

CREATIONS

www.bmcac.org.au

www.facebook.com/bmcac

FACEBOOK: bmcac, bmcacsaturdaypotters &

Blue Mountains Printmaking Ink

INSTAGRAM: lifedrawing_glenbrook

Artwork- Geoff Matthews



2026

BLUE MOUNTAINS ART PRIZE

Main Prize \$2,000
Plus over \$1,000 in Minor Prizes

25 - 27 SEPTEMBER
ENTRIES OPEN JULY 20

\$30 per entry (details online)
45cm max height
45cm max width
Must have D rings and string

Blue Mountains Art Prize

2026

www.bmcac.org.au

Our Blue Mountains Art Prize is held on the traditional lands of the Dharug and Gundungarra people.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Members,

Spring is in the air. And the biggest art show in town, Sydney Contemporary, is coming to Carriageworks from 3 to 6 Sep-

tember, with **500+ artists** presented by **100 leading galleries** from Australia and around the world. Click for more information:

[Galleries | Sydney Contemporary](#)

In this issue our president appreciates our supporters and donors, I comment on a couple of exhibitions, and recommend the page where poets and painters meet.

Next time we might hear from committee members who have travelled far to different parts of the world exploring new techniques in their art practice.

Looking forward to seeing you for our Art Prize 25 –27 September.

With best wishes,

Rudi Christen

Creations' Editor

rudich7@dodo.com

EVENT SCHEDULE 2026

DATE	EVENT
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Thu. 3 Sept, 7pm	Committee Meeting
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Fri-Sun 25-27 Sept.	Art Prize
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Sat/Sun 21 & 22 Nov.	Members' Exhibition
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For details on courses please go to:

<https://bmcac.org.au/courses/>

Get in touch with us!

Bruce Hunter	President
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bj.hunter@live.com

Ingrid Russell	Secretary & Arts Director
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bmcac.mail@gmail.com

Alison James	Vice President, Pottery & Workshop Coordinator
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arty_ali@hotmail.com.au

PRINTMAKING FACILITATOR'S REPORT Cheryle Yin-Lo

Thank you to President Bruce Hunter and the team who helped to tidy up the Printmaking Studio and to assess and review Work , Health and Safety issues to ensure our studio is safe for students.

Thank you to Ingrid Russell and BMCAC Committee for supporting Marnie Tomczyk and Danielle Lister , Printmaking Facilitators in Term 2 for Exploring Printmaking. They did a fantastic job and produced some beautiful work with the students and attracted new students to BMCAC whilst Cheryle Yin Lo, Printmaking Facilitator was away overseas in Peru.

Term 3 for 2026 Exploring Printmaking has commenced on Monday mornings with Marnie Tomczyk continuing teaching and Thursday night course taken by Cheryle Yin Lo. Thursday night class booked out with a mixture of new students and returning students.

Interested printmakers can follow regular post and printmaking news on [Facebook Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre](#) and to follow students work go to [Blue Mountains Printmaking Ink](#)

If you are a current member you can arrange print open access times for the new charge of \$10 per session. See 2026 BMCAC class timetable for the days and times available. Please contact Cheryle, Printmaking Facilitator Mobile 0407409445 if you would like to book a time or to arrange to use the print studio and organise an induction if you have not used the Print Studio before.

Special thanks to Maggie from the Artists' Store in Katoomba who donated a Awagami Editioning Sample pack to our Printmaking Group.

PRINTMAKING NEWS

BMCAC will be hosting the 2027 Blue Mountains Print Prize from 9-11 April 2027 so we will be seeking interested members keen to assist on this project team, printmakers to start working on submissions and call out to local sponsors would like to be part of this print prize at BMCAC which is now well established and attracting entries both locally and nationally. For more information contact Cheryle on Mobile 0407409445. Watch this space.

