

WELCOME TO THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition showcases the significant impact of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales (RAS) on Australian art history while highlighting the diverse range of art produced in 20th century Australia. It features impressive artworks by current and former RAS members, alongside works from artists affiliated with its breakaway collective, the Society of Artists (SOA).

In 1880, the Collingridge brothers, Arthur and George, led a group of artists in the establishment of an artist collective originally called the "Art Society of New South Wales." That same year, the society held its inaugural exhibition at the Garden Palace in Sydney, displaying 220 oil paintings, watercolours, and drawings.

In 1895, SOA was established as a breakaway group from RAS by artists who wished to create and exhibit more progressive art. Its founding members included notable figures such as Tom Roberts, Julian Ashton, Arthur Streeton, Norman Lindsay, and Sydney Long. SOA remained active until 1965.

Between 1880 and 1956, RAS held regular exhibitions in venues across Sydney, including the Department of Education building on Bridge Street in the city's central business district. In recognition of the group's contributions to the Australian art scene, King Edward VII granted the society the prestigious title of "Royal" in 1903. In 1956, RAS acquired a terrace at 25 Walker Street, North Sydney, and soon after purchased the adjacent property at 27 Walker Street. These two properties have since served as RAS's gallery space and teaching studios.

Since its inception, significant Australian artists have been involved with RAS as members, exhibitors, and students. The Alan Baker Art Gallery invites visitors to engage with an exceptional display of Australian art from some of the country's most celebrated artists, whose work has been brought together within the historic walls of Macaria for *BAKER'S CONTEMPORARIES - Royal Art Society of NSW.*



Image: Royal Art Society Exhibition, 1899.



Still Life (1st Proof), 1925
Margaret Preston
Woodcut printed in black ink, hand coloured with gouache on Japanese paper, 19 x 19 cm



Australian Gum Blossoms
(6th Print)
Margaret Preston
Woodcut printed in black ink, hand coloured with gouache on Japanese paper, 26 x 26 cm



Bird of Paradise (10th Proof)
Margaret Preston
Woodcut printed in black ink, hand coloured with gouache on Japanese paper, 40 x 43 cm



Untitled
John S. Watkins
Watercolour on paper, 25.5 x 36 cm



Barrenjoey, 1926
Arthur Streeton
Oil on board, 20 x 70 cm



Hickson Road, Sydney, 1933
Alan D. Baker
Oil on board, 29 x 39.5 cm

Alan Baker Collection. Gifted by Max and Nola Tegel under the Australian Government, Cultural Gifts Program.



