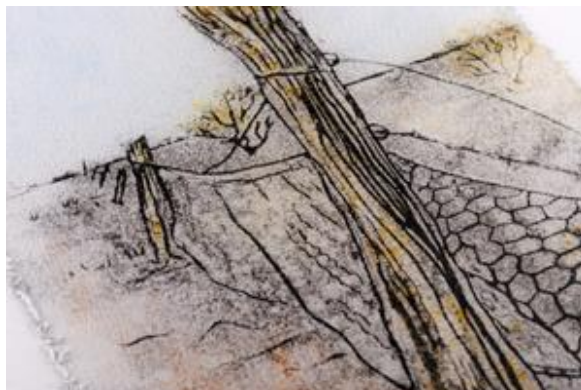


The South Australian School of Art History Project Report February 2011



Kaz Pederson's response to her participation in a *White Glove Event* at the Art Gallery of South Australia. In 2010 Kaz was a third year student working in glass. For full story see: http://www.friendsasa.com/sasahistoryproject_Update.html

Recent events/news

2011 represents the 150th anniversary of the School's *official* opening in the Institute Building on North Terrace and this year The South Australian School of Art History Project continues to discover, develop and produce research about the School's fascinating history. The latest activities and news include:

1. A published review of *A White Glove Event* at the Art Gallery of South Australia on 22 October 2010 by Dr. Avis Smith, researcher and artist. (See link to Friends of SASA Website http://www.friendsasa.com/assets/The%20White%20Glove%20Event_Dr%20Avis%20Smith.pdf)
2. Regular information about SASA History Project activities, including SASA History Project reports are posted on the Friends of SASA website and in Friends of SASA Newsletters. See link:http://www.friendsasa.com/sasahistoryproject_Update.html
3. A Bibliography of Stanley Street resources has been developed by Dr Jenny Aland (see [link http://www.friendsasa.com/assets/SASA%20Stanley%20Street_Bibliography_16%20Nov%202010.pdf](http://www.friendsasa.com/assets/SASA%20Stanley%20Street_Bibliography_16%20Nov%202010.pdf))
4. Dr Aland has also recently completed for publication a research paper, *20 Years of Graduates, 1958-1978*. This is to be published online by Friends of SASA and has already been assigned an ISBN number.
5. Dr Aland and myself have responded to a number of requests for SASA historical information by people conducting genealogical research involving former staff and/or students (e.g. Jessamine Buxton). In particular, Dr Aland has responded in great detail with significant research information and in return for this information, we have requested access to images of privately owned works that were created by these artists.
6. Dr Aland recently 'unearthed' some exciting 'new' SASA archives 'buried' in UniSA's Library Reserve Collection. These are of:

- *The School of Design Art Club* archives from the 1890s and early 1900s and feature original art works, including watercolours by H P Gill, George Reynolds etc. as well as original hand written articles by member artists which include accounts of 'A skating trip to Thistle Island'. 'It was just mind blowing', comments Dr Aland, 'to see this original work
- There is also one issue of the *Paint Pot Club* from a School of Fine Arts in North Adelaide from the 1920s-1930s.
- The UniSA Library has all issues of *The Forerunner* magazine - about 8 volumes which were produced mostly by Mary Packer Harris and her students during the 1930s. There are illustrations in these magazines - some in colour.

After being invited to view this collection, researcher, artist and Friends member, Dr. Avis Smith was also excited about seeing this material at first hand which has inspired her to create new art work for the next Friends' exhibition.

Dr Aland noted how helpful UniSA Library staff were in accessing this material.

Because of the archive's extreme fragility and preciousness, she has spent considerable time colour photocopying much of this archive for future use. This will provide an accessible 'treasure trove' of research material and it should be noted that all such SASA History Project resources will be made available through the UniSA Library at the conclusion of the project/s.

Funding the History Project.

To date, the SASA History Project has been supported by the Friends of SASA through modest funds and largely volunteer research and organisation. There is a dearth of histories on art schools in Australasia and where these have been produced, they have been funded by major art institutions, including Universities; for example, Queensland College of Art history was funded by Griffith University in 2006; Elam School of Fine Arts will be funded by the University of Auckland for the 2015 125 anniversary celebrations and Ilam School of Fine Arts was funded by Christchurch Art Gallery and the University of Canterbury as an online-only archive. At a time when many 'craft' sections of art schools are being 'rationalised' (read discontinued) by corporate universities, such histories become even more important repositories of information and knowledge for today's aspiring artists and teachers.

Friends of SASA/SASA History Project Sub-committee

Currently, a sub-committee of the Friends of SASA, in conjunction with the SASA History Project committee has been established to investigate the situation of funding of this project, which like all published research is extremely expensive and time consuming. This sub-committee will continue meeting during the first half of 2011.

Grant Application

In 2010 we applied to the South Australian History Trust for funds (\$5000) towards the writing up of research into the proposed publication *The Stanley Street Years* in 2011. This is a small fund with a very competitive field of applicants (71 applicants in 2010 for \$35,000 total in grants). Although we were not successful in this round, we received very positive feedback that ours was an 'excellent' application and the reason it was not funded was because the applicants (Dr Aland and myself) were not official members of the Accredited Professional Historians Association!

Nevertheless this exercise proved to be a valuable opportunity to reflect on our achievements to date and to compile a 'dossier' of information towards future grant applications. The encouragement and esteem of our referees, Jack Cross, Professor Ian North, Jack Condous and Max Lyle was very generous. Thank you for your enthusiastic support.

Other news**Resignation from Friends Board**

Due to increasing responsibilities in my role as Portfolio Leader of Research Education and related duties on the School Executive I will have little time for external commitments this year, especially since a recent reduction in senior staff. Because of these demands and my desire to maximise my research participation in the South Australian School of Art History Project, I will be stepping down from my position on the Friends of South Australian School of Art Board as Art, Architecture and Design Head of School nominee from February 2011. The History Project remains dear to my heart and I will continue leading the project, with the much appreciated and invaluable assistance of Dr Jenny Aland and the SASA History Project Committee.

Dr Pamela J Zeplin

Chair/Convenor, South Australian School of Art History Project Committee

14 February 2011