

# SASA NEWSLETTER – November 2011



**PRESIDENT** - Lorna Jakins

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[www.sasa-artists.co.za](http://www.sasa-artists.co.za)

Patrons: Alice Goldin, Sam Nhlengethwa, Conrad Theys

**Secretary** Liz Pearson - PO Box 2574, Clareinch 7740 Tel. 021 671-8941 [secretary@sasa-artists.co.za](mailto:secretary@sasa-artists.co.za)

**Treasurer** 09h00-16h30 Mike Daubermann - 30 Princess Vlei Road, Plumstead 7800 Tel/Fax. 021 761-2060 [hoags@mweb.co.za](mailto:hoags@mweb.co.za)

## ■Forthcoming events in brief



<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>Saturday 19</b>	Painting Outing to Camps Bay Beachfront
	<b>Wednesday 23</b>	Painting Outing to Eagle's Nest, Constantia
	<b>Thursday 24</b>	Monthly Meeting – Eleanor Palmer competition and end of year function
<b>JANUARY 2012</b>	<b>Thursday 26</b>	Monthly meeting – Critique of unselected work
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>Thursday 23</b>	AGM and Drawing competition

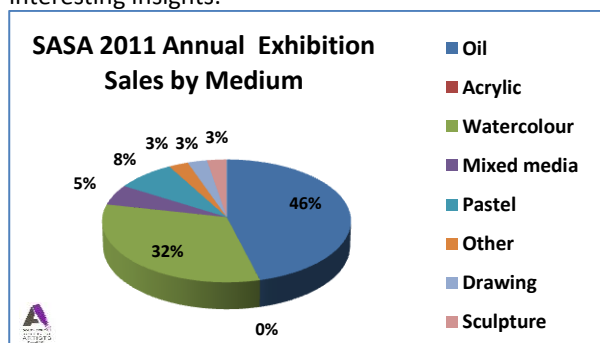
“Painting is easy when you don't know how, but very difficult when you do”. **Edgar Degas**

## ■President's Letter

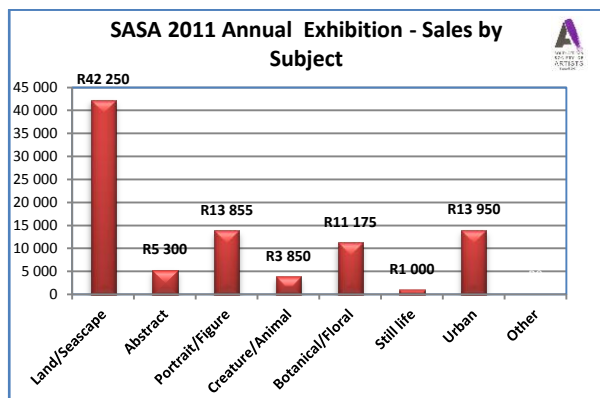
Dear Members

Our 105th Annual Exhibition closed on 9 October and this recession does seem to have hit even the art world! Sales were down this year – not disastrously so - and hopefully it will be a short-lived and mild down-cycle with sales picking up again next year; in fact this was the first year since 2005 that SASA returned a loss at an Annual exhibition - albeit a very small one.

The statistics for the Annual below provide some interesting insights.



Out of a total of 265 works hung by 124 artists, 37 works were sold by 28 artists for a total value of R91,380. One very curious anomaly this exhibition was that no acrylics sold - although 34 were entered! We will shortly be analysing the totals for all exhibitions for the year – and will provide that information to our members in the year-end newsletter. 2011 was in fact an exceptionally busy one for us with 4 major exhibitions at Kirstenbosch instead of the usual 3 and, as part of our Outreach projects, a Children's Poster Art Exhibition at the City Library which is currently running until the end of November. During this year, some 30% more paintings were exhibited than last year - due to the additional exhibition and greater numbers of paintings at each – fetching a total sales value of R359,996! According to a recent article, art is proving a better investment these days than banks.



