

Wai Art Column September 2008

By Anna-Marie Kingsley

“Would they do this to Joe Bennett?” I squealed with indignation when I read the savagely pruned version of my column on the technical aspects of varnishing. “Where has the humour gone, the self deprecating wit, the scintillating metaphors?”

“Well it was always going to be a bit of a dry subject,” offered Him Outdoors unhelpfully.

“Yes, but the original was only like eating dry Weetbix. This. This!” I stabbed ineffectually at the newspaper, “Has biffed out the Weetbix and served up the cardboard box to chew on.”

“And they’ve made me sound like an arrogant, know-it-all.” Defying all sense of self-preservation Him Outdoors raised his eyebrows and said nothing.

“And. And,” I continue to rant to an audible sigh from Him Outdoors, “It makes it sound like I don’t think artists should varnish their paintings. They edited out whole paragraphs justifying why varnishing is so important!”

“And what happened to this last sentence... where’s the other three quarters of it suggesting the best way of signing your artwork. This bit reads like you shouldn’t sign your artwork at all. Arrrgh!” I wail despairingly collapsing into a soggy heap, “My credibility as an columnist is completely shot.”

Just when I was feeling utterly deflated, the Small poked his head round the corner, “You’re fantastic mum!” “Really?” I replied surprised at the unexpected enthusiasm. “Yup, you clean up yucky cat stuff off the carpet.” Nothing quite like a quick shot of perspective on the truly valued aspects of my life.

For this last sentence you’ll need to imagine a soothing voice-over with deliciously round vowels: “For the full-unadulterated version of last months informative, yet frightfully humorous Wai Art Column visit www.waiart.org.nz”

Anna-Marie is currently undergoing counselling for repeatedly using the word “And” to start sentences.

The Big Wai Art Sale

The daffodils are flowering, so it’s The Big Wai Art Sale time again. We are anticipating a fantastic art display and it’s free to view! For early bird art buyers who are looking for a bargain, the show opens on Friday 12 September at 10am and runs through to Daffodil Day, Sunday 14 September 4pm. See you there!

Wai Art Group

The August Exhibition at the Carterton Exhibition Center featuring work by Anna-Marie Kingsley, Paulette Harris, Linda Dennes, and Fay Portman was very successful with lots of artwork selling. To view a sample of the artists' artwork visit <http://www.waiart.org.nz> The Carterton Exhibition Center is open seven days 10am to 4pm. The Wai Art Group meets on the first Monday of every month at 10am at the Carterton Exhibition Center. All welcome and we hope to see you there! The October Wai Art Group meeting is on 6 October, 10am at the Carterton Exhibition Center. Hope to see you there! Congratulations to all the Wairarapa artists that had artworks selected for the winter exhibition at the Fine Arts Academy in Wellington. The artists were: John Casey, Frank Dell, Jan Eagle, Jane Giles, Paulette Harris, Allison Hudson, Anna-Marie Kingsley, Faye Portman, Beth Sutherland, and Sandra Wong. We are especially proud of Jane Giles who had her first artwork she entered accepted and then it sold! It's great to get Wairarapa artists on mass displayed at these exhibitions as it encourages Wellington buyers to view the Wairarapa as a talented artistic region. I am always delighted at how many Wellington people come over especially to view the Wai Art exhibitions.

The Wai Art Portrait Awards 2009

We are fielding a lot of interest nationally for the inaugural Wai Art Portrait Awards in February 2009. We have based the entry form rules on the Adams Portrait Awards that they hold in Wellington every two years, but our rules are more inclusive. Firstly we don't select, and we are also accepting artworks that aren't just painted. Fabric, mosaics, leather, any multi media mediums are fine as long as it can be hung on a wall and is a recognisable portrayal of a named individual (basically their mother would have to be able to recognise them from the portrait!). You also need to get the persons permission. The subject doesn't have to be anyone famous or well recognised, but preferably someone who means something to you. Check out the entry form rules on www.waiart.org.nz or drop Anna-Marie an email on info@waiart.org.nz if you still have any questions.

At **Katz Gallery** AJ Hunter, a digital artist has an exhibition titled "The edge of time" running till 2nd November.

On display in **Aratoi** is: Schools Art in the Wesley wing; Barry Ellis exhibition 'Wairarapa Dreaming' and contemporary Iranian photograph exhibition 'Ey Iran'; 'Atoll Inclusion', a collaborative multi media installation opens on the 20th September.

River East Gallery has new work by Annette Dunnage Roy, Anne Marie-Jean, Emma Wright and Jane Kellahan. A photography show is opening at labour weekend called "10 photographers" This will coincide with "Spring into Greytown", an initiative by the Greytown Arts Festival committee.