Follow The Printmaking Sisters for workshops and resources www.annieday.com.au

Follow Sydney Printmakers www.sydneyprintmakers.com.au , facebook and instagram

MASTERCLASS Printmaking Series. Practical Workshop on Monoprinting

Sunday 16 August 10am-4pm at BMCAC with Andrew Totman, Member of The Sydney Printmakers ..Places are now sold out. @andrewtotman www.sydneyprintmakers.com.au

MASTERCLASS Printmaking Series: Practical Workshop Solar Printmaking and Viscosity Printing-2 day workshop

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September 10am-4pm at BMCAC with Seraphina Martin, Sydney Printmakers . Bookings email: Cheryle at creativetraveller@icloud.com for more information and to secure your place. Limited number available but places still available. @seraphinamartin @seraphina.print

For developing your creative or art business www.creativeplusbusiness.com

For arts news and competitions Arts Hub www.artshub.com.au

For artists from any artform interested in art residencies in Australia and overseas www.resartis.org

For Creative Mentoring services www.creativetraveller.com.au email: creativetraveller.com.au for free PDF on

10 Tips for Creativity in Everyday Life or How To Find Your Artistic Voice.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Story of Printmaking :A Global History of Art by Holly EJ Black

Monoprinting -Printmaking Book -Jackie Newell and Dee Whittington

Learn how to push the boundaries of monoprinting with a range of techniques explained by two practising artists.

Alternative Lithography: A Printmakers Guide by Scarlett Rebecca

Waterless Lithography by Annie Day

[https://
www.annieday.com.au/
waterless-lithography-
book](https://www.annieday.com.au/waterless-lithography-book)

The Artists Way- Julia
Cameron

The Vein of Gold: A Journey
to Your Creative
Heart -Julia Cameron

Talk Art : Everything You
Wanted to know about
contemporary art but
were afraid to ask by
Russell Tovey and Robert
Diament. Podcast
and Instagram also
available.

Zen of Drawing: How to
Draw What You See by
Peter Parr

The Natural Way to Draw
by Kimon Nicolaides



Image from Exploring Printmaking – Cyanotype by Jackie Knowles

ART DIRECTOR'S REPORT Ingrid Russell

Term 3 enrolments went smoothly, after fixing some minor bugs. We have a full agenda of pottery classes, two printmaking and two watercolour classes. Drawing did not go ahead, nor did kids art or the new acrylic classes.

The 2026 Blue Mountains Art Prize entries are open. See the website for details. Entries have already started coming in. The Art Prize will be held at the end of September. Everyone is encouraged to enter work. You still have time to create something. 2D and 3D works, ceramics and mosaics. Over \$3000 worth of prizes can be won.

Hare St Gallery has lost Victoria Stiff pottery, but gained Sue Davies calligraphy works and Rick Hawkins drawings. There is always something new to find.

HEAD GARDENER'S REPORT Liz Bryden

The cooler months are a good time to focus on the garden as there is less need to mow and it gives new plants time to establish before the hotter months.

Natives were planted in June/July, some donated by Glenbrook Native Nursery which is much appreciated.

The natives include a variety of grasses and smaller bush Grevilleas as these should help with long-term resilience. You just can't tell what is ahead weatherwise so more natives seem the best way to go.

Also, the established large zebra grasses near the side path have been cut back to ground level to encourage new growth in spring and the large Banksia has been trimmed to increase flowering. More garden work to come, weather allowing.

**Drawing is the most
important thing, no matter
what they say, and far and
away the most difficult.**

Vincent van Gogh

EXHIBITION REVIEWS Rudi Christen

The new gallery directed by Sarah Birtles in Springwood shows works by Blue Mountains artists, including some of our resident Ben Tankard. What caught my eye were the spaciousness and subtle colouring of interiors by Melanie Vugich.



Melanie Vugich
Freshly picked Flowers &
Early June Light
Oil on Canvas, 2026



Chris Chun

Mazu

Acrylic on linen, 100 x 130cm, 2026
(Mazu is the patron goddess of sailors and fishermen in Chinese folklore, and because the crab moves between land and sea, she felt like a natural guardian of harbours and coastlines — roaming the ocean floor, gathering treasures from the wrecks below)

Avatar at AGNSW is an excellent exploration of religious iconography from the Indian subcontinent. The focus is on the forms of Vishnu and his incarnations like Krishna and Rama, with many fine sculptures and paintings, also including a good number of contemporary interpretations.



