

# *Art School News*

Number 4, October – December 2003

Quarterly newsletter of “*The Margaret Saul SCHOOL OF BOTANIC ART*” Brisbane, Australia

PO Box 2225 Keperra Q 4054

*Note from Margaret* – An undercurrent of excitement is apparent in botanic art circles at the prospect of forming a major hub for botanical art in Queensland - now likely to come to fruition by year’s end! It has been quite a relief to receive updates from my friend and colleague Louise Saunders on how interest in this venture - only seeded last March – has increased with many enthusiasts willing to lend a capable hand. The school has been largely responsible to date for fostering a greater general awareness and interest for botanical art in this region and in 2004 it will “step aside” for those who will unite to energize a new venture where the aim is to maintain support for artists and hold instructional events and exhibitions to increase the interest in botanical art locally and across the state. At fear of sounding too parochial - Queensland has Australia’s most bountiful array of diverse and fascinating indigenous flora as well as fabulous exotics that together should be the focus for botanical artists statewide. (Some of you may already realize many of these plants are flourishing at the BBG-MC). Leave the ubiquitous but beautiful roses and “bulb” paintings to artists way south of the border or in Northern Hemisphere climes! There is an abundance of exciting subjects to inspire wonderful and unique botanical artworks that will gain the attention of southern colleagues and other interested folk in Australia and abroad - who will not only learn of this state’s magnificent flora but also - of the increasing number of talented botanical artists emerging here!

There are mixed feelings as I anticipate my arrival in December to formally close the school and to end what has been a challenging and exhilarating period in my art career. *Botanica* formalities will be a significant event for me and for those who have been associated with the school over many years. However, it will be wonderful to meet with you all, to have an opportunity to chat with folk who enrolled just this year as well as with enthusiasts and friends from years back. Once again it will give much pleasure to return and present a master class where my first tentative approaches to the challenge of teaching botanical art began - 15 years ago!

I do wish to express here my gratitude to my stalwart chief instructor, Gillian and her faithful assistant Sharon. If it had not been for Gillian’s readiness to take up the challenge of teaching the school would have closed at the end of 2000 after I moved to the USA. Many have been instrumental in seeing the school progress, and for their help and encouragement I am thankful - in particular those members of staff at the Gardens, headed by Ross McKinnon and also the Chief Botanist, Gordon Guymer and his staff at the Queensland Herbarium.

Now as the latest interruption to daily life from a recent hurricane comes to a close and Fall begins it is back to work, in particular preparing for the annual conference of the American Soc. of Botanical Artists – this year in San Francisco; presenting a five-day workshop at an art institute in Arizona and applying finishing touches to paintings that have to be framed and shipped in time for the November opening of a group exhibition in Melbourne which I am planning to attend before traveling north. Many of you will be working hard to complete work in time for *Botanica 2003* – I wish you all the very best. You would possibly agree there is nothing like a deadline to push creative thought into the realities and challenges of practical application!

## **COURSE WORK** (October – December)

Please refer to the *School Handbook* and the Yellow Form – 2003 Class Schedules & Fees.

Please contact Gillian – Tel: 3263 5201 for any further details regarding enrollment.

***Pen & Ink II*** - 3 classes (*Scrapper board tech. explored*) 2PM-5PM, begin Tues Oct 7 or/ Sat Oct 11

## **SCHOOL WORKSHOPS** (October – December)

Workshops are conducted at the Seminar Room, Botanic Gardens, (BBG-MC) Mt. Coot-tha Rd, Toowong.

***FEES:*** (*Unless noted otherwise*)

*Full Day = \$70 or \$60 for Associate; Half Day = \$35 or \$30 for Associate*

*Please pay the full amount to register. Refer to pages 15 & 33 of the School Handbook*

*Bring to class all the regular materials. You will be notified if extra materials are required.*

Contact Gillian – Tel: 3263 5201 for any further details regarding enrollment.

### **1. Leaves – various & useful techniques.** (Repeat) Wednesday Oct 8, 9.30AM - 4.30PM

Bring any interesting leaves plus - *Tracing paper & HP watercolour paper*; a range of *natural-green* colour pencils in Faber-Castell *Polychromos* (non-aquarelle, round shaft); W&N Titanium white (small tube); as well as your regular artist quality brushes bring a Size 00 – stiff, quality synthetic brush; a clean, absorbent lint-free, *soft cloth* and other regular drawing and painting materials.

