



Art and Craft Show

3rd and 4th May 2025

Artist's Profiles

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Chan DISSANAYAKE

Chan Dissanayake is a multi-award winning watercolour artist living in Canberra, Australia. He is a highly regarded tutor and a well-respected judge of local and regional art awards. Over the last 15 years his passion has turned to watercolour. A medium that thrives in spontaneous response and free expression. His mastery in watercolour is manifested by the vast varying subject matter that he tackles from rural landscapes, urban cityscapes to coastal seascapes. In 2017, Chan received the ultimate accolade for an Australian Watercolourist when he was elected to the elite Australian Watercolour Institute. Known for his innovative approaches to teaching and generosity in sharing his knowledge, Chan has gained considerable reputation as an outstanding tutor and conducts workshops throughout the country as well as leading International Painting tours. Currently he teaches watercolour at the ANU (Australian National University). He has contributed many articles to leading art publications including Australian Artist and Artists Palette. His quick and direct approach to watercolour has earned him much success and respect both nationally and internationally. Currently his work is represented at the Bungendore woodworks gallery, Bungendore.

Artist's Statement

"My works represent my inner response to the world around me. As an artist, my aim is to capture an impression of my subject with as little detail as possible. This is done by simplifying the subject matter to its core elements. I find that watercolour is a tailor made medium for this purpose. Watercolour is a demanding medium. It is paramount that one learns the language of watercolour. Only then you can command it to do its magic for you."

Caroline DEEBLE

Australian Watercolour Artist

Caroline is an expressive artist known for her captivating 'contemporary nature' & 'expressive modernist' watercolour paintings. Her distinctive style delves into various ways of expressing her deep connection with the natural world. Often hailed as 'the rock artist,' Caroline's portfolio encompasses artwork ranging from natural watercourses and ocean reefs to scenes from the Australian bush. Developed over her artistic journey spanning 30 years, her unique approach involves layers of colour and shadows, skillfully capturing the essence of fragrant forests and free-flowing waters.

She believes the secret to watercolors is learning to find a balance between control and letting go...

With over two decades of experience in Fine Arts Education, where she has worked with both adults and young people, Caroline has showcased her artwork in numerous local and national solo and shared exhibitions. While possessing extensive knowledge and technical skills across various mediums, she has chosen to specialize in the beautiful yet challenging medium of watercolour. Caroline's pieces grace private collections nationally and internationally, reflecting her genuine passion for the role of Art in our lives. Her art serves as a conduit connecting viewers to nature, conveying its gentle rhythm, immense power, and its ability to cleanse the soul.

A seasoned traveller with a substantial photographic collection from her journeys, Caroline draws inspiration from her global experiences, utilizing them as reference material for her studio artwork. As an 'Award-Winning' international artist, her work was prominently featured as part of the Australian delegation of watercolour artists in Fabriano & Urbino, Italy. Caroline also leads the Australian delegation for Urbino in aquarello, Italy, and

IWS Watercolour & Spirit, Bulgaria & Caudete International Biennial, Spain.

Her recent representation includes:

selected for exhibition in the top 60 of the world in 'Unique markmaking in Watercolour' 2022 & 2024.

Along with 'special Invitation' as a presenting guest artist in numerous international masters events including Breizh Aquarelle, France; Fabriano in Aquarello, Bologna Italy; Watercolour International, Thessaloniki Greece, IWS Bulgaria, Watercolour & Spirit, Varna, Bulgaria; The Ambassadors, San Diego USA.

