

Art.b Annual General Meeting 2021 - Chairperson's Report

1. Introduction

The past year posed many challenges to the art society. As soon as the lockdown due to Covid-19 came into play the committee had to make major changes to keep the ship afloat. At first we hoped the restrictions would only last for a limited period, but the restrictions got tighter.

Thanks to the able and willing expert in online communications and commerce, Warren Kirkman, the gallery could continue exhibiting thanks to an online presence. The committee steered through those trying times by upgrading the website and professionalising this facility. At this point in time a buyer can purchase art at this gallery from overseas, pay via EFT and have the acquisition delivered at their home address.

At first there were weekly zoom meetings - which Warren also facilitated – consuming a lot of hours of each committee member. For this I want to extend my sincere thanks to Anne, Warren, Zelda, Laurette, Jeanine, Koos and Linsey for going the extra kilometre to ensure that art.b's name be held in high regard by art lovers, collectors and artists.

2. Exhibitions

It was near impossible to fix the year planner for the past year due to all the uncertainties that surrounded every date awarded to artists and events we had committed to. The following exhibitions did go through and, due to Covid-19 restrictions, every exhibition since May 2020 was showed on the art.b website.

- Members Exhibition
- Ceramics Exhibition
- Tiny Treasures
- Committees choice plus one
- Apart/A part – on lockdown art
- Emergent (emerging artists which included best matriculants from art centres and high schools)
- Forgotten Treasures
- Members 2021
- Theo Paul Vorster – Looking Back
- Liknaitzky and Van Schalkwyk

3. Forthcoming exhibitions

- 15 May: The New Normal
- 5 June: Tiny Treasures
- 4 August: Vuleka – art competition
- 7,8 September: Collection and selection of Sasol New Signatures
- 22 September: Ceramics
- 20 October: The secret history

The committee will try to fill the months where cancellations yet again happened.

4. Closing remarks

The committee had a fruitful strategic planning session and a delightful end of year event at the home of Koos van Bergen. Each member of the committee played an extremely valuable role in running the art society in troubling times, but I want to extend special thanks the treasurer and stalwart of the society, Anne Wells. She has steered this valuable community asset – which is art.b - through many years and is willing to serve even longer. As she has often told me: “Bellville deserves a proper art society with opportunities for established and emerging artists to promote their work.”

Special thanks also to Daleen Louw (office manager) and Stephen who is always willing to help with the hanging of art work, and all the volunteers supporting the society to function smoothly.

To have been part of the committee the past two years was delightful and educational for me. Thank you for the loyal and diligent team that we could be.

Fanie Marais

17 April 2021