### **2. Art in Graphite** – Workshop 1, Saturday Oct 18 or/ Tuesday Oct 21, 9.30AM – 12.30PM

Workshop 2, Saturday Nov 1 or/ Tuesday Nov 11, 9.00AM – 4.30PM

(*N.B. – Change of date from Nov 4 to Nov 11*)

### **3. Gardens Project III** – *selected species from the BBG -MC.* Sunday Oct 19, 9AM- 4PM.

It is hoped to once again include a Lilypilly (*Syzygiun* sp.) so you can learn how to paint stamen clusters as well as a variety of other interesting flowering specimens to be recorded and maybe exhibited with other project work at the exhibition in December. If you have any interesting flowering material please bring it along to class – it is possibly also growing at the BBG-MC.

### **4. Exhibition Prep** – *your works in progress.* Sunday Nov 2, 9AM-1PM

An opportunity for final advice and encouragement especially for last minute tips on the “Detailing Stage” for *Botanica 2003* submissions as well as certificate pieces. Learn how to present yourself to those interested in acquiring your art and other procedures concerning its sale and delivery.

(Continued)

**5. Botanic Art Intensive – master class with Margaret Saul.** Wednesday Dec 3 – Sunday Dec 7

Registration Deadline: Tuesday Nov 11.

Level of skill – Intermediate to Advanced

*(Detailed drawing & fine watercolour painting skills required to gain from this level of instruction)*

This intensive course focuses on the development of a botanical study of a white-flowering specimen and while working with practical applications it deals with creative concepts that are unique to Margaret's BA curriculum. This intensive course is largely designed for those who have not had the opportunity to attend regular classes at this school. However, once such folk have been accommodated then "school regulars" and associates are more than welcome to participate in a rigorous recap of Margaret's innovative approach to this traditional art.

If you are interested in participating, a six-page brochure is available with full descriptions & fee schedules that have been aligned with this school's very reasonable tuition rates. Contact Gillian – Tel: (07) 3263 5201.

*Further Notes:*

- (i) *Due to some inquiries to date* - all plant material required for this course will be provided.
- (ii) Participants can purchase Margaret's notes for adv. level students – "*Stages to Assist a Creative Process...*" (*Revised 7/2003*) - at the core of this intensive instruction. Cost - \$5 each (Cost of printing/binding only).
- (iii) The total amount for tuition must be sent with the Registration Form (on last page of the brochure)

Class Times: 9.30AM – 4.00PM      Class size very limited to allow time for individual tuition from Margaret.

Workshop 1: *Colour (Saul Palette; Manipulating Colour - dominant & diminished; Varied Applications)*

Workshop 2: *Light & Shade (Enhancing form & atmospherics)* Dec 4 & 5

Workshop 3: *Paint Perfume Into (large) White Flowers (Mixing chromatic greys, gradated colour washes)*

**ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION: "Botanica 2003 – share the wonder"**

Thursday, December 4, 2003 at 7PM (for 7.30PM Opening) – Closes, Sunday, December 7, at 4PM.

*Exhibition of the art of graduate students of the school at the Queensland Herbarium and held in conjunction with the exhibition of work by Darren Jones (2003 Artist –in-residence BBG-MC)*

This is an occasion that has become the highlight of the school year with the exhibition formally opened by an invited guest speaker; a light supper is followed by the presentation of certificates. Invitations will be printed for general distribution. Please ask Gillian to post some to you if you have not received any by submission day.

- ❖ Bookings for Opening Night - RSVP Nov 27 Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha Tel: 3403 2535.
- ❖ Admission for Opening Night: \$5.00 per person
- ❖ Exhibition entry fee: No commission is taken on work sold but if entering work and you are not an Associate or a current participant in regular 2003 course work an exhibition entry of \$10 is required. Please pay on the Submissions Day (Nov 2 – *see below*) - the day you take your work for selection.
- ❖ Exhibition pieces cannot be collected until after the close of the exhibition – at the time noted above.
- ❖ Please be assured – once the exhibition is officially closed no responsibility will be taken by the exhibition organizers for work that is not collected.

**Awards** – an Intermediate Level or Advanced Level certificate (which ever is the highest attained) will be awarded to those who have successfully completed the specific requirements. (*Refer p. 13, School Handbook*)

*Advanced Level certificate:* Art work completed for this will be assessed with you personally upon submission of work that must demonstrate an advanced level of skill in the following (a) Artistic Sensitivity - appreciation for art concepts (b) Technical Skill – fine draughtsmanship (c) Botanical Accuracy – in structural detail.