Throughout her career, Caroline has gained recognition as a featured artist with several Australian and international Arts Agencies. She recently embraced a new role as a Brand Ambassador for Daniel Smith Artist Materials. Notably, Caroline is a featured artist on the award-winning International Arts Documentary Series, 'Colour In Your Life,' hosted by Graeme Stevenson. (Notably Caroline's episode has been selected up for a part of the official International Artists 'Lunar Codex' that has now officially landed on the moon to be stored as a 'future time capsule & sample of the current World artists). [Watch her episode here!](<https://youtu.be/W9euBNSclaA>)

Tim HODGSON

Tim Hodgson Wamboin local Tim Hodgson (Timbro), reputedly know for his creative and unique building skills as a carpenter for over 35 years in the Bungendore area, has traded in the tools for a new passion. While having a crack with a welder about two years ago, Tim started creating and designing spectacular and realistic metal art sculptures. Starting from insects, fish and flowers, Tim has expanded his portfolio creating eagles, crocodiles, kangaroos and most recently a Blue Heeler Dog.

Each sculpture is completely unique from general metal goods to old car parts, chains and cutlery. Tim's kids and grandkids enjoy analysing each sculpture, working out what it is and identifying each of the parts within the art.

Tim participated in the QPRC Annual Local Artist awards taking out the people's choice award for his Dragon Taniwha in 2024. Tim also has a number of sculptures for display and sale at The Malbon and Old Joinery Lane in Bungendore. Be sure to check them out when grabbing a cuppa.

Fiona PAYNE

Creativity and art have always been part of Fiona's life-influencing her work life and interests.

Born and based in Canberra-Fiona's artwork reflects the regions environment and the wildlife that visit the Canberra Region's open spaces and gardens.

From observation and snapshots- Fiona's watercolour paintings realistically capture what she sees and experiences.

As a self-taught printmaker, watercolours are used to add colour and vibrancy to handcrafted linoprints.

For Fiona, creating artwork is rewarding-seeing the enjoyment and appreciation of the natural environment in people viewing her work, and the delight of children as they recognize birds and animals-renews hope that our environment and its flora and fauna are in good hand.

Tim HARDY

Drawing is my greatest passion in the visual arts: I value it for its immediacy and expressiveness. Drawing, with its simplicity of means, encourages me to explore our world.

Landscapes, the human figure, still life and abstracts attract and challenge me creatively. Print making and pastels are an important extension of my drawing activity. An important part of my drawing experience was in the Cataract Gorge, Tasmania, during the 2017 when I was Artist-in-Residence there.

Tutoring, exhibiting and leadership

Experiences in tutoring and leading drawing groups have been important to my own artistic development. In 2016 I established and continue to lead a weekly ASOC workgroup, Creative Drawing. I have delivered drawing workshops and demonstrations for ASOC, the Queanbeyan Art Society, the Kiama Art Society and the ACT University of the Third Age art groups.

I have been an exhibiting member of the *Pastel and Paint* Group and the *Tin Shed* Art Group. I have exhibited at several galleries, including the Bungendore Fine Art Group and the Watson Arts Centre. In 2015 I held a solo exhibition at the Ginninderra School House gallery, and in 2022 a drawing exhibition at the Strathairn Gallery.

I have served as president of the Artists Society of Canberra, 2010-2012, 2020: and Vice President, 2005-2009-10.

Awards

I have received eight first prizes for my drawings, four first prizes for pastels, two first prizes for print making and two first prizes for mixed media, at the Royal Canberra Art Show and the ASOC Spring Exhibition. In 2012 I received the *Best in Show Award* at the ASOC exhibition, and in 2016 I was awarded the Reserve Champion Prize at the Royal Canberra Art Show.

Jenny MASON

I have always been a creative person trying my hand at many artistic styles and different mediums. I've also flown under the radar not seeking fame or exposure to the limelight. I paint for my own enjoyment occasionally exhibiting and selling work when the opportunity arises. I also give away more paintings than I have sold to friends and family.

I have had a solo exhibition at Sweet Copper Gallery in Gold Creek, exhibited as a joint exhibitor at Strathnairn Art Gallery, and had work in the Goulburn Art Society annual event, the Crookwell Art Show, The Canberra Art Show, Margaret Hadfield Art Gallery in Fyshwick and The Queanbeyan monthly art exhibition.