Within a lush grove beside a lotus-filled pond, the divine couple Radha and Krishna sit clad in petals, exchanging blossoms and gazing adoringly at each other, their eyes echoing the shape of petals. Beyond tender earthly love, the painting references bhakti, a religious attitude, in which devotees seek connection with a deity through adoration and faith.



The power of Hindu gods relies on the energy of their female counterparts, or *shakti*. Vishnu's *shakti* is Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity and beauty. As he adopts new forms across the ages, Lakshmi too reveals herself in kindred manifestations.

Lotus-clad Radha and Krishna, c.1700-10
Opaque watercolour on paper



Gitanjali Das is amongst the few women in Odisha, eastern India, who practise pat-tachitra, an art of storytelling on cloth often used to depict Hindu narratives and mythology. This painting shows Navagunjara a manifestation of Vishnu or his avatar Krishna. Representing cosmic power, the creature is composed of nine different animals. It brings together a rooster's head, Peacock's neck, bull's humped back, lion's torso and a serpent's tail. He also has one leg of an elephant, one of a tiger and another of a deer. His fourth is a raised human arm which here holds a chakra (wheel), one of Vishnu's attributes symbolising time and righteousness.

Gitanjali Das, India b.1987, Navagunjara, natural pigments on tussar silk, 2026

Meet Our Sponsors

Bruce Hunter

We at BMCAC like to acknowledge the generosity of our sponsors. Meet Maggie Jane, the new proprietor of the Artists' Store at Katoomba, a sponsor for our Art Prize

What have been the biggest challenges for you in establishing your business?

Being limited in what I can do immediately! There is so much potential, a million ideas to implement in our store and space! So really, time and budget constraints. I look at our stained and faded old carpet every day and think to myself 'one day'.

What motivated you to take on the challenge of running your own business?

I had been looking for a career change for some time and my partner Cameron and I wanted to own a business together. When I found out this place was on the market I was halfway through an artist residency in Wentworth Falls and it just felt like all the signs were there, so we took the leap.

How do you stay attuned to the demands of customers from diverse artistic interests?

A lot of it is just listening to customers. We get all sorts of technical questions and requests for things we don't currently stock, and if I hear the same request from a few different people and feel it is relevant to our product mix, I'll investigate it. We're a small store, so we can't stock everything materials for the really strong and diverse working artist community around us.

Where do you draw your own personal creative influences from?

I prefer to keep specifics for myself, but it is broad but a lot just comes from existing in the world as a woman.

Can you tell us a bit about your own creative practice?

I paint in oils, work in a fairly figurative or representational space, though have had a temporary gap in personal practise with taking over the store.

My background is in accessory design so objects have also always been part of my creative process....I've enjoyed making soft sculptures, experimenting with wax or latex.

What artistic endeavours are you currently engaging in?

Recently I accepted an invite to a wonderful group show called [The Quiet Life at Loaf Gallery in Wentworth Falls](#), with 8 other artists, so have been madly finishing works for that.

It opens on August 22nd 6-8pm and everyone should come along!



Meet Our Donors Bruce Hunter

Periodically BMCAC gratefully receives donations for the community. We like to acknowledge such donations and most recently we received a variety of art materials from the estate of the late Irena Dobrijevic-Hatfield.

From her daughter Julia:

Throughout her large and colourful career in the visual arts, Irena enjoyed experimenting with various media and genre. Painting and photography were her passion, and she periodically exhibited her own works not only locally in Sydney, but also far North Queensland as well as Germany where she was born.

Irena held professional teaching positions at UNSW COFA, NSW TAFE, AGNSW, Art Whitsunday and Waverley College. In 1993 she established the inaugural Aboriginal Art and Craft Centre on Elcho Island in the Northern Territory.

As Lismore Regional Art Gallery Director (1995-2002) Irena curated, judged and hosted many art exhibitions. Career highlights include winning the NSW Cultural Tourism Award in 1999 and an Australia Day Award nomination in 2001.

Irena established Lush Art in Surry Hills as an online gallery during the early 2000s internet

boom. She later went on to open My ART Hub in 2016 and died in late 2025.