As you all know, 2012 will be SASA's 110th anniversary. So we'd really like input from our members on any ideas you may have to celebrate this milestone. Your Council is, of course, using this opportunity to brainstorm, plan and discuss directions and new initiatives that we might embark on such as reaching new members perhaps, undertaking new initiatives, re-moulding our image if that is deemed appropriate – and anything else that may be of value. We will be putting together a questionnaire and sending it out by email to everyone. There will even be a section for 'blue-sky' suggestions – those totally out of our reach and impossible to achieve - - - but dreams are wonderful to have! So please do take the

time to fill it in and return it to us so that we may see how we can improve.

Sadly 2 of our council members have told us that they won't be able to continue to serve on the Council next year; Barbara Smithie who has had health problems, and Margie Brunner who has work commitments. We'll miss them both. However, the good news is this now means that we will be seeking 2 new people to join the Council next year at the AGM in February. Now I know you are all absolutely dying to join us to help run your favourite Society, so please do consider

joining the Council and giving some of your time back to SASA – we always need new talent and new perspectives and we need a full committee to handle all the exciting projects and celebrations planned for next year!

I hope to see many of you at our social evening on 24 November - our last meeting for 2011 - and wishing everyone a very happy holiday season. Drive well and keep safe.

Lorna Jakins

## ■ Member News and Happenings

A warm welcome to this month's new members!

Myrtle Acland; Alyson Guy; Elaine Paulsen; Sherri Haupt; Anne Griffiths; Sarah-Ann Wormald and welcome back Annet Denz.

Sad news this month. John Cowan, an Honourary member of the Society, died in September. Honorary membership of SASA was bestowed on John in 1996 for contribution and assistance to the Society. A long standing member, John will be missed and our condolences go to his family.

As part of our Anniversary celebrations, the council has decided not to increase the subscriptions for 2012. They will therefore remain at R220 for the year, with new members paying the R100 entrance fee. You can pay your subs via the internet to SASA, Nedbank Constantia, Branch code 108809, account number 1088006981 or by cheque made out to 'South African Society of Artists' and post to Mike Daubermann, 30 Princessvlei Road, Plumstead, 7800.



## ■ 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

The SASA diary is at this moment in the process of being printed. Not only will the 2012 diary be of use for your engagements, but it is packed full of information on the Society and galleries and general art titbits.

To place your order, please email Glenda Chambers at [gchambers@mweb.co.za](mailto:gchambers@mweb.co.za) or contact her on 082 222 2820. The diaries will be ready for collection mid-December at the Athenaeum. Details will be sent separately.

## ■ Library News

A big thank you to all library users for being so patient with our situation last month. The floor of the Dorothea Bleek room is finished, and the library cupboards are being fixed and re-instated and will be ready for the November meeting.



A reminder to all members with outstanding library books / DVD's and / or Videos, especially those outstanding for more than two months! Can you please make every effort to return these items at the November meeting as other members may be waiting for one or other of the items.

As we did last year, library items may be taken out for TWO months at the November meeting provided that they are return promptly at the January 2012 meeting for stock taking. If you have any queries regarding any aspect of the library, please contact Lynn Douglass on [l.douglass@absamail.co.za](mailto:l.douglass@absamail.co.za) or on 021 554 0182. Remember, library hours are from 17h45 to 18h45.

## ■ Web site and Blog

The web site [www.sasa-artists.co.za](http://www.sasa-artists.co.za) will keep you up to date with what's happening in the Society. It also documents the history of SASA, a society with a long and distinguished pedigree. The blog is more of a chat forum and we invite you to leave comments. Go to <http://sasartists.blogspot.com>. The blog also has information on Art Teachers, Models and Exhibitions. If you have information you would like to be included, please email [secretary@sasa-artists.co.za](mailto:secretary@sasa-artists.co.za).



## ■SASA Programme - What's on

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### MONTHLY MEETINGS

SASA Monthly Meetings are held at the Athenaeum, Boundary Terraces, off Campground Road, Newlands, on the last Thursday of every month at 19h00. Entry is R10 for members and R20 for guests, including refreshments.