I have explored a variety of subjects from still life to Japanese garden scenes, kokeshi dolls and portraits of my children. I then moved into acrylics and then watercolours after meeting Isla Patterson. Now the things I paint for relaxation and pleasure are abstract paintings exploring shape, depth, colour combinations mixed with elements from my background in geology and the love of nature. Many would look at my work and think it is indigenous but that is a misconception. There is no indigenous symbolism or dreamtime stories telling in the works I create. Dots and circles yes, but that is as far as my art and indigenous art have in common.

People often ask how I come up with my designs. It isn't a simple process, and works can take many weeks to paint. I never start with an entire picture in my head. It's an evolving process taking in colour and design at every stage. I usually work on several canvases at once. Whilst dots dry on one, I work on the other two.

Prior to my on again-off again art career, I trained as a geologist in the fields of Palynology and Paleomagnetism. After being a palynological consultant to various companies, I transferred my allegiance to working in Japan as an AET (Assistant English Teacher). Some of my art works reflect my deep love of this fascinating Asian country and I incorporate geological elements whenever I can.

Sally BLACK

I am a Canberra based artist creating works on paper. The core of my work is my belief that seeing the world from a different perspective helps us find and appreciate the joy in it.

I explore this using water-based mediums through painting, printmaking and drawing techniques.

My works in pen and watercolour explore unusual perspective and distortions in both the natural and man-made landscapes.

For my painting and printmaking, my loose and impressionistic style is delivered via the unpredictability of watercolour inks.

The resulting works have a feeling of vastness with colours that intermingle into semi-abstracted landscapes with no beginning or end.

Helen DE JONGE

Art and drawing have always been very much part of my life, in my trade as a designer and pattern maker in the clothing industry and doing classes at East Sydney Technical College. I started painting when I moved to Goulburn 25 years ago. I have tried different mediums including oil, acrylic and pastel, my passion however is with watercolour. I mainly paint landscapes and birds but also love painting in different places, including 10 days painting in the Red Centre and in Queenstown New Zealand. Over the years I have done many watercolours workshops with different artists.

I sell my paintings in exhibitions and venues around the Goulburn area and the ACT. I have won many prizes including Best in Show.

As I live on acres outside of Goulburn NSW, I have many native birds around which I love and enjoy painting. I have been president of the Goulburn and District Art Society for the last 10 years and give watercolour workshop for the Art Society.

Eva HENRY

Born in Hungary, arrived in Australia in 1957.

Have been painting as a hobby since early school days.

Completed courses at the ANU School of Art and attended workshops by prominent Australian artists.

Completed science degree in 1972.

In full time occupation at John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU, designing computer systems for scientific research until 1996. Work also included illustrations for scientific publications.

Memberships:

The Artists Society of Canberra (ASOC) since 2003.

The Art in Miniature Group (AIM)

Botanic Art Group at the Canberra Botanic Gardens

Special interests:

Botanic art and Flowers, Miniatures, Landscapes, Seascapes, Still life, Portraiture

Mediums used: Oil, Watercolour, Pastel

Prizes awarded: ASOC exhibitions, The Canberra Show Art exhibitions

Exhibited and sold paintings:

The Miniature Group annual exhibitions

The ASOC annual exhibitions

The Canberra Botanic Gardens annual exhibitions

The Canberra Times Outdoor Art Show

'The Discount Gallery', Belconnen

'The Mawson Gallery', Mawson

"Yarralumla Gallery", Yarralumla

Radford Celebrates Art Show

Cranleigh school annual exhibition

The Canberra Show Art exhibitions

Beachworth Mayday Hills Art Societ

Isla PATTERSON

Isla Patterson was born in Gawler, South Australia. She studied art with Trevor Clare and Ruth Tuck. Isla lived in the USA from 1975 to 1978 where she continued her art studies, belonging to the International Art Society, participated in many exhibitions and held her first solo exhibition.