Sketch Bourke, 1956
William Dobell
Oil on board, 10 x 13 cm



GALLERY II



Riverside, Sofala
Rupert Richardson
Watercolour on paper, 53 x 76 cm



Old Windsor
G. K. Townshend
Watercolour and gouache on
paper, 19.3 x 24 cm



Pebbly Beach
Brian Stratton
Watercolour on paper,
53 x 74 cm

Camden Art Collection -
Camden Art Prize winner, 1985



The Pilgrimage
G. K. Townshend
Watercolour and gouache on
paper, 33 x 44 cm



Untitled, 1941
Normand H. Baker
Graphite, ink wash on paper,
27.3 x 40 cm



Summer in Snowy

Patricia Johnston

Watercolour on paper, 43 x 58 cm

Camden Art Collection - Camden Art Prize winner, 2024



Jindabyne

Nola Tegel

Watercolour on paper, 50 x 70 cm



Flowerpiece in Bloom

Margaret Coen

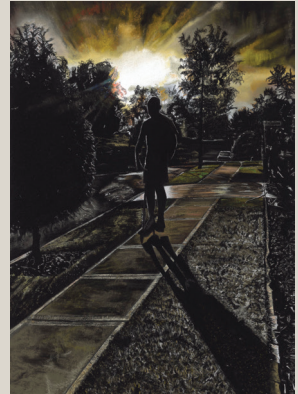
Watercolour on paper,
71 x 51.5 cm



Hansen's Road

Rizwana Ahmad

Watercolour on
paper, 67 x 42 cm



The Burbs, 2017

Jane Wray

Soft pastel on sanded
paper, 71 x 51 cm



Untitled
 Alex McMillan
 Oil on board,
 43 x 34 cm



Narrabeen
 Sydney Long
 Oil on board,
 47 x 37 cm



A Venetian Canal
 Henry Hanke
 Oil on board,
 36 x 30 cm

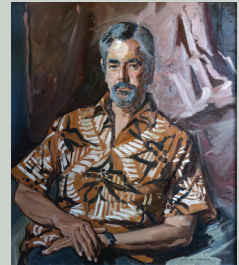


Harry Pugmire
 F.R.A.S, 1952
 Alan D. Baker
 Oil on Board,
 75.5 x 60.2 cm

Archibald Prize
 Finalist, 1952



My Army, Oh My Army!, 1915
 Norman Lindsey
 Watercolour on
 paper, 31 x 21 cm



John L. Sever
 F.R.A.S, 1972
 Alan D. Baker
 Oil on board,
 101.5 x 76.2 cm

Archibald Prize
 Finalist, 1972



Self Portrait, 1936
 Alan D. Baker
 Oil on board, 51 x 41 cm

Archibald Prize Finalist, 1936. Alan Baker
 Collection. Gifted by Gary and Melissa Baker



Kerosene Bay, Sydney Harbour NSW
Garrett Kingsley
Oil on Canvas on board, 35 x 45.5 cm



Down But Not Out No.2
Greg Hansell
Oil on canvas, 74 x 90 cm

Camden Art Collection - Camden Art Prize
Winner, 1980



Rain Forest
Lloyd Rees
Lithograph on paper, 45 x 58 cm

Camden Art Collection – Gift by the Artist,
1986



Untitled
Frederic Bates
Watercolour on paper, 25.5 x 36 cm



Untitled
Sir Eric Langker
Oil on board, 36 x 39 cm



Wollondilly Landscape
Gary Baker
Oil on board, 34.5 x 55 cm



Untitled
Henry Hanke
Oil on board, 36.5 x 48 cm



Balmain
Frank Spears
Oil on board, 30 x 36 cm



Brownlow Hill Bridge
Gary Baker
Oil on board, 33 x 48 cm



Colour Note Evening, Sydney Harbour, 1944
James Jackson
Oil on board, 14.6 x 19.5 cm



The Silo, Camden
Mollie Flaxman
Watercolour on paper, 43 x 56 cm



Broken Hill Street
Jean Isherwood
Oil on board, 33 x 45 cm



Berry Bay, Sydney Harbour
Sir Erik Langker
Oil on board, 29 x 36.5 cm



Study for Women at the Well
Henry Hanke
Oil on board, 60 x 30 cm



Untitled
Henry Hanke
Oil on board, 38 x 45.5 cm



Contessa Callini Camellias

Alan D. Baker

Oil on board, 30.5 x 25 cm

Alan Baker Collection. Gifted by Max and Nola Tegel under the Australian Government Cultural Gifts Program.



Two Women with Parasol,
1929-30

Arthur Murch

Oil on canvas, 159.5 x 98.5 cm

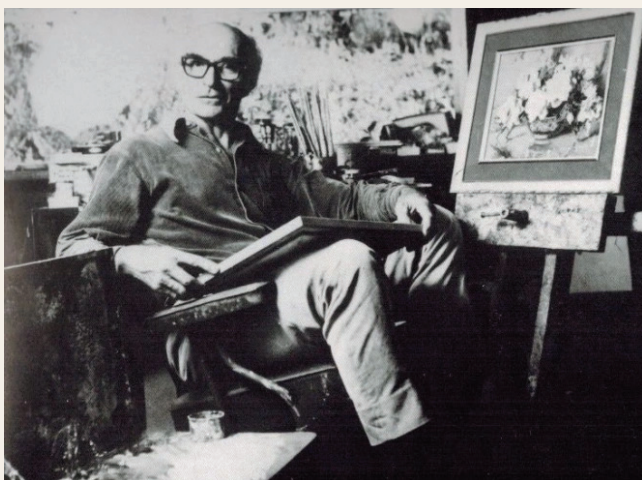


Image: Portrait of Alan Baker.

Alan Baker 1914 – 1987

Alan Douglas Baker, to whom the Alan Baker Art Gallery is dedicated, is renowned for his portraits, landscapes, and floral still-life paintings. His artworks can be found in private collections and public institutions, including the Alan Baker Art Gallery which houses a permanent collection of his significant works. Alan Baker was a long-time member of RAS, having been selected as an Associate of the society in 1932 at only eighteen years old. Both Alan and his brother, Normand H. Baker, were frequently commended for their work as young exhibitors with RAS. Baker was elected as a Fellow of RAS and later served as the Vice President.

