



NEWSLETTER

From the President's Desk

Welcome to this bustling time of the year filled with exhibitions and workshops! I extend my best wishes to all who are celebrating religious holidays and festivities. May we all enjoy peaceful and healthy times ahead.

As you read this newsletter, you will discover a wealth of activities coming up. Our monthly Art Connect sessions, expertly organized by Pratibha and led by our emerging artists, the Monash Reconciliation Group's Exhibition in May, and Our Members' Exhibition in June, are just a few highlights.

We're delighted to see our membership growing. To ensure the sustainability of our monthly Art Connect sessions, our committee has decided on a nominal \$5 participation fee. Rest assured, we remain dedicated to offering affordable art engagement opportunities

Felicity Smith OAM JP
President, MONCAS Inc.

Editor's Note

We welcome contributions and suggestions from our members and the community for this quarterly newsletter. Please send your ideas to reachmoncas@gmail.com.

Regards,
Pratibha Madan
Vice-President, MONCAS Inc.



Acknowledgment of Country

MONCAS acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

DIARY DATES WITH MONCAS

3 - 13 April 2024

'Women Who Define Art' Exhibition
Artists: Maree B., Sylvia K., Julie S., Beverley W.

6 April 2024

Art Connect Workshop - 'Mandala'
With Pratibha Madan

2 - 12 May 2024

'Fluid Hues' Solo Exhibition
By Pushkala Shivram

4 May 2024

Art Connect Workshop - 'Thread Jewellery'
With Jyothi Mohan

30 May - 9 June 2024

'Treaty' Youth Art for Reconciliation Exhibition
By Monash Reconciliation Group (MRG)

1 June 2024

Art Connect - Watercolour Demonstration
By Gopinath Iyer

13 - 23 June 2024

'Art Connect 2024' Exhibition
MONCAS Members 3rd Annual Exhibition

OUR LINKS:

www.moncas.org.au

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ART CONNECT MONTHLY SESSIONS

The Art Connect project, supported by the City of Monash, offers a range of engaging art sessions and workshops that are open to the public and are held on the first Saturday of each month at the Craft Room in Mount Waverley Community Centre.

The January Art Connect session was expertly guided by our multidisciplinary member artist, Chris Hutchinson. This session delved into the intricate techniques of mosaic art using glass materials. Due to the hands-on nature of the workshop, advanced bookings were required to secure a spot. Participants enthusiastically crafted vibrant mosaic pieces, incorporating a riot of colors onto tiles, resulting in stunning and unique artworks.



The Art Connect session in February showcased the remarkable skills of artist Laila Tabassum, who specializes in mixed media techniques. With her expertise, she led the participants on an enthralling journey, demonstrating the intricate process of crafting captivating textures on canvas. This session garnered immense interest, with over 16 members from our community participating, marking it as the most well-attended session to date.

March Art Connect took a unique approach with Renu Tiwary guiding participants into the realm of Jesmonite. Instead of a conventional workshop, live Jesmonite casting demonstrations were conducted. This engaging format allowed attendees to delve into the versatility of Jesmonite, a favored material among artists due to its boundless creative potential.