Isla has lived in the ACT since 1979 and over this period has developed a reputation as a professional artist, known for distinctive depictions of the local scenery. Her love of the Australian bush stems from early childhood spent in the South Australian countryside. She has accumulated many awards over the years of painting, including Champion painting in the Canberra Art Show in 1982.

Her commission works have included painting all the embassies in Canberra for a book written by Dorothy Hart which was published in 2017. She has also painted many of the buildings at Cockington Green, again for a book showcasing the Miniature Village.

Isla's aim is to create traditional art to show the beauty of our world, to delight and bring pleasure to the people who view her watercolours.

She is well known and loved on the Canberra Art scene, as a teacher of subtle colour, as an energetic participant in many exhibitions around the region and a great and willing asset to art in general.

Sukhvinder SAGGU

Sukhvinder Saggu is an Indian born painter who currently lives in Canberra. His style of work is realistic and representational. He paints in all mediums but specializes in oil colour. Over the last few years, he has created series of work focusing on still life, and flora. He is currently focusing his talent on portrait and figure paintings. Mr Saggu regularly participates in art exhibitions and competitions where his work has won many prizes and awards. Numbers of his paintings are in private collection all over the world including India, UK, USA, Philippines, Canada and Australia. Sukhvinder Saggu Awards/Achievements □ Painted more than 200 commissioned portraits.

Email: sagguartist@gmail.com

Website: www.SAGGUARTIST.com

- Finalist in challenge no 126 (Abstract/Experimental Art) competition by International Artist magazine of USA, art work featured in Jan/Feb 2022 issue #142
- Won Second prize in challenge no 110 (Abstract/Experimental Art) competition by International Artist magazine of USA, art work featured in Jan/Feb 2019 issue #126
- Winner 11 th Annual “Strokes of Genius” drawing art competition by The Best of Drawing magazine of USA and art published in the magazine in Winter 2020 issue.
- Finalist in challenge no 98 (portrait and Figure) competition of International Artist magazine of USA

- Winner “SPLASH 18” watercolour book-zine art competition by North Light Publishers and
- “yellow turban” art work will be published in book in July 2017
- First prize in Queanbeyan Art society’s “After the Masters”- in oil category -May 2017
- First prize in Queanbeyan Art society’s “Queanbeyan Leagues Club Exhibition” in oil category -
- April 2017
- Second prize in Still life painting section in Royal Canberra Art show -Feb 2017
- “First prize” on a Still life painting in Goulburn & District Art Exhibition - Oct 2016
- “First prize” in Drawing in Artist society of Canberra(ASOC) annual exhibition -September 2016
- “Second Best” in the show in Queanbeyan art society’s “Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council” competition - August 2016
- “Best in the show” in Queanbeyan Art society’s “After the Masters”- in oil category -May 2016
- First prize in Queanbeyan Art society’s “Queanbeyan Leagues Club Exhibition” in oil category -
- April 2016
- First prize in Still life painting section in Royal Canberra Art show -Feb 2016
- Second prize in portraits/figure painting section in Royal Canberra Art show -Feb 2016
- “Second Best” in the show in Queanbeyan Art society’s “Queanbeyan City Travel” competition- Dec 2015
- Highly commended in portrait painting in Queanbeyan Art society’s “portrait and figure” exhibition - November 2015

- First prize in Queanbeyan Art society's "After the Masters" in oil category -May 2015
- Second prize in Queanbeyan Art society's Leagues Club Art - in oil category - April 2015
- First prize in Queanbeyan Art society's Abstract art in Acrylic category - Feb 2015
- First prize in Still life painting section in Royal Canberra Art show -Feb 2015
- Honourable Mention in portrait painting in Royal Canberra Art show -Feb 2015
- First prize in Queanbeyan Art society's members competition in oil category - September 2014
- First prize in Portrait/figure in Artist society of Canberra(ASOC) annual exhibition -September 2014
- First prize in Still life painting section in Royal Canberra Art show -Feb 2014
- Third prize in portrait painting section in Royal Canberra Art show -Feb 2014
- Best still life in the Show in Artist society of Canberra(ASOC) exhibition -September 2013
- Second prize in Still life painting in Goulburn & District Art Exhibition -Sep 2013
- Second prize in Still life painting section in Royal Canberra Art show -Feb 2013
- Highly commended award in "oil" category in ASOC annual exhibition -2012
- Commended award in Queanbeyan Art society's Molonglo art competition -2008
- People's Choice award in ASOC autumn exhibition -2007
- Highly commended still life award in ASOC annual exhibition 2007