Poetry Corner



Kevin Connor, *Passing faces, St Nicolas des Champs, Paris*, 2006, oil on canvas, 196x242

WORKING OUR WAY UP TO THE ANGELS

(excerpts)

A Triptych of an Australian Artist in Paris (For Kevin Connor)

Jean Kent

For every black hole in space, there is an equal white one.
Remember this, as you are sucked underground –

As you let the City of Light draw you down
into its soot, its subterranean promise,
its tunnels which burst with crowds and alternating
emptiness. All these bodies, holding themselves in,
packed in their hothouse carriages, tight
as blanched asparagus spears,

eventually
will arrive somewhere.

Up from a queasy stew of perspiration, perfume
and fear, in spite of themselves people will rise.
The innocent afternoon will seduce them back
to patisseries and wine caves, cheese shops you smell
before you see, that florist with its Pekinese nose
roses, potted and perfect for six weeks' residents – and yes,
its homesickness plot of platypus-tail gum leaves (from Nice).

Outside your gaping studio suddenly that sky
which dropped you here – one small bubble
falling out of its chilling fizz –
is all shivery, before-winter defiance:
not yet Degas dusk-pastelled, still shawling Sisley clouds
over Turner-esque veils of turquoise, lemon and white.

Freely before the open window Paris is hanging artworks
as your invisibly winged wife with a swish
of her haloing hair
directs us to an equally artless
still life: pâté and brie on a clear, glass plate.

This is what we climb glass-slippery stairs to:
slices of dark, slices of light –

Braking first before your drawings glimmering
like precious detritus after everyday catastrophe.
You are working your way up to the angels, you say...
and on these walls Hell's commuters accompany you,
their faces like fallen, walked-on moons
waiting to hurtle beyond the Metro's orbit.

WHAT'S ON ?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

86 River Road, Emu Plains

The Gallery is open daily from 10am – 3.45pm

Penrith Youth Art Prize 2026

27 June - 9 September 2026

Ngalawan: We Live. We Remain.

LEANNETOBIN

4 July - 1 November 2026

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

30 Parke Street, Katoomba 2780

Gallery and Shop: Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday + Sunday – 10am – 4pm

Hill Painting Prize

8 Aug – 20 Sep



Animal Dreams:

Bria McCarthy

1 Aug – 20 Sep



BRAEMAR HOUSE & GALLERY

104 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777

Opening Hours: 10am–4pm | Thursday–Sunday

Website: [Blue Mountains Theatre - Braemar Gallery](#)

Contact: Email braemargallery@gmail.com

Owen Thompson - Where Spirits Soar
James Gordon + BLUE
Emma Donlevy - When I go under

3 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

Thank you to our current Sponsors.





Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre, Glenbrook

Class Timetable Term 3, 2026 www.bmcac.org.au

Online enrolments open July 6

Week 1 starts July 27, term goes for 8 weeks, finishing September 18, unless otherwise stated on timetable.

Please note: Children must be enrolled **prior** to attending lessons. Late enrolments cannot be accepted unless there is 4:00-5:30 room in the class, please email enquiry to bmcac.mail@gmail.com. Children's classes are for children aged 6 to 12 years.

All adult students must be members of BMCAC. Membership is \$50 per annum. \$25 after June.