At our October meeting we were lucky to host Mel Elliott who gave us insights and directions on 'Surviving and Thriving' in the art world. In addition, we also had Tony Huggett of Rebul Packaging demonstrate their remarkable packaging material, and to assist with professional reproduction and custom printing, Stephen Gibson of Art Assist was there to answer questions (see his ad below).

### Thursday 24 November at 19h00

**THE ELEANOR PALMER COMPETITION AND END OF YEAR FUNCTION:** This is an open subject competition in any medium, and will follow the same procedures as our other in-house competitions. Remember, you have to be there to enter!

Eleanor Palmer was a long-standing member of the society, as well as a prolific artist. While she was president of SASA, she presented a cup to the society to be awarded at an annual event at the Athenaeum. This competition, combined with a social evening, marks the end of the SASA calendar for the year. Each member is invited to submit one artwork of their choice.

All members are requested to bring an appropriate plate of eats (such as finger-food or snacks) to add to the occasion. Wine, fruit juice, tea, coffee and glasses will be provided. All partners, friends and family are very welcome to come along as guests, but please note that only members may cast votes in the competition.

Rules for the Eleanor Palmer Competition: (Please read carefully, to avoid disappointment.)

- Only paid-up members and honorary members may participate.
- Entrants must be present on the evening.
- One entry per member.
- Work may be in any medium.
- Works do not have to be framed.
- Work may not be copied from any source material (eg, publications such as magazines) with the exception of where the artist is the author/owns the copyright to the image. Our standard copyright rules apply, and if in doubt, please contact Liz Pearson for clarity.
- Work submitted must be the original hand-made work and cannot be a photographic or electronic reproduction.
- Work may not be submitted if it has been done in a class convened by an art teacher, nor if it has been previously entered in any SASA competition or exhibition.
- Work entered may be submitted for selection to a future SASA exhibition.

Each work will be allocated a number, and voting will be by those members who are present. Happy painting!

### Thursday January 26, 2012 at 19h00

**A SPECIAL CRIT EVENING:** Our three judges from Selection Day will be our guests at the first meeting of 2012. Andrew Lamprecht, Natalie Hirschman and Derric van Rensburg will be available to those artists who put in work at Selection Day. If you would like your work to be assessed by our judges, please email [secretary@sasa-artists.co.za](mailto:secretary@sasa-artists.co.za) by the end of November so we can get an idea of the volume that will need to be processed.

### Thursday February 23, 2012 at 19h00

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and DRAWING COMPETITION:** Each February the AGM is held to select council members and to advise on the current financial status of the Society. Two of the current council members are standing down and we need to replace them. Please remember that this is YOUR society and if you would like to stand for council, please let the secretary know on [secretary@sasa-artists.co.za](mailto:secretary@sasa-artists.co.za) or phone either Liz Pearson on 021 671 8941 or Lorna Jakins on 021 555 3993.

The Annual SASA **Drawing Competition** will follow the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The theme for this competition is "**Reflections**", and participating artists should be inspired by this theme, although the word may be interpreted in any way you choose.

- All works should be new, recent works that are appropriate to the theme.
- There will only be one category for entries, with prizes awarded to the top three chosen works.
- Only members present on the evening are eligible to vote.
- All paid-up members present on the evening are allowed to submit one entry.

- Please ensure that your work is suitably mounted, or, if presented in a sketchbook, please provide bulldog clips to open the book to the appropriate page and a firm support in order to prop up the page for viewing.
- The competition is a monochrome (Single-colour) drawing competition. Therefore, only drawing techniques are permitted, using one drawing medium in any one colour. For example, charcoal on paper or support (an unpainted surface). Other drawing media may be used, such as pencil, graphite, conté or pen.
- No work containing brushwork or solvents will be allowed. (For example, watercolours or pastel diluted with turpentine are not permitted.)
- Printmaking is ineligible in this competition, although the preparatory sketches on which it is based are welcome.
- Please observe the spirit of the competition and abide by the above guidelines.
- Please remember when working from source material (such as photographs), that these must be your own, or those to which you own the copyright by express written permission. Images from magazines, newspapers and other artists' work are automatically protected by intellectual property law and are subject to copyright protection. Please take note of this now, so as not to be disappointed on the evening.

