



AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE
& FINE ARTS SOCIETIES

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

by Fiona Johnson

The 2020 Lecture Series was launched in style in mid- February by Charles Harris who presented fascinating lectures on *Alphons Mucha* and *A.M. Cassandre* considering their design, style and influence from an advertising perspective. I am sure you will agree Charles' lectures were both well delivered and the content interesting. Since the lectures, have you Googled (or even sipped) Moet & Chandon champagne? Or perhaps, watched an episode of Agatha Christie's *Poirot*?

On a more serious note, ADFAS Perth is keenly aware of the recent health developments and the government's announcements about the COVID-19 pandemic. Your health and safety is of paramount importance so we are working hard with the national Association to find options to resolve foreseeable issues. When we have more information, we will certainly advise you of developments.

If we need to modify the programme (and it looks like we probably will), we have come up with some replacement ideas but, of course, they need approved by the national association before we can develop them further. Stay tuned to our Facebook [page](#) for the most immediate updates. We will also send out an eNewsletter so if you are not subscribed, you can do so [here](#).

On a happier note, I am pleased to announce that ADFAS Perth in 2020 has introduced a select number of special additional arts events. While the first events, unfortunately had to be cancelled including the visit to Phillipa Nikulinsky's glorious garden studio, the new members welcome event at John Curtin Gallery, and exclusive partnership events with the West Australia Ballet, we hope to reschedule those events and announce others in the future.

You may be interested to know 2020 marks for ADFAS Perth a year of consolidation as most administrative matters are now complete Our membership is currently 140, only slightly less than last year. So welcome back and welcome all.

On a national level there are 20 new chairpersons amongst the 39 societies. Our Hon Treasurer, Peter Farr who was invited to present two workshops on administrative and finance matters at the national conference (recently cancelled) will still do so electronically.

I would also like to thank outgoing committee members Denise Ellis Brice and Pippa Hegvold for their contributions. Denise, in particular, as Secretary of ADFAS Perth needs acknowledgment for setting up meticulous systems and documentation that will be of lasting benefit to us.

Please take care all until we next meet in happier and safer times.

ADFAS PERTH YOUTH ARTS AWARD

With the uncertainty of these times, the committee has taken the decision to postpone the Youth Arts Award. We look forward to bringing it back either later this year or next year.

TRAVEL TALES

This edition's contributor is our chair, Fiona Johnson who shares highlights from her incredible day at Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art (MONA).

"What a day it was," she enthusiastically begins.

"And quite memorable still! Standing at the Brooke Street Pier waiting to catch the ferry, I had no idea what awaited me in Posh Pit class and at the museum.

"Sipping champagne and indulging in fine nibbles at 9 o'clock in the morning was a sign of the good things to come!"

MONA's owner, art collector, professional gambler and businessman, David Walsh created the largely subterranean museum to be approached by water, as their website says: *like an island-top temple in ancient Greece awaiting the ocean-borne arrival of the faithful.*

The leisurely 25-minute ferry journey up the Derwent River affords glimpses of domestic scenes, some light industry and MONA infrastructure – such is its power and presence in Tasmania's capital city, Hobart. As you approach MONA, you sense its strong physical presence in the landscape – it wants you to know it's there.

"Disembarking the ferry, I found myself jostled along with the expectant crowd to enter the cavernous building. I descended to the bottom where the summer exhibitions were being held. Tightly snug against the many other visitors, I was treated to Egyptian mummies and so much truly contemporary, thought provoking, challenging and in some regards, disturbing art.



"I had fun watching others view the art in a voyeuristic way – laughing at a dad quickly redirecting his family from a wall of plaster casts of, being delicate, ladies' private parts. I was repulsed yet intrigued by the intestinal tract created for MONA, attending that particular room at perhaps the WRONG time, let's just say a pungent aroma guides you there.

"I gradually re-surfaced almost a whole day absorbed in the art and experience. The terrace café served delicious and healthy food and late in the day, I easily got a good seat overlooking the Derwent in the grassed garden.

"What a FABULOUS day of learning, experience and ART; if you haven't been, GO (once it is safe to do, of course)!"



Be warned: Some artworks may be confronting and/or not suitable for children.



A BANJO PATTERSONESQUE ODE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

by Caroline Boehm, Chairperson, Association of ADFAS Inc

There were ructions at head office, for the word had passed around
That the speakers from Old Blighty were very thin upon the ground.

And who of us had ever heard of Wuhan or Hubei?

But now we're panic-buying 'niceties' in Coles and on eBay

But the lecturers committee girls are made of sterner stuff

When the going gets quite tricky they all show that they are tough.

'We shall not be defeatist!', their valiant leader cried

The program shall continue, even though we're stuck inside.'

The EC rallied quickly with eyes so brightly gleaming

(Though one of them was heard to say, "What *is* this video-streaming?")

Ideas for online content started flowing thick and fast

Jane got quite excited and hoped that quarantine would last

Long enough for her to binge-watch every item on the list

"These 12-hour tours of galleries must simply not be missed"

Across a sunburnt country, chairmen waited for the call

Advising cancellation of their venues, big or small.

Emboldened by their mentor, they channelled nerves of steel

And answered pleas for refunds with: "All shoulders to the wheel!"

So, Dear Reader, never doubt that by ADFAS hook or crook

We will keep the arts flag flying over Flinders, Hume and Cook.

And when the future membership our history annals scour

As one their voices will declare: "This was their finest hour!"

ADFAS PERTH INFORMATION

This newsletter is quarterly. For more regular news, subscribe to our eNews [here](#) and/or join the ADFAS Perth Facebook group [here](#).

Buy membership [here](#).

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ABOUT US

ADFAS Perth Committee members are:

Chair: **Fiona Johnson**

Vice Chair: **Kay Campbell**

Treasurer: **Peter Farr**

Secretary:

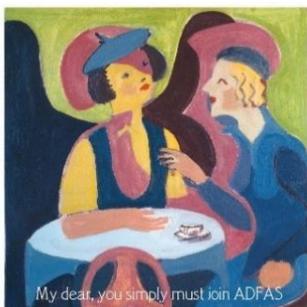
Marketing: **Leanne Casellas**

Committee members: **Mariana Atkins, Phillida Preston**

New members (and sponsors) are *always* welcome so please make yourself known to us at events or email us [here](#).

ADFAS Perth is a wholly volunteer run organisation. If you'd like to help, then please get in touch: many hands make light work!

If you have some arty travel tales to tell or recommendations from your latest jaunts, we'd love to hear them! Please send 350 words maximum with 4-5 jpg format photos to: perth@adfas.org.au.



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