



WSA Artspost Bulletin - 5th June 2025

To our valued WSA members, clients, and supporters

Thank you to everyone who entered the NYAA, which have now closed. The judges now have the difficult task of selecting finalists from the record number of entries - over 360.

Art School updates

- The **WSA Holiday Programme** is now online: wsa.org.nz
- **Term 3 re-enrolments** are now open for current students. Please make direct contact with the office to secure your class space prior to spaces being open up on 20th June. Email the Admin team at: wsa@wsa.org.nz

Sponsorship & donations

- Donate to WSA to help keep our unique art school, galleries and shop open for Hamiltonians and the wider community. Donate using the koha button on at top of our webpage: wsa.org.nz
- Enquire about our new sponsorship packages. Contact the Admin team at: wsa@wsa.org.nz or on ph: **07 839 4484**

Upcoming exhibition entries:

- **Waiprint** - running from 10th July to 9th August 2025. Entries due 4th July 2025. Further details are now available on our website.
- **WSA Members' Exhibition** - running from 18th Sept to 20th October 2025. Entries due 12th September 2025. Further details are available on our website.

Gallery & studio spaces for hire: our gallery and studio spaces are available to hire for your corporate or team building event, or for a fun night of art.

Please direct enquires to Julie on: **07 839 4484** or email at: **wsa@wsa.org.nz**

Artspost gallery & shop hours:

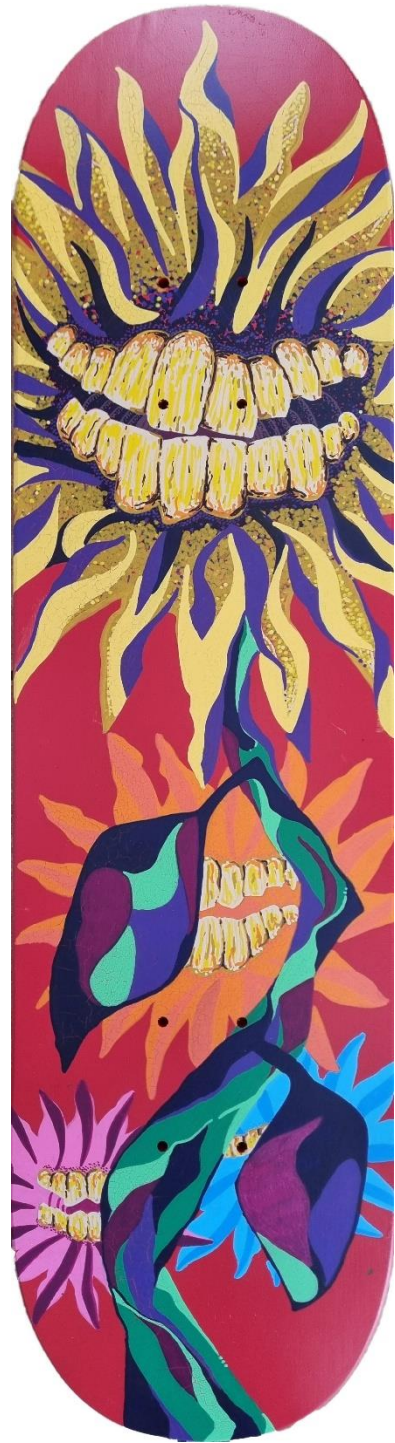
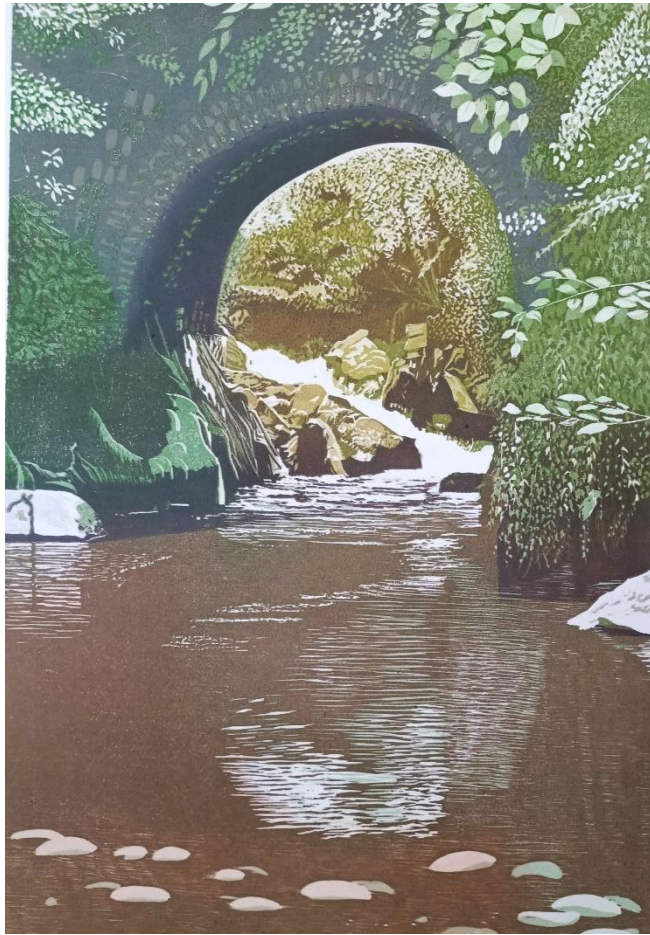
- Mondays: 9.00am - 5.30pm
- Tues - Fridays: 9.00am - 5pm
- Last Wed of the month: 9.00am - 6.00pm
- Saturday: 9.00am - 3.00pm
- Sunday: CLOSED

