



bentART Newsletter – September 2015

Dear bentART Members

On behalf of the outgoing 2015 bentART Committee and incoming 2016 bentART Committee we'd like to thank you all for your interest in bentART and your participation in this year's exhibition.

bentART 2015 was the 11th bentART exhibition and was a resounding success. This year 53 artists exhibited 132 pieces of art. Of the 53 artists, 17 were first time entrants and 36 were returning artists. 28 artists sold 40 pieces of work to the value of \$14,575. Artists were able to enter 3 works in the categories of painting, photography, sculpture, alternative media and printmaking or drawing. This year digital art became a part of the alternative media category.

In addition, a special category called Pet Smartphonography was available for all artists to enter. While initially it was created for a bit of fun the feedback from people at the exhibition indicated a great deal of interest for next year if this category were to be available again. So start snapping as this category will be returning in 2016.



The colourful stage on opening night

bentART would not be possible without the support of a diversity of sponsors and our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to the following sponsors: Bendigo Bank, The Alexandra Hotel Leura, Enigma Hair Glenbrook and Dr Mahdu Tamilarasan (all major sponsors). Our other generous sponsors were: Klipt Kanines Lawson, Rolling Wines, Harmony at Home (Blackheath), Yindi Day Spa Katoomba, The Chalet Guesthouse & Studio (Medlow Bath), Birches of Leura, The Three Sisters Social Group, Hope Tree Framing (Wentworth Falls), Virgin Walls (Blackheath), Wentworth Falls Animal Hospital and Blue Spirit Yoga & Healing Space (Leura).

The committee would encourage all members to consider using these businesses in return for their generous support of the GLBTI community.

Finally, our grateful thanks to all the Friends of bentART who made donations of up to \$50.

It would be remiss of us if we did not acknowledge the dedication, commitment and fantastic energy of the wonderful volunteers who give of their time in the 3 days leading up to the opening of the exhibition. This year we had roughly 25 people give of their time to help set up the exhibition. In addition another 15 members/artists gave of their time to supervise the exhibition over the weekend. A very big thank you to all of them as the committee could not hold the exhibition without their tireless enthusiasm and assistance.



Our enthusiastic artists and supporters



The overall winner (on right) April White and runner up Kay Bazley (on left)

For those of you who made it to the opening night you would have received a ticket to go in the draw for the fabulous lucky door prize. This year's prize was a beautiful painting by the very talented David Middlebrook who also curated the exhibition. David is a renowned local artist from Medlow Bath and there were many visitors to the exhibition over the weekend who were disappointed that they missed out on the opportunity to win the lucky door prize that was announced on the opening night. A very big thank you to David for his support of bentART, the donation of his art work, and his professional advice and curation of the exhibition.

The committee also extend our gratitude to Anthony Bond and Paul Brinkman who were the judges for this year's blind judging. Anthony was recently the Director Curatorial at the Art Gallery of NSW and Paul is the Blue Mts Cultural Centre Director. We were honoured to have such high calibre judges for this year's exhibition.

Thanks also go to April White for designing the exhibition poster.

Lastly the bentART committee extends a very warm thank you to the outgoing President, Michelle Drage. Michelle spent 5 years as a member of the committee, the last 2 as President and her passion, enthusiasm and commitment to bentART is greatly appreciated and admired.

bentART Committee 2015 – 2016

As you may know the bentART AGM was held on Sunday 13 September 2015 and the 2015-2016 committee was established. The committee who are responsible for bringing you the 2016 bentART exhibition are as follows:

Hilda Mavromati	President
Sue Lightfoot	Vice President
Robyn Auld	Secretary
Jo Hibbert	Treasurer
David Scotman	Committee Member
Jonathan Llewellyn	Committee Member

The committee looks forward to bringing you another exciting exhibition on the June 2016 long weekend.

We will be sending you quarterly newsletters and keeping you informed through our website and Facebook page – both of which will soon be getting a makeover.

Remember this exhibition is an opportunity for you as a member of the GLBTI community to showcase your artistic talents across a diversity of mediums so whatever your medium start giving thought to next year's exhibition. If you have any suggestions on how the exhibition can be improved then feel free to contact us through the bentART Facebook page or our website.

Until next time, all the best from the bentART Committee.