

WSA Art Connections - 16 October 2026

A very warm welcome to our latest newsletter and news from WSA & Artspost.

Dear Members and Friends,

As we look back on the year ending 31 August 2026, as the WSA Chair I'd like to share a message of profound gratitude, hard-won progress, and a clear vision for our creative community.

In a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, it reminds us that the uniquely human experiences, connection, curiosity, expression, and the joy of making something yourself, are exactly why the WSA matters more than ever.

Moving from Survival to Sustainability

- After two years of revisiting our strategy and making difficult operational decisions, we are close to breaking even and reversing post-Covid losses.
- While the financial turnaround is significant, it has relied heavily on unsustainable levels of unpaid volunteer hours. Our next goal is to build a balanced model where workloads and expectations are realistic and rewarding.

Key Highlights Across the WSA

- We currently offer 35 active classes. While still below our pre-Covid high of 52, this is a major increase from recent years, driven by our energetic tutors.
- Our retail gallery remains a crucial platform for local creators. An online store is currently under construction to better connect our artists with buyers.
- The exhibition program remains a vibrant success, with the gallery fully booked through to the end of 2028.
- To reduce reliance on fluctuating grants, we are heavily focusing on community-building. Attendance at our member nights is growing, featuring inspiring guest speakers from across the wider arts sector.

Progress isn't always linear. However, the Executive Committee has used this as a vital learning experience to implement stronger due diligence processes.

Like an artist, the WSA views itself as a work in progress—learning, adapting, experimenting, and continually moving forward to ensure we serve our artist community.

A massive thank you to our dedicated Artspost team, tutors, regular volunteers, and the Executive Committee who give so quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes.

The opportunity ahead is immense if we bring together our collective talents and energy. Thank you for your continued support in helping the WSA not just survive but truly thrive.

Craig Stephen

WSA Chair

It was wonderful to host so many of our members at the recent opening of the **WSA Members' Annual Exhibition**. There are 119 wonderful works to view so if you were unable to make it last Saturday, please pop in, support your fellow members, and invite friends and family to come and see the exhibition too. **The exhibition is open until 25th October 2026.**

We are also pleased to be hosting the **PCANZ (Print Council Aotearoa New Zealand) Small Print travelling exhibition**, showcasing the diverse techniques of Aotearoa's printmakers. Artists contribute up to five A4 sized works, with one work hanging and the rest available displayed in books. Each print is \$100, and with a *cash 'n' carry* basis, sold works are replaced by prints from the books. Discover and collect original prints by New Zealand printmakers in this unique, size-limited exhibition. **Last day to view: 25 October 2026**

Museum Carpark Closure

The Museum carpark behind Artspost will be reopened at 7am, Monday 19 October.

WSA Classes - Term 4 classes - There are limited spaces available so head to our website and book quickly if you want to join a class for the remainder of 2026.

EXHIBITION ENTRIES - Open now

- **NZ Painting and Printmaking Awards 2027** - entry forms are available on WSA's website.

Entries close: 17 January 2027.

Artspost HOURS

Mondays - Fridays: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturdays: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Sundays: usually CLOSED except for after an exhibition opening

Christmas Break: Artspost will close on Wednesday 23rd December at 5.00pm and re-open on Thursday 21 January 2027. First exhibition opening will be 22 January.

Current exhibitions

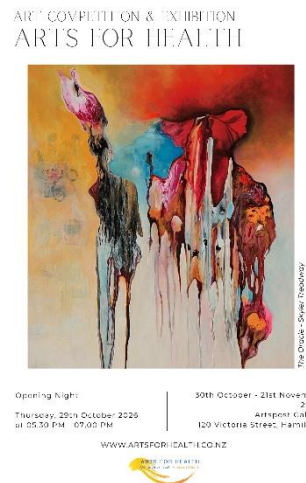
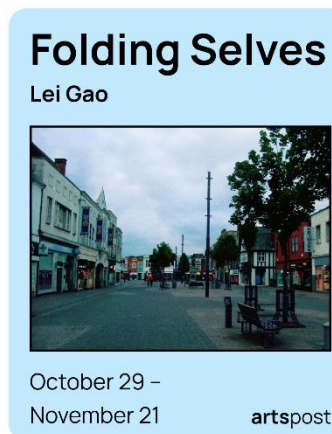
On until Sunday 25 October 2026



Upcoming exhibitions

Openings: Thursday 29 October 2026 @ 5.30pm

Closing 21 November 2026



HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

A Brief Introduction to Printmaking Techniques

After feedback from visitors about the printmaking techniques display at Waiprint, Janice Meadows and student, Ellie Williams, have compiled this booklet for your information.

