

RAMA

POLISH ART FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Edition December 2023

Contemporary Drawing Biennale -October 2023

After a four year break the Polish Art Foundation has once again hosted its well known drawing competition. This time round we gave a little more focus to our locally residing artists, with international entries encouraged, and warmly received. We expanded our rules for engagement and received a great selection of works, with a total of 50 artists participating in the competition.

The exhibition of selected works took place in the *No Vacancy Gallery*, a raw contemporary space, centrally located in the Melbourne CBD, which gave the event a new feel. The Opening was attended by a vibrant crowd of artists, patrons, and VIPs and was another great milestone for PAF.

Congratulations to all our Contemporary Drawing Biennale 2023 winners.

Grand Prix Prize: Michael Kemp – ‘Surveillance Camera: 1’

Innovation Prize: Annie Burns – 'Show some heart'

Highly Commended:

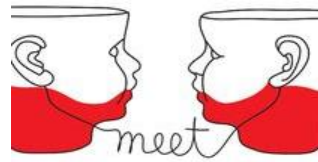
- Wendy Pfeiffer – ‘Once upon a time’
- James Boden – ‘Bahmut’
- Oksana Waterfall – ‘Objects of affection’

People Choice Award: Gulliver Glac-Kozel – 'The Cassowary'

To view the catalogue, visit www.polishartfoundation.org.au



From L to R: Samara Adamson-Pinchewski, Robert Clinch (judges) Michael Kemp (artist – winner of Grand Prix Prize) Anna Maciejewska- PAF President, Grazyna Kubic, PAF Curator. Contemporary Drawing Biennale Opening Night, Thursday 19 October 2023.



Our PAF Art Meet initiative continued throughout the year, with visits to the *Convent in Abbotsford* in March, a visit at *Jarek Wojcik's studio* in June, and an expedition to *Ian's Potter Gallery*. We closed the year with another artist talk by Agata Mayes and Margarita Krivitsky in November at the *Yarra Sculpture Gallery*.

If you are interested in joining our mailing list for our events next year, email us at polishartfoundation@gmail.com. You are also welcome to email us your suggestions!

Make sure you subscribe to our Facebook and Instagram for event updates.



A very popular visit at the studio of artist Jarek Wojcik.

We invite everyone to look at our updated Constitution document now found on our revised web page.

HOLD THE DATE: PAF Annual General Meeting (AGM)

We invite all our paid members and interested parties to our upcoming AGM.

When: Friday, 1 March 2024

Time: 7.00 PM for a 7.30PM start

Where: Meeting Room B - Oakleigh Hall, 142-144 Drummond Street Oakleigh

More information will be circulated in February 2024.

A big thank you to Gosia Kurban



Gosia Kurban has formally left PAF as our long-standing graphic artist in 2023. Gosia volunteered with the foundation for ten years and has been instrumental in developing our posters, invitations, past website, and exhibition catalogues.

We are delighted to hear that Gosia will now be able to spend more time on her own artistic endeavours, which we had the privilege of exhibiting in the past, and hope to see much more of in the future.

Thank you Gosiu for your wonderful contribution and your ever-present smile.

Seeking a graphic designer for PAF

If you would like to support the Polish Art Foundation and the creative community by donating your time and talent to developing our regular graphic collateral, then we would very much like to hear from you. **For further information please contact Anna, PAF President on 0427 710 418 or email the foundation polishartfoundation@gmail.com.**

We look forward to hearing from you as we make plans for 2024.

It is with great sadness that we farewelled our well known and loved artist Roman Liebach
in December of this year.



ROMAN LIEBACH
Looking for More in The Ordinary
8cm wide strip of aluminium, painted
Base: 71 x 59cm acrylic perspex

A simple, familiar form of a knot, made using common techniques of cutting and bending, intended to appear as an unpretentious, inspiring the minds sculptural object.

As a sculptural form it has been intended to offer viewers something more than a brief sensory experience through the possibility of exploration of its curvy lines and the play of positive-negative spaces.

Where has your interest in the arts sprung from?

I enjoyed being creative as a child, and my enjoyment of ideas really came a few years later in my early teens. I find that ideas expressed in the visual arts are naturally easier to appreciate. Art provides an arena in which to explore boundaries ranging from the deeply personal to the broadly conceptual. This is, to me, is hugely appealing.

What is your favourite medium?

I'm continually correcting and adjusting artworks as they evolve, and they go through stages of being messy, so I'm happy with any medium that allows me to work that way. I use oil paint a lot because it dries slowly. This means the painting remains workable for a long time, which give me opportunities to reflect and think about the direction the painting is heading in. I use a variety of paint brushes to apply the paint, and an assortment of scourers and other materials to remove or rework what has already been applied to the canvas.

Did you pursue formal art studies?

I have a Bachelor of Fine Art from Victoria College in Prahran. When I reflect on my student days, I was naive and undisciplined; but I did have good educators around me, and I learned a lot that is still useful today.

What inspires you?

I paint about the complexity and ambiguity of people. I can paint it better than I can describe it in words. These days I look at photos of people caught in CCTV cameras. Mostly, these photos are viewed in relation to a crime or an illegal activity. We make judgements about them. A photo can decide a person's guilt or innocence; it can determine the kind of future they will have. I'm interested in the complexity of people, and somewhere between that complexity and the socially limiting use of CCTV images is a tension that I find really fascinating.

What is your greatest artistic achievement?

I don't really think of them as achievements, but there are individual artworks that stand out. They stand out for different reasons. A painting conveys it's meaning more effectively, or it may just be more pleasing to explore. These artworks provide the moments that I find most rewarding.

How has your association with the Polish Art Foundation allowed you to showcase your work?

As the recipient of the Polish Art Foundation Contemporary Drawing prize for 2023, I have been able to discuss and exchange ideas with individuals from a broader creatively engaged community. It has been exciting to participate in this generously funded event.



A recent triptych by Michael Kemp, titled 'Camera:1 - 10.17.24'

[More images ... Contemporary Drawing Biennale 2023](#)





Dear Artists and Friends of PAF,

**Wishing you all a very joyful celebration of Christmas and a truly inspirational and rewarding
New Year 2024.**

Warm Regards Team PAF

**We would also like to use this opportunity to thank our sponsors and supporters who assisted
us throughout 2023.**