Day	Time	Code – Class	Teacher/ Facilitator
Mon	9:30 – 12:30	APMM9 – Exploring Printmaking - Come and learn different printmaking techniques. Suitable for beginners and experienced printmakers. Materials list will be sent by email to students once booking is made. \$270	Marnie Tomczyk
	12:30-2:30	Printmaking -Open Studios Access Drop in and print. Book in with Alison \$10 per session	
	1:45-3:15	HSAT9 – Art making for Home Schooled children. Explore a variety of art making skills. \$220, materials included.	Micaela Christie
	3:45-5:15	CAM4 – Young Masters – Art class using the Masters as a focus for exploration of painting, drawing and art making. For ages 8 to 12. \$220, all materials included	Micaela Christie
	4:00 - 5:30	CPM4 – Pottery for Children – Fun with clay ages 6 to 12. Starts August 3, 7 weeks only. \$195	Linda Hernando
	6:30-8:30	AAM6 – Drawing for beginners and Intermediate. Learn the finer skills of drawing. \$230	Gus Carrozza
	6:30 -9:30	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$10 per session. Ring to book:	Kathleen Zenardo
Tues	10:00-12:30	AAT10 – Abstract landscapes in Acrylics for beginners. *NEW* Learn the fundamentals of acrylic painting. \$230	Mandy Gailbraith
	4:00 - 5:30	CPT4 – Pottery for Children – Fun with clay for ages 6 to 12. Starts August 4, 7 weeks only. \$195	Linda Hernando
	6:30 - 9:00	Mosaics Drop in. Must be members, session fee of \$10 applies.	
Wed	6:30 - 9:30	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$10 per session. Ring to book	Janet Langfield
	4:00-5:30	CPW4 - Pottery for Senior Primary and Junior Secondary students - Extending skills in clay work. (Ages 11 to 15) Starts August 5, 7 weeks only. \$195	Linda Hernando
	6:30 - 8:30	APW6 – Pottery for Adults – Hand building and wheel throwing for beginners and continuers. beginners class, 4 weeks of hand building and 4 weeks of wheel throwing. \$230 (plus \$40 cash glaze and firing fee due week 3). Optional: A basic tool kit and clay \$50 cash on first session, or just clay \$30.	Ingrid Russell
	6:30 -8:30	AWW6 – Painting with Watercolour – beginners and intermediate. Learn the basics or extend skills in painting with watercolour \$230	Gus Carrozza
Thurs	10:00-12:30	Abstract landscapes in collage for beginners *NEW* Unlock your creativity and learn the fundamentals of collage! \$230	Mandy Gailbraith
	1:30 - 3:30	APTH1 – Pottery for Adults – For continuers – Hand building. Project based course. Participants are free to create their own vision in clay with support. Firing and Materials fee \$40 cash. \$230	Ingrid Russell
	1:30 - 3:30	AWTH1 – Pen and Wash with Watercolours– beginners and intermediate. Learn the basics or extend skills in pen and wash with watercolours. - \$230	Gus Carrozza
	6:30 – 9:00	APTH6 – Pottery for Adults – Hand building and wheel throwing for beginners, 4 weeks of hand building and 2 weeks of wheel throwing. \$230 (plus \$40 cash glaze and firing fee due week 3). Optional: A basic tool kit and clay \$50 cash on first session, or just clay \$30. 6 week course, no session on 1 st Thurs of month	Ingrid Russell
	6:00-8:30	APMTH6 – Exploring Printmaking - Come and learn different printmaking techniques. Suitable for beginners and experienced printmakers. Materials list will be sent by email to students once booking is made. \$270	Cheryle Yin Lo
	7:30 - 9:30	Committee meeting – first Thursday per month. Members welcome.	N/A
Fri	9:45-12:45	LDF10 - Life Drawing. Untutored sessions with model. \$230 for 8 weeks. Enrol online.	Rick Hawkins
	1:30-5:00	Drop in and Print – experienced only – No tuition. Come and use our print making facilities. Membership of BMCAC and Print Group required. \$10 per session with own materials or \$20 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	Cheryle Yin Lo
	10:00 – 12:00	APF10 – Throwing on the Wheel. For beginners and intermediate. \$30 cash materials fee. \$50 cash Clay and tools. \$230	Cristina lafigliola
	2:00 – 3:30	HSPF9 – Pottery for Home schooled children - Students will be introduced to the art of hand building pottery. \$220	Cristina lafigliola
	4:00 – 5:30	CPF4 – Pottery for children. A playful journey with clay (ages 6-12) \$220	Cristina lafigliola
	6:30-8:30	APF6 – Wheel throwing. For beginners and intermediates. \$230. \$30 cash materials fee. \$50 cash Clay and tools.	Cristina lafigliola
Sat	9:00 - 12:00	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$10 per session. Book with facilitator	Michael Dausmann.
	9:00 – 5:00	Drop in and Print – experienced only – No tuition. Come and use our print making facilities. Membership of BMCAC and Print Group required. \$10 per session with own materials or \$20 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	Alison
Sun	9:00 - 5:00	Drop in and Print – experienced only – No tuition. Come and use our print making facilities. Membership of BMCAC and Print Group required. \$10 per session with own materials or \$20 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	