## ■SASA Exhibitions

**The 2012 Merit Exhibition:** We are currently waiting for Kirstenbosch to allocate the 2012 exhibition dates. We have applied for February, so all those members who qualified for the Merit are requested to have their work ready by the beginning of the month.

### Other Exhibitions:

21 - 26 November: **The Western Cape Doctors Art Group** are holding their Annual Exhibition to be held at Constantiaberg Mediclinic in Plumstead. The opening will be at 18h00 on Sunday 20 November. Please contact Peter Nicolle on 021 683 1974 or email [pnicolle@worldonline.co.za](mailto:pnicolle@worldonline.co.za) for more information.

8 - 13 December: **The Watercolour Society** in Somerset West held their selection day recently for their Watercolour and "Little Gems" Annual Merit Exhibition. First prize was awarded to Marion Langton, and Diane White won the "Little Gems" prize. The judges were Charles van der Merwe and Johann Burger, and gallery owner Avril Gardner. The two exhibitions will run together. The opening is at 17h00 on Wednesday 7 December in the Circle Centre in Somerset West.

**The Arts Association of Bellville** and Unisa invite you to the opening of the exam exhibition by the Unisa 2011 third year visual arts and multimedia students. Exhibition opens on Tuesday 22 November 2011, 18:30 for 19:00. Opening speaker: Emma Willemse. The exhibition ends 12 January 2012.

**Art in the Forest**, a stunning art gallery and ceramics studio located in Cecilia Forest, Constantia Nek, Cape Town, is pleased to present a group exhibition entitled "Passages", comprising artworks by young emerging artists based in Johannesburg and surrounding areas. The artworks – linocuts, etchings, screen prints, mono prints, collages – offer the artists' reflections on the challenges and opportunities in daily life. Visit this exhibition at Art in the Forest from the 17 November through December 2011. The gallery is open Monday to Saturday between 10h00 and 16h00. From Constantia Nek, walk or drive up the road through beautiful Cecilia Forest. Please contact Catherine Bolton at [catherine@lightfromafrica.com](mailto:catherine@lightfromafrica.com) or call her on 021 794 0291 / 071 795 7521 for more information. To find out more about the Foundation, please visit [www.lightfromafrica.com](http://www.lightfromafrica.com).

## ■Plein Air Painting Outings

Please bring your own, lunch, tea, easel, chair, sunhat, etc. Sun protection is a necessity, so plenty of suntan lotion. No dogs please!



**19 November: Camps Bay Beachfront.** We will be there from 09h00 and you can paint for the entire day if you want to.

Meet near the traffic lights on the Hout Bay side of Beach Road. Parking is available – get there early to ensure you get a parking spot. For further info contact Liz Kantor on 021 555 0870 or 083 703 3769.

**23 November: Eagle's Nest, Constantia:** 09h30-1300. This beautiful setting, with spectacular views of the mountains and vineyards, has proved very popular with the outdoor painters. We visited this farm in October last year and again in May this year, but there were many requests to return. Eagles Nest is on Old Constantia Main Road.

Directions: From Constantia proceed up the Constantia Main Road in the direction of Hout Bay. Eagle's Nest is well sign posted and situated on the left at a sharp bend before the road becomes steeper towards Constantia Nek. Please sign in at the security booms at entrance (they will be expecting artists) and make your way up to the very top

parking lot on the left where we will meet. Members can visit [www.eaglesnestwines.com](http://www.eaglesnestwines.com) for more details. You can enjoy a wine tasting there too and purchase wines. It is the start of their busy season and they can only accommodate 10 cars, so booking is essential. Contact Helen by sms or email. Convener: Helen van Stolk. 082 785 7288 or [helenvstolk@gmail.com](mailto:helenvstolk@gmail.com).