Alex McMillan 1910 – 1987

Alex McMillan explored Sydney's streetscapes through his work, with many of his paintings casting the city in a red hue. McMillan studied at the Dattilo Rubbo Art School, Bissietta Art School and the J.S. Watkins Art School. His works have been shown across the east coast of Australia and are held in private collections. He was a Fellow of RAS.

Arthur Murch 1909 – 1989

Arthur James Murch created many of his most significant pieces through dashes of light and bright paint. In 1925 he won the NSW Travelling Art Scholarship, he served as an official war artist during WWII and won the Archibald Prize in 1949. Murch spent several formative years training and later taught at the RAS.

Arthur Streeton 1867 – 1943

Sir Arthur Streeton is known for his iconic Australian landscapes. Streeton was a key member of the Heidelberg School of Australian Impressionism. During WWI, he served as an official war artist, in 1928 he won the prestigious Wynne Prize and later became an art critic. Streeton exhibited at RAS from 1890 to 1943 and was elected a Fellow.

Brian Stratton b.1936

Brian Stratton is a renowned watercolour painter. He graduated from the National Art School in 1956 where he went on to become a teacher. In 1990 Stratton left teaching to become a full-time artist. He has been an active member of many art societies including President of the Australian Watercolour Institute. He is a Fellow of RAS.

Erik Langker 1898 – 1982

Sir Erik Langker was an artist and art administrator best known for his landscape and still-life paintings. He was a Trustee of the Art Gallery of NSW from 1947-74 and was knighted in 1968. His work is held in major institutions across Australia including the Art Gallery of NSW. He studied at RAS, was appointed to the Executive Council, and became a Fellow in 1936.

Frank Spears 1904 – 1985

Frank Hilton Spears is best remembered for his landscape paintings. Spears received his training at the National Art School. Spears won several notable art awards, including the prestigious Wynne Prize in 1959. He was a RAS Fellow.

Frederic Bates 1918 – 2009

Frederic Bates was an artist best known for his plein-air landscape paintings, self-described as impressionistic. Bates studied at Newcastle Technical School and the National Art School where he later taught. He served as President of the Australian Watercolour Institute and won the prestigious Wynne Prize in 1970. He was a Fellow and served as President of RAS.



RAS Members - Streeton, Spears, Kingsley, Jackson, Long, Watkins, Hanke, Langker

G. K. Townshend 1888 – 1969

Geoffrey Keith Townshend worked predominantly with watercolour, capturing Australian landscapes and seascapes. Both a painter and illustrator, Townshend was a regular contributor to the Bulletin Magazine as a cartoonist from 1911, until he enlisted in WWI and served from 1915-1918. He later became Vice President and Fellow of RAS where he had previously trained and exhibited.

Garrett Kingsley 1915 – 1982

Australian painter Garrett Kingsley is best known for studies of the human form and landscapes. In 1963, he won the Bathurst Prize and the Blue Mountains Prize. He exhibited with and was a Fellow of RAS.

Gary Baker b.1954

Gary Baker captures moments of beauty in everyday life through oil, watercolour, acrylic paints, and etchings. He has exhibited widely across Australia's East with his work held in private, public, and corporate art collections. He received training at and is a Fellow of RAS.

Greg Hansell b.1949

Greg Hansell worked with oil paint before making pastels his medium of choice. He received his artistic training at St George Technical College in the late 1970s and later in Europe. He has been a finalist over 20 times in the Archibald and Wynne Prizes. Hansell is a Fellow and current Art School Director of RAS.

Henry Hanke 1901 – 1989

Henry Hanke was a notable Australian portraitist, landscape painter and war artist. Hanke received his training at the J.S. Watkins Art School in Sydney. He won the Archibald Prize in 1934 and the inaugural Sulman Prize in 1936. Hanke was a Fellow and Director of the RAS art school.

James Jackson 1882 – 1975

James Randalph Jackson is best known for his striking seascapes and scenes of Sydney Harbour. He was a founding member of the Australian Academy of Art in 1937 and was awarded numerous regional and national art prizes. Jackson received his early art education at RAS where he later taught drawing and painting. He was one of the first Fellows and served as Vice President.

Jane Wray b.1954

Camden-based artist Jane Wray is best known for her vibrant pastel artworks. Her critically acclaimed work is held in numerous private collections both nationally and internationally. She is an Associate of RAS.

Jean Isherwood 1911 – 2006

Jean Isherwood worked as a fashion artist and illustrator before becoming a full-time painter focused on capturing the Australian landscape. She began her artistic training at fourteen when she won a scholarship to the National Art School. Isherwood won over 100 first prizes in various art competitions, and her work is held in public and private Australian art collections. She studied at RAS, later becoming a Fellow.