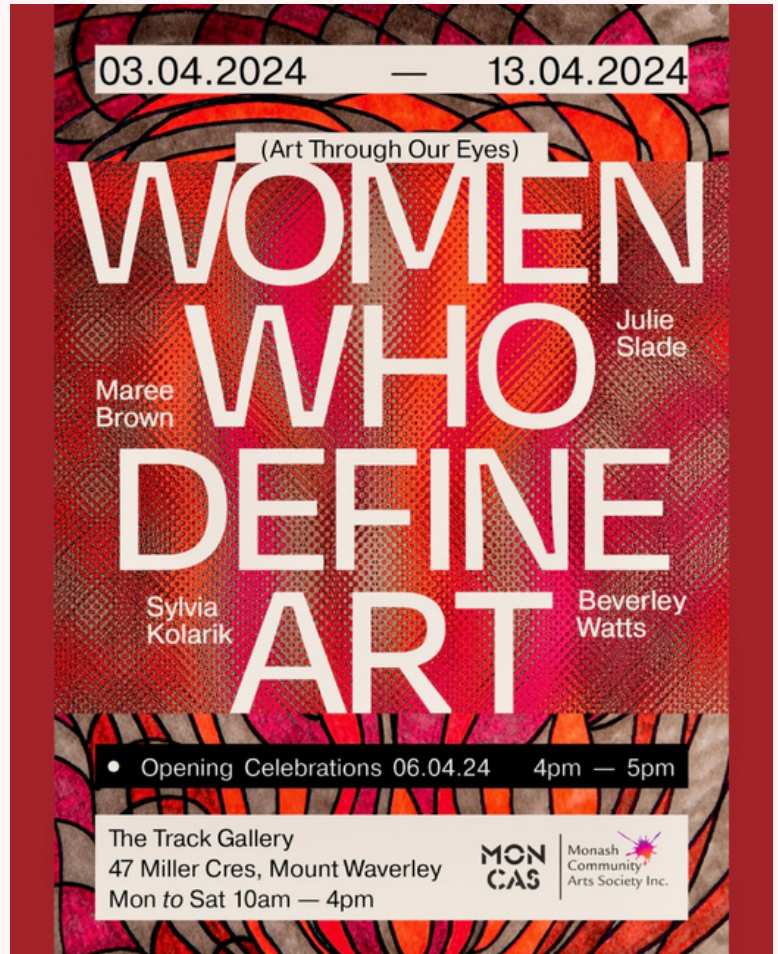


MONCAS Auspice Upcoming Exhibitions

'Women Who Define Art - Art Through Our Eyes' exhibition brings together the collective experiences of four women artists: Maree Brown, Sylvia Kolarik, Julie Slade and Beverley Watts.

Each piece of work provides insight into the skills, talent and uniqueness of the artists. Collectively, they share a passionate connection to creativity, as evidenced by the diversity of their works. Across this diversity, a variety of mediums are employed, resulting in a dynamic sense of rhythm, movement, and design. Maree's weaving talents, Sylvia's large scale works, Beverley's romantic portraits, and Julie's geometric art each reflects years of experience transformed into an inventive approach to expression.

**Opening celebrations:
Saturday, 6th April at 4 pm**



'Fluid Hues: A Brush with Abstraction' invites you into a world of diverse interpretations. Pushkala Shivram's debut solo exhibition captures her artistic journey, influenced by art, music, theatre, and literature. Her strong aesthetic sense, passion for color, texture, and forms are evident in this showcase, fostering a dialogue with viewers. From vivid explosions to delicate whispers, each artwork resonates uniquely, inviting personal narratives. This exhibition is an exploration of unrestrained creativity, where color and texture intertwine to reveal endless possibilities. Through abstract art, Pushkala expresses the ineffable, leading viewers on a journey of discovery and connection.

**Opening celebrations:
Friday, 3rd May at 6 pm.**

MONCAS Auspice Upcoming Exhibitions

MONCAS proudly auspices the annual art exhibition by 'Monash Reconciliation Group' (MRG), a local organization fostering links between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. MRG aims to liaise with residents, government bodies, and organizations dedicated to reconciliation and social justice. Each year, MRG invites school students from City of Monash and surrounds to participate in "Youth Art for Reconciliation" Exhibition. This year's theme, "Treaty," highlights the ongoing dialogue and commitment to reconciliation. Through artistic expression, the exhibition aims to promote understanding, solidarity, and meaningful conversations amongst the youth, about Indigenous rights and the path towards a more equitable society.

**Opening Celebrations:
Friday, 31st May at 6:30 pm**

Youth Art for Reconciliation 2024
An exhibition of artwork by students in the City of Monash

Thursday 30 May - Sunday 9 June, 2024
At The Track Gallery
Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley 3149

Open: Wednesday to Friday: 2pm - 6pm Sat & Sun 10am - 4pm
Monday, Tuesday and other times by appointment.