- One of the 50 Finalists in “Art Basic Sydney’s” 10th anniversary art prize competition in 1999.
- Painted more than 200 commissioned portraits.

Claire MACKEY

Claire Mackey is an emerging visual artist, designer, and creative based on Ngunnawal and Ngambri land, Canberra. Claire has always had an artistic inclination, taking inspiration from colour, shape and movement in the natural world, transforming and distorting those elements into her work while welcoming the unique tendencies and textural characteristics of the mediums used.

Her practice spans painting, drawing, collage, print, digital, photographic, and video work, with diverse interests in figurative, landscape and abstract subject matters. Combining physical and digital techniques, and exploring the connections and tensions between them have been an ongoing focus of her work.

Claire received her Bachelor of Visual Arts majoring in painting from ANU School of Art & Design in 2021. Her work has been exhibited in over 10 group exhibitions, and is held in private collections.

Claire was a finalist in the ANU Drawing Prize 2021, was awarded the Emerging Artist Support Scheme Alliance Française Exhibition Award 2021, and has video work held in the National Film & Sound Archive collection.

Susan TRUDINGER

Susan is a full-time artist living in Canberra. She completed a Degree in Fine Art at the University of South Australia (formerly South Australian College of the Arts and education).

For more than twenty years Susan lived in Armidale NSW, studied ceramics and became successful selling work at craft shops and markets. She also exhibited and sold paintings at the New England Art Society's local gallery.

A year spent living in Oman and a trip around Europe changed Susan and her way of painting. She believes her work became richer and deeper from the experience.

Susan has been involved in the creative arts all her life and her inspiration comes from the natural world. Creativity is an integral part of her life which allows her to live fully in the present. Her goal is always to try and bring visual enjoyment and beauty to others.

Susan's subject matter is primarily landscapes and Australian birdlife, she uses this subject matter to explore the many and varied different colours, shapes and forms that exist in both. That is why her style is constantly changing.

Susan works in acrylic, gouache, watercolour pencils, ink pencil and charcoal. Influences include Australian landscapes artists such as Arthur Boyd and Brett Whitely, post impressionism and photography.

Susan's work is represented in private and public collections throughout Australia and internationally and she has been a top selling artist on Bluethumb online Gallery since 2018, hitting one the top ten in 2004.

Jenny BLAKE

Visual Artist

Born in 1960 in Wollongong, NSW, Jenny Blake is an Australian artist known for her bold abstract paintings that explore the fragility of nature and the impact of climate change. Growing up in regional NSW, she developed a deep connection to the natural world—an influence that remains central to her work.

Blake's process is dynamic and intuitive, using non-traditional tools to layer, scrape, and pour paint onto canvas, mirroring the forces of nature. Her work is both a reflection and a response to environmental change, capturing the tension between destruction and renewal.

She holds a Diploma of Visual Arts (High Distinction) from CIT Canberra, where she was awarded the Graduates Emerging Artist and Professional Practice prizes. Over the past 20 years, Blake has exhibited in numerous group and solo shows, including exhibitions at Strathnairn Gallery, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, and The Q Gallery in Queanbeyan. Her work has also been selected for the prestigious Salon des Refusés Lethbridge Prize.