**Submission procedure** – *Please read carefully*

1. Sun, Nov 2: Submissions deadline where art will be assessed/selected by Gillian during the *Exhibition Prep W/shop* or after this workshop while-you-wait (1PM-2PM). Submissions must meet the set standards to ensure the high standard of previous exhibitions of the art of graduate students is maintained. Selection for exhibition is done at this time so you know immediately which pieces to send to the framer.
2. Recommended framers are noted on the “Exhibition Submissions” sheet enclosed.
3. Sat, Nov 22: Delivery of selected work (shrink wrapped etc) to Gillian at the Seminar Room, BBG-MC between 9.30AM-12.30PM. Please note that on weekends the Botanic Gardens Administration Office door is open during Library hours only – so if you have a large number of pieces or it is raining you may drive around to the staff car park by the entrance to the Seminar Room - limited parking time.
4. **SIGN IN ALL YOUR EXHIBITION WORK** at time of delivery. This also includes disclaimer.
5. **SIGN DISCLAIMER** that will state - You submit work on the understanding that all possible precautions will be exercised so to avoid loss or damage to your work. Please note Margaret Saul or her teachers or volunteers who assist in the exhibition *Botanica 2003* are not to be held responsible for any loss or damage that may occur to submitted work during the time of collection or exhibition.
6. **ROSTER SIGN UP:** Please write your name on the Exhibition Roster.
7. Please realize that the decision for which pieces are finally hung rests with G.R. & S.S. While the arrangement for the “open jury session” simplifies delivery and collection of works it does mean we cannot predict the final number of entries (during this initial selection process). If allotted exhibition space cannot accommodate all work, then sadly, some will be excluded but each participant who has work selected can be assured they are represented.
8. Sun, Dec 7: SIGN WORK OUT – this must be done by each contributing artist or by a person officially designated by them after the official closing time of 4PM.

**BOTANICAL ARTISTS SOCIETY** - Meeting Saturday October 4, 10AM – 12Noon

The Seminar Room, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha Rd., Toowong.

This is an important meeting that is part of the necessary process in establishing this society and one that sees the process at a well-advanced stage. If you cannot attend this meeting and you wish to remain informed please send your apologies.

For further information - contact Louise Saunders Tel: 3821 0166 or E-mail: [louisesaunders@bigpond.com](mailto:louisesaunders@bigpond.com)

**OTHER NOTES**

**Exhibition at Dickerson Gallery, Melbourne** - group of Australian Botanical Artists

Tuesday Nov 25 – Sun Dec 21.

Includes works by - Dianne Emery, Beverley Graham, Jenny Phillips, Celia Rosser and Margaret Saul

Contact Margaret – E-mail: [margaretsaul@covad.net](mailto:margaretsaul@covad.net) if you would like an invitation.

Opening night on Wednesday Nov 26.

**Botanical Master Class, Lilianfels:** February 9 – 12 and/or 14 – 16.

As I am not able to return to Australia early next year I have declined Orient-Express Hotels’ invitation to conduct the 2004 botanical master classes at Lilianfels on Dr Shirley Sherwood’s behalf, however Jenny Phillips (*Melbourne School of Botanical Art*) will be standing in. (It was tempting to accept the invite to stand in for Jenny at O-E’s hotels in South Africa and Italy when at short notice Jenny was unable to attend as planned during Sept/Oct 2003.) Jenny is an inspiring teacher and talented artist with a vibrant personality that will ensure a wonderful experience for any who can attend the BMC at Lilianfels.

For further information contact Robyn Rawle Tel: (612) 4780 1200 or E-mail: [rrowle@lilianfels.com.au](mailto:rrowle@lilianfels.com.au)

**EXHIBITION SUBMISSION INFORMATION – 2003.**

*Refer also to "Submission Procedure" page 4, Art School News, No.4 2003.*

Students and associates who have attained the intermediate level certificate are invited to submit work.

Take artwork that has been "selected" by Gillian to the recommended framer for matting & shrink wrapping.

Framer: **Artagraph, Tel: 3369 3414** Shop 6, 47 Castlemaine St., Milton – phone first and mention you are from The Margaret Saul School of Botanic Art - to give them an idea of demand for their services during that week.

Ensure all work is well wrapped when delivered to Gillian.

Securely attach a completed label (printed below) on the back - upper left corner of each artwork.

Please read and sign disclaimer with the final delivery of your paintings to G.R. at the Seminar Room. (M.A. S.)

Margaret Saul SCHOOL OF BOTANIC ART
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Last Course Level completed.....

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