The Official Opening will be on Friday 31st May 2024 at 6.30pm.
Special Guest: Uncle Ian Hunter

MRG gratefully acknowledges the support of MONCAS who has auspiced this Exhibition

Thank you to Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood District, for assistance with printing of this publication. If you require assistance with any State Government issues please contact Matt's office.
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MONCAS | Monash Community Arts Society Inc.

ART CONNECT 2024

MONCAS MEMBERS 3RD ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

13 - 23 JUNE
TUE - SUN, 10:30AM - 2:30PM
THE TRACK GALLERY
MT WAVERLEY, VIC 3149

Proudly supported by Monash Council

MONCAS is thrilled to announce 'Art Connect 2024', our third annual member exhibition, showcasing a diverse array of artistic practices from our vibrant community. Prepare to be captivated by an array of stunning and thought-provoking works from our talented member artists. From paintings to sculptures, digital art to mixed media, this exhibition will feature a diverse range of mediums and styles that are sure to inspire and engage.

As we provide a platform for our members to showcase their latest creations, we invite you to immerse yourself in the unique perspectives and techniques presented. At MONCAS, we are passionate about fostering creativity and promoting the arts in our community. Join us in celebrating our dedicated member artists and their contributions to our cultural landscape at this exciting event.

**Opening Celebrations:
Friday, 14th June at 5 pm**

Snapshots from our past Exhibitions

Last month, the exhibition "**Awakening**" showcased the inaugural solo by Sandhya Padma, highlighting a captivating fusion of oil and acrylic paintings. The exhibition featured a range of themes, from cultural portrayals to mesmerizing still life compositions and wildlife scenes. The opening event drew a large number of attendees, indicating significant interest in Padma's work. Her paintings seamlessly blended different artistic elements, creating a diverse and engaging experience for viewers. The cultural portrayals were especially notable for their depth and richness, while the still life compositions and wildlife scenes captured attention with their detail and vividness. Overall, "Awakening" by Sandhya Padma was a successful solo exhibition that showcased her talent and ability to create immersive and evocative artworks.



MONCAS ONLINE MEETUP

The MONCAS Online Meetup is held on the final Thursday of each month, with the goal of engaging our member artists in discussions on a shared topic. Details about the topic and session schedule are sent through email. A Zoom link is sent upon confirmation of participation by a member. These online discussions serve to inspire, troubleshoot, or offer guidance and are not meant for providing legal conclusions or advice.

Out and About on our Local Trail

Civic Gallery at the Civic Centre, Glen Waverley is launching its new exhibition 'Down the Drain' by Emma Winkler on 5th April at 6pm. The exhibition presents a personal exploration of the subject of anxiety and the questions and responses it evokes.

City of Monash is seeking EOLs from artists or artist collectives to loan works for display at Civic Gallery. Details available at www.monash.vic.gov.au/civic-gallery.

Lineup of upcoming exhibitions and events at Museum of Australian Photography can be checked out at <https://maph.org.au/>



Fun Fact Quiz

The City of Monash has unveiled a new public art mural. by Gunditjmara, Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba artist Tom Day, aimed at celebrating First Nations culture and fostering a sense of community.

Titled 'Nanyubak', a Yorta Yorta word meaning 'to dream the future', the mural depicts the lines of connection that bind people to the land and to each other.

Bunjil the Eagle and Waa the Crow feature prominently, while the teal thread of the local Scotchmans Creek runs throughout. Have you seen this mural?

Answers to the Fun Fact Quiz from the last edition:

Did you find 'Community Art Laneway'? If not, it is located at the pedestrian path between Samada St and Saniky St (19A Samada St, Notting Hill VIC 3168)

If you are interested in contributing an artwork, you can reach out to Notting Hill Neighbourhood House at <http://www.nottinghillnh.org.au/laneways>



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