## ■ Arty Facts

If you have any information about anything different and appealing on the market, please contact Cherry Nichols on [cherry@telkomsa.net](mailto:cherry@telkomsa.net) or Liz Pearson on [lizp@iafrica.com](mailto:lizp@iafrica.com).

### Permanent Masking Fluid

This is used to mask specific areas of paper making them resistant to water. It can be mixed with watercolours and then you can isolate areas of fine detail. Sections treated with this medium must be allowed to dry completely before over-painting. A hair dryer can be used to speed the drying. Once dry these areas remain protected and cannot be penetrated by further washes.

It can be applied directly to the paper, to dried washes on paper or mixed with watercolours first. All watercolour washes mixed with this medium remain open and workable whilst the wash is still wet. More colours can also be added. Once dry, the area becomes isolated. This masking fluid is not rubbed off; it remains as is, unlike the previous masking fluid.

### Olio HD

This is a brand new range of oil paints by Maimeri. Every one of the 30 colours in this range is transparent! Excellent news for artists who paint in layers or with a lot of glazing. Because of the wide range of colours, artists are now able to mix any colours they choose, and still get a transparent result, Even the whites are transparent. HD comes in 75ml tubes.

*From the pen of Gus Kennedy, SASA member and owner of the Italian Artshop ...*

Mention the word "technical" and most artists yawn and turn over the page! But the materials we use as artists have a profound effect on the quality of the pictures we produce.

Firstly, beware that there are unfortunately no standards on what constitutes an AQ (Artist Quality) or an SQ (Student Quality) paint! So the fact that the label may say "Artist Quality" doesn't help much, unless you take into consideration the Manufacturers brand reputation and probably the price of the paint. There are many paints passed off as AQ when they clearly are not even as good as some SQ paints from a reputable brand!

The main differences between AQ and SQ paints are:

**Pigment Concentration**- this is the costliest item in a tube of paint and therefore the one that will always be much stronger in a proper AQ paint. Strong concentration will produce stronger colours and tones which can always be diluted if need be but can never be obtained from an SQ paint.

**Milling Fineness**- most AQ paints are milled much finer than SQ paints and therefore spread further. AQ paints are often referred to as Extra fine and SQ paints as Fine, this really refers to the milled particle size.

**Pigment Quality**- some pigments are just not as good as others and are therefore cheaper to use. Also a paint labelled as a (Hue) actually contains none of the real pigment!! eg Cadmium yellow (hue) has no Cadmium in it whatsoever, but rather the manufacturer's closest financially viable substitute!

**Number of pigments per colour**- this needs some explanation as it is seldom appreciated by artists and yet is very important. If you examine the pigments in a tube of say, Yellow Ochre, you may well find in an AQ paint there is just 1 pigment whereas in SQ there are 3 different pigments used to create the "same" yellow ochre colour. Now remember that whenever you mix pigments together you typically get a slight dulling and sometimes unknown results. So if you mix 2 AQ colours (eg. Yellow Ochre and Ivory Black) that each have 1 pigment per colour, you are mixing only 2 pigments together whereas if you mix the same 2 SQ colours together you may well be mixing 6 pigments together- resulting in considerable more chance of a dull muddy mixture! Extend this to mixing 3 colours together and you begin to see the problem!

**Quality of the Binder**- Pure paint consists of pigment particles suspended in a binder. For oil paints this binder is typically Linseed, Safflower or Poppy oil. There are differences between these which are too numerous to go into here. Be aware though, that just as there are many different qualities of Olive oil ranging from pure cold pressed extra virgin to the horrible chemically extracted stuff, so too are there in, for example, Linseed Oil. Cheaper oils are chemically extracted in harsh processes which adversely change their colouring and handling characteristics. The quality, for example, of linseed oil used in the whole painting process really does make a difference not only to the paint but to the mediums used whilst painting. Some cheaper paint manufacturers use untested vegetable oils such as sunflower and canola. Be aware of the binder used in the paints you buy - it does make a difference! (Read the label just as you

would if purchasing a foodstuff, and beware if you can't find the information anywhere, or if your art shop cannot definitively give you the information.) Similarly not all watercolour or acrylic binders are created equal and therefore make a vast difference to the quality of the paint.