Available in A5 or A4 for only \$5.00 per book. See Artspost staff

(see image next page)

MULTIBLOCK

A multiblock print uses multiple relief blocks to make the final print, generally one block for each colour. Often the last block has the most detail; this is the key block, and you cut other blocks for areas of colour to be printed underneath it.

Like other print techniques that use layers, the important thing is making sure each layer lines up accurately to give a good result. This is called registration. Multiblock printing allows for testing, alterations and experimentation with layer orders before committing to the final printing. If transparent inks are used, then the way the blocks overlap can create even more colours and variations to explore.



'The Digger' multiblock woodcut. JH



Carved blocks for multiblock woodcut.

JIGSAW

When an image has distinct areas of colour, a jigsaw print can be a good way to create precise inking and registration.

It's relatively easy to cut a line block into a jigsaw, and a little more complicated with wood, but it allows for more than one colour to be printed on one pass through the press. This can save a lot of waiting for drying time between layers, and registration mishaps.



'The Wharf' jigsaw woodcut. JH



Agates blocks for 'The Wharf'

'The Wharf' is a jigsaw multiblock woodcut print. The first layer (colours) is jigsawed like a puzzle; each piece is carefully inked separately and put back together. This makes it possible to print distinct areas of sky, land and sea all in one go as each part fits neatly together. Then more detail in black is added with the second block on the final layer.

MEZZOTINT

Mezzotint is an intaglio process that goes in the opposite direction from aquatint in that you work from dark to light.

First you completely cover the surface of the plate (usually copper) with a zillion tiny pits and burrs by marching a 'rocker', a toothed, curved chisel, across the surface in straight lines, turning the plate by 5 degrees with each pass.



Mezzotint rocker, scraper, burnisher, rocking template, partially rocked plate. Plates for 'Heller' and 'Wedding Exchange'. JH



'Wedding Exchange'. JH

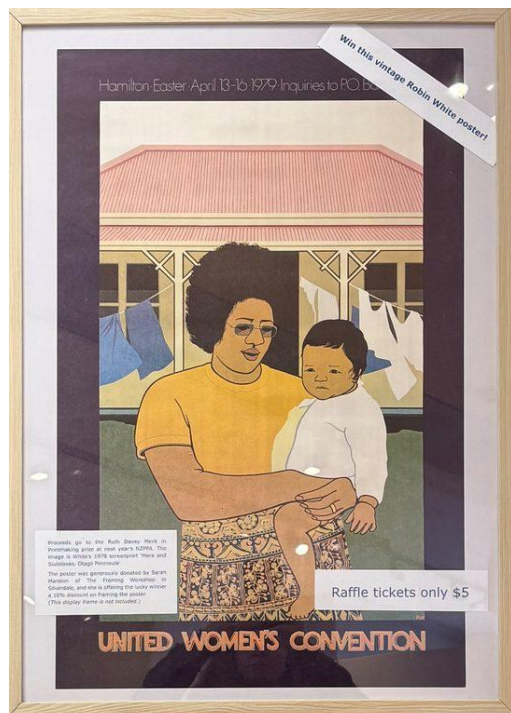


'Heller'. JH

It usually takes about three turns around before the plate is adequately rocked. When you reach this blasted state, you can ink, wipe and print the plate and achieve a solid velvety black. The prints are pulled with damp paper and an etching press, the only way of getting enough pressure to pull out the ink.

Next you begin to reveal your image by carving off the tips of the burrs with a scraper. Areas you scrape away will print grey because the shortened burrs hold less ink. The closer you scrape the burrs to the original plate, the lighter the tone you can achieve. To get to a white in your print, you can resort to a burnisher to mash down any remaining burr.

Win this vintage Robin White poster!



As a fund-raiser for the Ruth Davey Merit in Printmaking prize at next year's NZPPA, we are holding a raffle for this piece of Hamilton history. It was generously donated by **Sarah Marston of Framing Workshop in Silverdale** and she has offered a 10% discount on framing the 400x630 poster.

The image is White's 1978 screen-print 'Mere and Siulolovao, Otago Peninsula' and the occasion was the 1979 United Women's Convention. **Tickets are only \$5 each.**

Raffle will be drawn on 20th December 2026

While you have this important New Zealand artist in mind, be sure to see 'Robin White: at home with us', the outstanding exhibition now on at Waikato Museum. Then treat yourself to Gaylene Preston's film about White, 'GRACE A Prayer for Peace', on the Radio NZ website: www.rnz.co.nz/video/grace-a-prayer-for-peace.

