

WSA Bulletin - 02 February 2026

Welcome to our first February newsletter for the year - where did January go?

Artspost galleries and retail have been open for the New Year since 20 January with four new exhibitions hung already, and the Ruth Davey gallery being changed over on Wednesday, 4 February. Along with our lovely retail space - there's a lot of new art to view. Do call in to see for yourselves.

Please be aware that the new BNZ Theatre (was Waikato Regional Theatre) has now opened. There may be shows that coincide with WSA class pick-ups and exhibition openings. It will pay to be organised with your parking and perhaps expect to walk a little further if the museum carpark is full.

Our art school holiday programme was a great success last week - and we trust the new school year starts well for our members and communities.

WSA Art School Term 1 starts next week from Monday 9th February (after Waitangi weekend). **Enrolments are still open for classes, with availability showing online, however this is the final week to enrol.** If the class does not meet the minimum number of enrolments - those classes will either be cancelled or deferred until Term 2.

So don't delay - book your class this week and get those creative juices flowing for 2026.

Term dates: 9th February - 11th April 2026.

Book online: <https://wsa.org.nz/art-school/classes/>

Monthly Members' Night

Our first Members' Night for 2026 will be **11 February 2026 from 5.30pm - 7.30pm. Janet Smith** will be our guest artist to talk about the current Clay+Ash exhibition on in the Chartwell gallery along with music from

Wintec Media Arts students, so come along to enjoy an evening as a thank you for your WSA membership.

If you know a business that would like to sponsor one of the evenings, or WSA activities then please email: julie@wsa.org.nz

Exhibition & Gallery Space

All galleries are booked through 2026 and our **2027 exhibition spaces are filling up fast**. We have limited bookings available for the WSA and Ruth Davey galleries. If you or someone you know would like to enquire about a gallery booking for 2027 - please email: wsa@wsa.org.nz.

Exhibitions on now and through February 2026 - see posters below.

Please note - Lynn Chapman's exhibition closes this week and Janice Meadows' exhibition starts in the Ruth Davey Gallery.

- **20 January - 4 February: 'Drawing with Light' by Lynn Taylor**

Dunedin artist Lynn Taylor spent the week of 19-26 January in the WSA Print Room developing a series of 'sketches' using various cyanotype techniques and has gradually filled the Ruth Davey gallery with her work and students works from the weekend workshop she held.

- **20 January - 18 February: 'Flight Pattern' by Sybille Schlumbom**

Sybille's exhibition is movement-based, tracing the passage of time through places traversed, recording her *flight patterns*.

Closing event on Saturday 14th February at 10.30am

Please also see an article on Sybille's exhibition featured in Eye Contact <https://eyecontactmagazine.com/2026/01/flight-pattern>

- **22 January - 18 February: Woodstoke presents: 'Clay+ Ash'**

Organised by **Janet Smith with Duncan Shearer**. Janet will give an artist talks at our Member's night on Wednesday 11 February, 5.30-7.30pm.

- **27 January - 18 February: 'From Kathmandu to Mamaku - A Reflective Journey' by Sarj Hada**

Sarj Hada invites you to explore a visual narrative of migration, resilience, and belonging. Born in Kathmandu into the artistic lineage of the Newar tribe, Sarj's path led him to build a life in Australia before finding his flourishing place here in Rotorua. This exhibition centers on the tension and harmony of belonging to three places at once.

- **5-14 February: *Palimpsest* by Janice Meadows**

Janice revisits her prints to discover what might lie beneath.

Palimpsest, screen print, ca 1968 below

NZPPA Awards 2026

Congratulations to the 65 finalists who have been notified. A huge thank you to the 350 artists who entered for the NZPPA2026. Thank you to our sponsors: Nancy Caiger, Vision Complete Earthworks, PCANZ, CFO Partner- Rachael Hayton and the Ruth and Lester Davey bequest

Note for your diaries: the opening event will be on **Saturday 28th February 2026 at 5.00pm.**

Artspost HOURS

WE ARE OPEN WAITANGI DAY 10AM-3PM

- **Mondays - Fridays:** 9.00am - 5.00pm
- **Saturdays:** 9.00am - 3.00pm
- **Sundays:** CLOSED most Sundays; Open 11.00am - 2.00pm on a Sunday following an exhibition opening.

Sponsorship & donations:

90 years of promoting arts and artists in the Waikato

Donate to the WSA to help us as a not-for-profit organisation and charity keep our

art school, galleries, artists retail space and more open to the wider community to continue to enjoy and benefit from. Even a small regular monthly donation can make a big difference for us.

Donate using the **koha** button at the top of our webpage: wsa.org.nz

Enquire about our bequest brochure and new sponsorship packages.

Contact Julie on: wsa@wsa.org.nz or phone **07 839 4484**.

Upcoming Exhibitions, Events & Promotions



Lynn Taylor

'Drawing with Light' exhibition

20 January - 4 February 2026



Janice Meadows

'Palimpsest' exhibition

5 February - 14 February



Sarj Hada

'From Kathmandu to
Mamaku - A Reflective
Journey' exhibition

27 January - 18 February



Sybille Schlumbom

Flight Pattern exhibition

20 January - 18 February

<https://eyecontactmagazine.com/2026/01/flight-pattern>

A poster for the 'Clay + Ash' exhibition. The background is a fiery orange and yellow, resembling a kiln interior. At the top left is the Woodstoke logo. The text 'Presents:' is in bold black. The title 'Clay + Ash' is in large, white, serif font. Below it, 'Wood fired ceramic art methods, kilns, practitioners' is in bold black. The dates '22 January to 18 February' are in bold black. At the bottom, the 'artspost' logo is in white on a black background, with '120 Victoria Street, Hamilton' below it. At the very bottom, it says 'For more information see: woodstoke.co.nz'.

WOODSTOKE

Presents:

Clay + Ash

**Wood fired ceramic art
methods, kilns, practitioners**

22 January to 18 February

artspost
120 Victoria Street, Hamilton

For more information see: woodstoke.co.nz

Waikato-wide Events & Promotions

ART EXHIBITION:

'Late Bloomer'

FREE
ENTRY



Original artworks by

Esther Laaper

Date & Time

27 Feb - 9 Mar '26

Opening night Fri 27 Feb, 5-9PM

Open Fri-Tues 10AM - 2PM

Location

Gallery9 onbraid

9 Braid Rd, Hamilton

'I let my art go and it came back to me. My garden has taught me that when we are ready we all have the capacity to bloom again and again.'



[estherlaaper.artist](https://www.instagram.com/estherlaaper.artist)



www.estherlaaper.com



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WSA Sponsors - with thanks!



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