J. S. Watkins 1866 – 1942

John Samuel Watkins is a notable Australian artist and is perhaps best known for his popular Sydney art school he ran between 1896 and 1939. Watkins' work has been exhibited widely in Australia and overseas. He undertook studies, exhibited and became a Fellow of RAS, and was a founding member of SOA.

Lloyd Rees 1895 – 1988

Lloyd Rees worked predominately as a landscape artist, whose style evolved from analytical to experimental. He was a two-time winner of the Wynne Prize in 1950 and 1982, and his work is held in significant national public collections. He was a Fellow of RAS.

Margaret Coen 1909-1993

Margaret Coen is best known for her watercolour pieces, particularly, her floral still life's. Her works are held in public and private collections across Australia, including the National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. She studied and was a Fellow of RAS.

Margaret Preston 1875 – 1963

Margaret Preston, also known by her maiden name Margaret Rose Macpherson, is a celebrated Australian modernist who crafted dynamic designs with bold colour choices and was best known for her vibrant still-life pieces. She received her artistic training in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne before travelling to Europe, where she was influenced by avant-garde movements and Japanese art. Margaret Preston exhibited with and was a Fellow of RAS.

Mollie Flaxman 1912 – 2004

Mollie Flaxman was a renowned Australian watercolourist. She studied at East Sydney Technical College and has had work exhibited in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She trained at RAS where she later became a Fellow.

Nola Tegel b.1941

Nola Tegel is a well-respected Macarthur based artist best known for her *en plein air* landscapes which capture the Macarthur region. She has exhibited extensively, including solo exhibitions at Maitland Art Gallery and Campbelltown Arts Centre. She received a Diploma of Fine Art from RAS where she is also a Fellow.

Norman Lindsay 1879 – 1969

Norman Lindsay was an influential Australian artist and cartoonist, renowned for his provocative and expressive works. He honed his skills in drawing, etching, and sculpture, and gained prominence with his satirical cartoons for *The Bulletin*. His art often explored bold and risqué themes, challenging the conservative norms of early 20th-century Australia. He exhibited with RAS and was elected as a Fellow.

Normand Baker 1908 – 1955

Normand Henry Baker was an Australian painter whose work featured busy scenes of everyday life. Baker studied at the J.S. Watkins Art School. In 1937 at the age of 29, he became the youngest winner of the Archibald Prize with his self-portrait. His work is held in national collections. He was a Fellow of RAS.

Patricia Johnston b.1932

Patricia Johnston is best known for her watercolour landscape and still-life paintings. She is a well-respected Camden artist who has held numerous exhibitions locally and internationally. In 2024, Johnston won the Camden Art Prize. She earned a Diploma of Art from RAS and became a Fellow.

Rizwana Ahmad b.1948

Rizwana Ahmad is inspired by impressionism, expressionism, and semi-abstraction. She was trained in classical realism graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art, Distinction from Lahore College for Women, Pakistan, and a Master of Arts from the University of Punjab, Pakistan. She has been exhibiting with RAS for almost two decades and is an Associate member.

Rupert Richardson 1929 – 2013

William Rupert Richardson was a post-war contemporary Australian artist who primarily depicted landscapes using watercolours, oils, and acrylics. He was a member of the Australian Watercolour Institute and was a repeat exhibitor in the Wynne Prize in the 1960s and 1970s. He was a Fellow of RAS.



RAS Members - Preston, Coen, Flaxman, Isherwood, Johnston, Tegel, Ahmad, Wray

Sydney Long 1871 – 1955

Sydney Long became Australia's foremost art nouveau artist with his distinct sensual, symbolic scenes of the Australian landscape. Long studied printmaking at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London. He won the Wynne Prize twice, in 1938 and 1940, and was a trustee of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. He was a member of SOA and a Fellow of RAS.

William Dobell 1901 – 1989

William Dobell was a prominent Australian painter renowned for his expressive portraiture. Born in Newcastle, he studied at the Julian Ashton Art School in Sydney and furthered his studies in London. During WWII, he served as an official war artist and later won the Archibald Prize three times along with the Wynne Prize. His legacy continues through the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation. Dobell was not a member or exhibitor with RAS. He was associated with SOA.



Image: RAS Students en plein air painting, Northbridge 1947

Many of the pieces in this exhibition were able to be shared with the public because of the generosity of our lenders and donors, who we wish to sincerely thank for their support.



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