Involved in running a small arts charity or incorporated society - perhaps an arts collective, community gallery or theatre group?

Good Numbers is running **Being a Good Treasurer**, a free, practical workshop for volunteer treasurers and committee members. It covers what the role involves and simple habits that make looking after your organisation's money easier. You'll leave with a useful checklist and a practical next step for your group. No accounting background needed.

Wednesday 21 October, 1.30–2.30pm — Hamilton Central

Find out more and register:

<https://events.humanitix.com/being-a-good-treasurer-hamilton-central>

Hamilton Book Month is looking for a change of personnel to lead and run the festival. For the last twelve years HBM has successfully held New Zealand author and writing-focused events during August on a not-for-profit basis. The support of grants and sponsorship has enabled over half the events to be free.

There is the opportunity to continue HBM in its current format, or to take the festival in a new direction.

We are calling for expressions of interest. Please email hamiltonbookmonth@gmail.com to discuss.



Catherine Wallace
Hamilton Book Month

www.hamiltonbookmonth.com

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Writer's column

Would you like a piece of your prose featured on our writer's column and in our newsletter?

Please send your creative writing to the Artspost team at wsa@wsa.org.nz

This week's work is by Barry Smith.

perhaps
in my imagination
after long journeys
south with albatrosses
or north with eels
maybe flying high
with kuaka
almost it seems
to the edge of space
returning tatty-feathered
to peals of city bells
to share joys of life
with chosen friends
old mates from hills
perhaps goblets raised
in praise of valleys
blanketed in beech
waking to the sound of birds
a double-paged spread
beneath the sun

bls



Painting Colour Workshop: colour creates light in painting



"When I'm painting, I need to think in terms of paint" said Claude Monet.

Painters require an understanding of the materiality of paint. It is through the physical properties of our colours that we can create depth and density in our painting.

We also need to explore the psychological properties of colour so we can be authentic in our colour choices, and form relationships that give our work an emotional quality.

By playing with the different kinds of contrasts, we can shift space forward and back in our painting, creating distance, movement, and stronger composition.

In this intensive, hands-on Colour Workshop, we will learn a little from each of these important fields through a series of exercises that can be developed into your painting practice. With plenty of historical and contemporary references, a healthy sense of fun, and plenty of brilliant colour, this workshop will be an amazing experience for painters at every level.

10am to 2:30pm Friday 27th November

Waikato Society of Arts, 120 Victoria Street, Hamilton

Spaces Limited! Register in-store or hamilton@gordonharris.co.nz

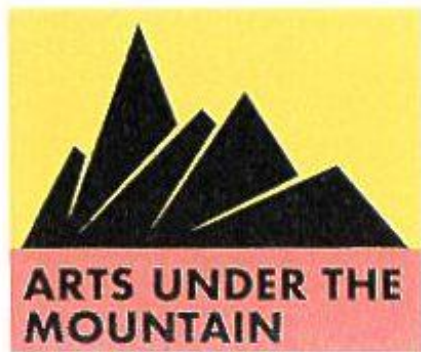
Workshop Fee \$20.00. Get your Workshop Fee back: shop at Gordon Harris Hamilton before 30th November 2026 and we will redeem it against the purchase of materials!

All colours and surfaces provided. Please bring brushes, palette, water container, paper towels, notebook and pen. There will be a 30min lunch break at 12pm.

This workshop is provided by WSA, Gordon Harris, and led by Evan Woodruffe MFA (1st Class), Global Ambassador for Schmincke Artist Colours and da Vinci Artist Brushes, Germany, and Educator for Golden Paints, USA.



Waikato & beyond events



Street Festival, Te Aroha
Sunday 01 November
10 am – 2 pm on Whitaker Street
Contact: Deborah Dove (Committee Memb
Ph: 021 410743
Email: tearohafestivals@gmail.com



She SHED TOUR tickets for Gisborne's art trail are now on sale.

\$15.00 per person

Please contact Caroline Peacocke via email to reserve your tickets.

caroline@coppermesh.co.nz

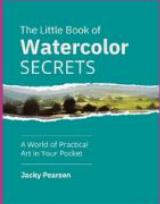


\$30

FROM DAVID AND CHARLES UK PUBLISHERS

THE LITTLE BOOK OF WATERCOLOR SECRETS

A compact, easy-to-carry reference guide packed with essential tips, techniques, and practical knowledge for artists of all levels and abilities





GREAT GIFT IDEA

Books are available in bookstores and art stores. worldwide
For signed copy contact Jacky

Jacky is an international award winning New Zealand artist and tutor.

enquiries: jacky@jackypearson.co.nz



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