**Additives-** many manufacturers add additives and fillers to their paints especially their SQ paints to take the place of pigment and make them cheaper. This is reasonable as you can't expect to get AQ paints at SQ prices!

Often beginners think that an "oily" oil paint is a sign of an inferior product when in fact it is usually a sign of a purer product made in the old fashioned way. Don't be concerned if you squeeze out paint and a bit of pure oil comes out. Some manufacturers add wax to their paints to try and keep the pigment in suspension. This leads to a stiffer paint and according to the Italians is not favoured as it dulls the pigment slightly, but opinions on this will differ.

**Lightfastness-** Artists often think that purchasing an AQ paint will guarantee better light-fastness than an

SQ paint. Counter-intuitively, this is not necessarily so at all!

ALL the pigments used, for example, in Maimeri's Classico (an SQ oil) are completely lightfast whereas there are some pigments used in their Artisti (an AQ oil) range that are lightfast under normal conditions but not under extremes. This is because in the Artisti range some of the older pigments still need to be manufactured for restoration and continuity purposes. The concern about light-fastness these days is in my opinion overdone and is a hangover from past eras when it was a legitimate concern. Modern day pigments used by established and reputable brands do not typically exhibit the noticeable fading of previous era pigments, unless the painting is hung in direct sunlight. Most manufacturers provide their own lightfast testing results, so as with other labelling beware of research claims from non-established manufacturers.

If you are unsure of anything, ask your art store. Insist on speaking to someone who knows the products intimately.

## ■ Requests, Opportunities and Information

Teachers, Exhibitions, Models and all sorts of information are listed on the blog. Go to <http://sasartists.blogspot.com> and click on the relevant heading. Also on the side bar of the blog are a list of our members' web sites and blogs. Have a look and if you have a web site or blog and want it listed, email [lizp@iafrica.com](mailto:lizp@iafrica.com), and we'll put you on.

**Village Brush and Canvas**, the art shop situated in Belvedere Square (corner Belvedere and Keurboom Roads in Claremont), and their sister shop, **The Art Shop**, in Hermanus at 13 Mitchell Street, are now offering all SASA members a 10% discount on art materials. Both shops stock an extensive range of both artist quality and student quality materials. Contact Village Brush and Canvas on 021 674 3022, email [derekg@ibox.co.za](mailto:derekg@ibox.co.za) and for Hermanus, telephone 028 312 3901, email [theartshop@telkomsa.net](mailto:theartshop@telkomsa.net).

**Deckle Edge, Woodstock**, will be moving just down the road to 130 Sir Lowry Road in Woodstock. They will be open at 88 Upper Roodebloem Road until 13h00 on Saturday 19th November and will then be closed for one week while they move. Doors at the new store will open at 130 Sir Lowry Road at 08h30 on Monday 28th November. The **Willowbridge** branch will close at the end of trade on the 30th November by which time the new Woodstock Branch will be up and running.



### The ITALIAN ARTSHOP

**VISIT US AT OUR NEW SHOP**  
We have some exciting new products in stock,  
and many more on their way!

*Here are some great Christmas ideas:*

- Art DVD's- great selection in all mediums
- Unison pastel sets- we have dark sets, light sets, portrait sets, landscape sets, introductory sets, and more. Or simply choose a set of your own from our 420 colours!
- We have some fabulous reservoir brushes for watercolours arriving in November
- Classico oil painting sets
- The ultimate gift- an Italian made box easel from Mabef!!!





Tel 021-6851877  
[info@italianartshop.co.za](mailto:info@italianartshop.co.za)

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"Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures." **Henry Ward Beecher**