NEW exhibitions: 5th June - 7th July 2025

1. **David Henshaw - 'A Retrospective'**. An expansive collection of watercolour paintings and pen drawings., focusing on his passion for landscapes, rural sheds and beautiful botanics.
 - *Please note works will be available to purchase from the opening event on (not prior to the opening)*
2. **Rowan Simmons - 'Kjerokipah'**. A showcase of semi-surreal skateboard art where day-to-day experiences transform into something otherworldly
3. **Plateau Printmakers - 'Contours & Whispers'**. Original prints by well-know Taupo printmakers, Sally-Ann Davies & Maggie Dawson - including prints with multi-coloured and transparent surfaces to layered landscapes.
4. **Monday Group - 'The Collection'**. A rich exploration of technique, perspective and passion and in painting styles from realism to abstraction. Highlighting the creative range and experience of 7 painters from WSA's Monday morning painting class.

All exhibition openings are this Saturday 7th June, 1.00 - 3.00pm





Introducing WSA Tutors

Mariana du Plessis

Currently in her third year of pursuing a contemporary arts degree, Mariana's work often focuses on photography and painting, and recently she's been fascinated with clay sculpture. Nature and texture are significant sources of inspiration, and she's fascinated by how art can represent and translate human experiences.



As an art tutor, Mariana is committed to:

- Introducing a variety of artistic mediums and techniques
- Encouraging creativity, experimentation, and playful expression
- Designing an engaging curriculum that builds foundational skills
- Creating an inclusive environment that caters to different learning styles
- Guiding each student to discover their unique artistic voice while fostering a love for art that extends beyond the classroom.

Mariana believes in the power that art has to enrich lives and am excited to share this journey with her students.

Other events on and coming up around the Waikato:

Two Artists, Two Studios- One Inspiring Day"

The Painter and the Glassmaker

Open Studios with Jennie De Groot and Di Tocker

Friday 20 June 10 am till 3 pm

Step inside the world of two Waikato artists for one day only

Jennie De Groot-Painter

158/2 Gillard Road, Ngahinapouri

Experience the colour and chaos of a true working studio: painty rags, half-finished pieces and new works still drying on the easel. From large-scale canvases to small

studies, Jennie offers a peek behind the scenes-and maybe even a bargain or two for the keen-eyed collector.

Di Tocker-Glassmaker

33 Jarrett Terrace, Cambridge

Just 20 minutes away, Di's studio is a treasure trove of glowing kilns, molten wax and more tools than you can count. Explore her process and browse a mix of her latest pieces, alongside a few seconds that reflect the beauty of the handmade and deserve to be snapped up without hesitation.

Make a day of it. Two studios, two very different practices, and one unforgettable glimpse into the lives of working artists.

Peter Dornauf, *Eden in the Waikato*

Morrinsville Gallery

Wednesday, May 27 - June 15, 2025

On the drive through the foggy Waikato morning to Morrinsville for the opening of his exhibition *Eden in the Waikato*, Peter and I talked about Plato and Aristotle. And about the foundations of the Western understanding of reality and nature, and of philosophical forms of perception. While Aristotle tends toward a more 'materialistic' view of the world — the world as matter evolving in forms, Plato emphasises an 'idealistic' perspective: the appearance of things and developments remains flawed and imperfect, and only pure ideas can claim supreme reality. In his 'Phaedrus,' Plato intersperses his philosophical reasoning with the allegory of a chariot traveling through the cloudy heavens. The charioteer passes by ideal images of things, which reveal themselves to him in their deepest quality and substance. What is referred to in philosophical tradition as 'Platonic ideals' can also be recognised in Peter's paintings in the exhibition: what at first glance appear to be stylised, almost naive depictions of plants, animals, buildings or Fun Ho toy tractors become, upon closer inspection, their archetypes and ideal images. In a certain sense, Peter's work can therefore be seen as that rare, if not unique, beast of neo-Platonic Expressionism. For decades, Peter's paintings and poems have revolved around the lost paradise of his childhood in the rural Waikato. The vanished innocence of an 'ideal world,' the profound, immediate impressions of early sensory perceptions of nature and agricultural civilisation are evoked in his paintings, their loss lamented with quiet melancholy. The bucolic idyll of a 'golden age' in the 1950s of his childhood is gone forever (if it ever actually existed), yet is once again conjured in the paintings in its Platonic ideality—yet full of visceral memories. The lost childhood spirituality, which, especially in Peter's literary works, has undergone sharp Darwinian and Nietzschean critiques of religion, survives in the paintings in the powerful poetry of Biblical language. Peter's quotations about the past and future Eden and ultimate world peace are taken from the prophet Isaiah, the Psalms, and the Book of Revelation. They are inscribed on segments of the panels, all of which impress with their masterful graphic and colour schemes. Peter is here part of a visual discourse that extends from Edward Hicks to Colin McCahon and into the Waikato present of his own work. His current works show Peter at the height of his artistry in his use of canvas and paint. The combination, sometimes even fusion, of philosophical and religious ideas, of European and New Zealand, of inner child and poet cum scholar makes Peter's art unique. They deserve far more attention, also beyond the region and national boundaries, than is currently the case.

<https://eyecontactmagazine.com/2020/06/paradise-lost-paradise-reframed>

WSA Membership benefits from our two local cafes:

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Congratulations to Gordon Harris on their anniversary of 50 years in business.



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