in the city centre, dating from the 1850 s, and the White Hill Botanic Gardens, first laid out in the 1870 s.

Following the Bendigo Creek, the Linear Park courses past the Golden Dragon Museum, Lake Weeroona, the old gas works, the Joss House, relic mine sites, wetlands, and the White Hills cemetery, before ending at the Botanic Gardens.

The ongoing development of the Linear Park project includes plans for a Bushland Trail for cyclists and walkers, and also a network of bridges, pathways and streetworks which will serve the local community by connecting residential areas with schools and recreational facilities.

Arts Bendigo has received funding to commission and install artworks that correspond with particular sites along the pathway. Each site has its own unique story to tell, and it is their agenda to find durable works that further enhance the significance of each site.

Given that agenda, mosaic artworks are a popular choice and Arts Bendigo has approached the Mosaic Group for advice on the range of possibilities, costs and procedures.

The response of Arts Bendigo to our portfolio has been extremely positive, including a request for additional information regarding sample budgets and further work examples.

The IRC has begun the task of compiling these details and will be forwarding an information package to Arts Bendigo.

In the meantime, we will be keeping members informed of progress on this exciting and potentially long term project, via the Mosaic Group Newsletter and Bulletins.

Artist Register Hard at work!

Mosaic Group member profiles included in the IRC Artist Register are proving to be a vital resource for the presentation, promotion and marketing of both individual members and mosaic work in general.

The recent presentation of an Information Portfolio to Arts Bendigo Inc. was greatly enhanced by material from members' profiles on the Artist Register.

If you wish take advantage of this promotional service and are not yet featured in the Register, please refer to the Database Information Sheet included with this Newsletter. The Database Sheet also gives details regarding slides and formats for curriculum vitae and colour photocopies.

Send all information to:
Lu Skacej
12 Beach Ave, Elwood
3184 Vic.

Please notify Lu of any change to your mailing details.

"Another View" Koorie Walking Trail

Initiated by the Melbourne City Council, "Another View" is a public pathway connecting documented artworks at eighteen sites around the Central Business District of Melbourne- six of which will be done in mosaic.

Each art piece relates to either a monument or an event marked in early Australian Colonial history. Together with a documented map, the trail describes both the "Pathway of The Rainbow Serpent" and previously untold aspects of Australian history.

The trail has been created by Megan Evans and Ray Thomas and the map text researched and written by Robert Mate Mate. Megan is featured here working on one of the mosaic pieces.

Site No.1 is situated on the footpath in front of Parliament and was the focus of the launch for the first stage of the project on April 2.

Megan will be giving a talk to The Mosaic Group on her return from a four month trip to South East Asia and India.

Stay tuned for details.



Editor's Note

Our third edition of Mosaic News is destined to become a collectors' item so hold on to your copy - it's the last Newsletter before the launch of a whole new look for the Mosaic Group!

The new corporate identity will include a logo design; letterhead and Newsletter format, as well as a distinctive promotional document outlining who we are and what we provide. All of this goes to enhance the promotional and marketing arm of the Mosaic Group - a benefit passed on directly to members.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this project, especially to fellow member and graphic designer Naomi White, for all her patient and creative input.

Future editions will include details of guest lectures, slide talks and training seminars scheduled for 1995. Issue 4 will also introduce a new regular item that looks at the reading list currently available for mosaic and features a book review each issue.

As ever, Mosaic News is on the lookout for any projects to feature and other items of interest - please contact:

Lu Skacej
03 531 7374.

Application Form

I would like to be a member of The Mosaic Group

\$50.00

Please make all cheques payable to:

The Mosaic Group
Jenny Loft
10 Southam Street
West Brunswick
3055 Vic.
Australia

Phone: 03 383 1064

Please also fill out the Database
Information Sheet included in this Newsletter.

Name _____

Position _____

Company _____

Address _____

Suburb _____

Post Code _____

Phone (h) _____

Phone (w) _____

Fax _____

E.mail _____

If undeliverable return to:

The Mosaic Group
12 Beach Avenue
Elwood 3184
Victoria

Mosaic News

Print Post Approved
PP 332099 - 00006

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

*Ms A. Buzzza
c/- Arts Bendigo
PO Box 563
Bendigo*

3550

Mosaic Art Group Inc

(MAGI) Reg. No. A0032263N

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MOSAIC ART GROUP INC.

1. The third Annual General Meeting of the Mosaic Art Group Inc. will be held at the Meat Market Craft Centre, Blackwood Street, North Melbourne at 2.00 pm, Sunday 21 July, 1996.
2. All financial Members, including Professional, Concession and Subscriber Members are welcome to attend.
3. Only financial members are entitled to vote at the AGM.
4. Nominations for the six elected positions will be posted at **The magi** Information Resource Centre from 7 July 1996, contact Jenny Loft for details.
5. To minimise postal costs the Minutes of the 1995 AGM will be on display from 12 noon on the day of the 1996 AGM. As with all official documents the Minutes are also available on request from the Information Resource Centre (contact as above).

PROXY FORM

I,.....of.....being a financial Member of the Mosaic Art Group Inc. hereby

appointof.....as my

proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Mosaic Art Group Inc. to be held on Sunday 21 July, 1996 and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed.....

Dated

Mosaic Art Group Inc

(MAGI) Reg. No. A0032263N

AGENDA

1996 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOSAIC ART GROUP INC.

BUSINESS

1. WELCOME, PRESENT, APOLOGIES, IN ATTENDANCE
2. MINUTES FROM 1995 AGM
3. PRESIDENTS REPORT
4. SECRETARYS REPORT
5. TREASURERS FINANCIAL REPORT
6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ORDINARY MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE
7. RECEIVE & CONSIDER STATEMENT SUBMITTED
UNDER SEC.30(3) OF THE ACT

After the meeting **The magi** committee would like you to join them in a tour of the various exhibition spaces available at the Meat Market Craft Centre.

Please join us for afternoon tea after the official proceedings.