Previously, Blake worked in marketing and media roles with organizations such as the ABC, the National Gallery of Australia, and the Canberra Theatre. Since 2016, she has dedicated herself fully to her art practice. Based in Canberra, she works from her studio at Holder, creating pieces that challenge, provoke, and inspire. Through my work, I seek to highlight the fragility of the landscape and the urgent need for environmental responsibility. My paintings are a way to find balance and resolve—a visual dialogue between destruction and hope

Hannah GILL

Hannah travels regularly on speaking engagements in Australia and overseas. She takes the opportunity - and her camera - to record views from a helicopter or aeroplane of areas she visits. The Kimberley region in Australia remains one of her favourite destinations. 'The colours, the light, the diversity of geology makes for totally unexpected landscapes, shapes and colours,' she says

Jean PRETORIUS

Jean Pretorius is a Canberra-based artist and former president of the Colour Society of Australia. He has mainly painted commissioned portraits and landscapes, and is currently developing a new series of abstract paintings titled “Conspiracy”.

After receiving a Ph.D. in Pure Mathematics at Cambridge (UK) in 1993, he worked in mathematical finance and investment until 2007. His interests next turned to art, culminating in three years of full-time study at Julian Ashton Art School in Sydney from 2010 - 2012. In 2010 he received the Marjorie Santow Prize for tonal drawing at the School, and in both 2011 and 2012 the George Lambert Prize for Sculpture. At the end of 2012 he was awarded a part-time 2013 Sydney School of Mechanics Scholarship at Julian Ashton. He has been a finalist in the KAAF Prize and a semi-finalist in the Moran Portrait Prize. His works are held in private collections in Australia, the UK and the US.

The works Jean contributed to the current exhibition were completed during workshops run by the famous Australian landscape artist John Wilson, who recently passed away.

Marion SCHUMACHER

I live and paint on a country property near Canberra, in a studio with a home attached, selling from the age of 14 years and have been honing my skills over the years as a full time, dedicated artist.

Capturing colour and atmosphere of Australia has been a constant and fascinating obsession, producing artwork that passes a personal approval level has always been my first consideration.

A pleasant flow on is winning art prizes, People's Choice awards and many sales and commissions.

I have worked in almost every medium, taught adult leisure classes for many years, illustrated children's books, painted theatre backdrops, murals and held solo and group exhibitions on a regular basis.

Some of my work is on display in my webpage: marionschumacher.au

Nathan KELLETT

As a young man, I've always been interested in photography but travelling around Canada, especially in British Columbia, propelled me to teach myself in this wonderful art form. As an extension of this trip, I found myself in South America. Here I fell in love with the people and the buildings, the characterful faces of the inhabitants and the colourful doors and windows.

My focus since then has been taking long exposure photographs of waterfall and coastal scenes. I'm also particularly drawn to photographs with deep perspective qualities. Coastal scenes with piers are especially good for this. Touring around Australia, a 30,000kms camping trip, has provided the inspiration for many of these photos in this exhibition.

I have donated 12 framed photographs to the Men's Shed as I believe very strongly in promoting men's health through this very worthwhile exhibition and silent auctions.

Babs FAIRCHILD

I've been throwing stoneware as a hobby for nearly 30 years and enjoy finding new forms & glazes to work with. I have been taught by Chris Harford (Canberra Potters Society) and Julian Centofanti (Carlton Arts Centre). Recently, I have returned to Canberra and have enjoyed reconnecting with local potters. Raku techniques, clay and glazes fascinate me. I also work with stoneware for its everyday practicality and functionality. I do take commission requests as long as buyers appreciate that handmade pieces can't always be repeated or made identically.

I am most proud of a set of three large Raman bowls that I made while living in Melbourne with a stunning glaze peel and colour combination that matches across all three bowls. It is the result of practice, patience and luck.

On display are a range of pieces made in Canberra and Melbourne. I do not have a website or social media presence; however, I have sold hundreds of pieces at stalls, shops and to friends over the years. I have a limited portfolio as I have only been photographing my own work in the last 10 years as I moved into larger scale production and realised the benefit of being able to show images of past work.