



NEWSLETTER

OPENARTS is a non profit group whose aim is to promote and encourage creative arts on the Otago Peninsula for the benefit of its artists and community

OpenArts presents 'Almost an Island' 2005

The Otago Peninsula celebrates its artists! The exhibition 'Almost an Island' is on again. The richness and diversity of expression of the many artists who live and work on the Otago Peninsula will be open to the wider community. The works on display will include sculpture, photography and paintings.

'Almost an Island' was the creation of a group of artists (ABBA) living in the Broad Bay area. Over the years this group grew to include many well known artists of the peninsula. More recently, the need to form an organisation, which had a broader reach and focus, was recognised and OpenArts Inc was born. Many of its members are well known such as Pauline Bellamy, Ewan Mc Dougall, Rob West, Mary Jennings, Mark Strang and Nicole Kolig to name just a few!

The aim of OpenArts is the promotion and encouragement of the creative arts on the Otago Peninsula for the benefit of its artists and community. It seeks to be open and welcoming to all creative people wanting to join and to be a vehicle for a variety of arts and creative projects in the area bounded by Centre Rd, Taiaroa Head & Cape Saunders.

The original committee has undergone many changes and, now nearly six months down the track, this energetic group, supported by over fifty members, has produced seven newsletters, created a website and held social gatherings. OpenArts has also launched the 'Otago Peninsula Studio Trail' brochure, a guide to the locations of twenty studios where visitors can meet with the artist and view their works. Copies of the studio trail brochure will be available at the exhibition.

'Almost an Island' will no doubt be a wonderful bringing together of all the talents that this unique landscape has attracted.

Opening at Broad Bay Community Centre, Clearwater St, Friday 4th February at 7pm and continuing until Sunday 13th. 11am - 7pm. All enquiries to Sarah McKay 4780457

YOUR invitation to the opening of
almost an island
An exhibition by artists of Otago Peninsula



Exhibition opening function: 7.00pm, Friday 4 February 2005
Runs: Sat 5 - Sun 13 February 2005, 11.00am - 7.00pm daily
Venue: Broad Bay Community Centre, Clearwater St, Broad Bay

Organised by
OPENARTS
Ph: 478 0457



Supported by
creative communities NZ
Dunedin City

Rod Morris to Open Exhibition

Wildlife photographer and long time Peninsula resident, Rod Morris, will open the 'Almost an Island' exhibition. Rod is a keen artist and was involved with ABBA from the beginning. For 25 years he worked for Natural History NZ as a documentary maker.

Remember to come to the 'Almost an Island' opening 7.00pm Friday 4th Feb. See Page 2 for details about musical entertainment at the opening.

Art Workshops



- By the Sea
- One day workshops - small groups
- All levels welcome including absolute beginners.
- Fee includes tuition, all art materials, morning & afternoon teas, light lunch with Lindauer

Contact: Lesley Hirst, 7 Frances St, Broad Bay, Dunedin
4780073 025-381291 boatshedart@xtra.co.nz

BLUES LOUNGE DRY ICE
Exhibition of
Manu Berry Prints
Pauline Bellamy paintings

1st - 24th February
@ The Blues Lounge
49 Centennial Avenue
Alexandra

Opening 5 to 8 pm
Tuesday February 1st 2005

CLASSIC
Black & White Photography.

Reliable process/proof/print service
now available in Broad Bay.

No computers and inkjets used.

- Films supplied at below retail
- Free check of your film camera

Contact: Ian Bilson
Ph: 478 0683 (evenings)

or email: igbilson@earthlight.co.nz

Book Review: Pauline Bellamy – Etchings of St Bathans by Vic Mills.

Stand in the street of St Bathans (you won't get run over!) and look up the hill. Enough buildings can be seen to give a feeling of the village as it must have appeared in its heyday. One can imagine the horses, carts, smoke and thronging population. Visitors can't help getting caught up in a strong sense of the history of the place - it's in the stone and mud surfaces, in the steel roofs and the blistered timbers.

Most of the people have gone from the scene now, but the buildings that remain are occupied at times and a few people live there permanently. One person who lived and brought up a family in St Bathans over nearly two decades is artist Pauline Bellamy. Pauline has gathered her responses to the place, its buildings and relics in a collection of etchings, which have been published,

along with recollections and poems by others, to serve as a kind of companion to the village. The paperback has an A4 landscape format with roughly one print to a page, and there are nearly forty of them, so they are displayed well. The monochromes of the prints are not eclipsed by any colour in the book so their subtleties can be appreciated. The design is unobtrusive and pleasing.

One formal aspect I became aware of immediately is the linear treatment operating consistently across all the work. This tends to pull in the hills, so houses seem to nestle into the shallow space, tucked into their surroundings. Pauline is an expressive landscape painter, and this shows in the wiping and swishing of the ink around the plates. This inking technique is sometimes used

to create texture or even pattern, which means that each version of an image is more or less unique.

There are few people in these pictures, which in this location is appropriate. The drawing of those who do appear, is rudimentary and schematic. These people are pictorial devices to show activities or sports - it is the country, the buildings and historic relics which are the subjects of these prints.

I would presume that issues of these etchings are available from the galleries, and some of these I would like to own for the wall. Others are better serving as bookplates. All of them work well to create an interesting and worthy companion to a day wandering around the intriguing village of St Bathans.



'Walk the Walk' by Ewan McDougall, which will be exhibited at 'Almost an Island'

Musical Entertainment at 'Almost an Island' opening function

Three Wise Women

These wise women enjoy life largely because they are old enough to make mistakes without shrinking. Their instrument, the folk harp, is extraordinarily kind and expansive. A misplayed note seldom sounds worse than a quiet plunk, which the following plinks will resolve, while even the simplest melodies radiate calmness.

The Three Wise Women have performed at rest homes throughout Dunedin. Over Christmas they played carols for passers by as they collected for the SPCA. Several of their original compositions are soon to be published in a collection of scores entitled *Our Music for the Harp: Dunedin 2004*.

Aaran Singline Arran will entertain with the Acoustic Guitar.



Three Wise Women

Letter

an interesting letter from Alan Forrester, one of our members in Ireland!

Have settled into Ireland and the winter here. Short days with sunset at 4pm! The city or town rather of Kilkenny is very vibrant, and has had a number of resident artists since the late 1980's when the city provided studio space for goldsmiths, silversmiths, and potters. There is windows along the front of the studios not dissimilar to the art centre at Christchurch, but set in the Butlers house, which is medieval in origin. There is combined on the site a community art centre where they have classes, and a exhibition space. This studio had some interesting contemporary works, and a national pottery exhibition.

There is a number of artist also outside of this centre but exhibition and production space is an absolute premium, hence there latest exhibition named endangered spaces.

I don't have any photos to give you but if you

ask Mary Jennings, I had sent a link to artist Nick Miller who has an amazing style of painting on large canvases. He travels doing mostly landscape type stuff, with a travelling studio in the back of a converted refrigeration truck. He had an exhibition at the Castle which was very good.

The newsletters are very good. The studio trail is an excellent idea. Would be nice to include at the visitor centre. Hope alls well for the exhibition. Alan

Contributions Welcome

Please send in your news, profiles, reviews, opinion pieces, guest editorials, letters, images and poems. Contacts: Vic: editor (478 0110) Allan: production (478 0425)

OPENARTS Correspondence to:

The Secretary, OpenArts Inc,
6 Hereweka St, Portobello, Dunedin
Phone Contacts: Sarah McKay: 478 0457
and Vic Mills (Newsletter Editor): 478 0110