



ArtsNational Gold Coast NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

Formerly the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society
& Associate Member of the Arts Society UK



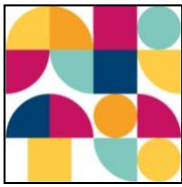
VIGNETTE: LEILA JEFFREYS (in collaboration with Melvin J. Montalban) *TEMPLE*

From the Chair

What a pleasure it is to have a newsletter reflecting our post pandemic world where members have experienced first-hand the diverse culture of our planet! I thank Val Shooter for the wonderful work she has carried out and all the contributors for this important document. The newsletter is mainly for our members but hopefully interested friends and colleagues can benefit from the information. It shows some of the advantages of membership.

A special mention must go to Wendy Spencer. Not only has she organised and coordinated two superb events, she has recorded them for posterity. Members' smiling images reflect the quality of these occasions.

Nearer home we have some significant exhibitions. The Logan gallery's *Brett Whiteley: Inside the Studio* runs until September 7th. The paintings on display are quite rare and unusual. This is a small but important presentation from the Brett Whiteley Gallery in Sydney.



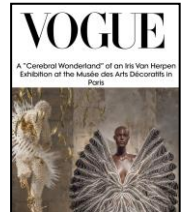
Brett Whiteley: Inside the Studio offers a rare and intimate insight into the 'artist's world' through the art and life of one of the most admired and intensely creative figures of twentieth century Australia. Since 1995, the Brett Whiteley Studio has operated as a public museum, presenting an extraordinary time capsule of Whiteley's art and life. The preserved world of Whiteley's work is paint splattered and graffitied, littered with objets d'art collected from the artist's travels and cluttered with books, music and photography. Logan Art Gallery is pleased to partner with the Art Gallery of New South Wales to present this exhibition of painting, drawing, sculpture, music and photography from the Brett Whiteley Studio. This exhibition presents a unique opportunity for audiences to experience the breadth and depth of one of Australia's most celebrated artists, Brett Whiteley. Image right: Brett Whiteley, Self portrait in the studio, 1976, Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1977 © Wendy Whiteley/Copyright Agency
<https://www.loganarts.com.au/event/brett-whiteley-inside-the-studio/>



HOTA gallery is showcasing *A Bigger View*, which includes Hockney's *A Bigger Grand Canyon* (left). I am sure this exhibition will be one to visit on more than a single occasion. QAGOMA has the superb *Sculpting the Senses* by Iris van Herpen (right). This is a must for the fashionistas.

Patricia Robertson, our founder and previous national patron is honoured by our Association through *The Patricia Robertson Fund* in the

field of art conservation (see the article below which was written by Ann Dean for our Winter 2019 Newsletter). Crucial artifacts have been saved by the support of this fund. Training of new conservators is also supported and initiatives such as a special program for conservation of indigenous artifacts have been established at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Members who contributed to the fund are thanked by the Association. I hope we can keep supporting this vital work.



PATRICIA ROBERTSON FUND – ADFAS GIFT to SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE – extract from an article by Ann Dean: Winter 2019 ADFAS Gold Coast Newsletter

“The Patricia Robertson Fund which is an integral part of the Association of ADFAS, gifted \$5,000.00 to the Sydney Opera House for the conservation of the *Coburn Tapestries*.

The Coburn Tapestries were designed by artist John Coburn and were commissioned for the opening of the Sydney Opera house in 1973 by NSW Public Works Minister, David Hughes. The two tapestries were named *Curtains of the Sun* (pictured right) designed to hang in the now-named Joan Sutherland Opera Theatre and *Curtains of the Moon* (pictured below left) to hang in the Drama Theatre and the total cost was \$80,000.



The tapestries/curtains are made with Australian wool and cotton with a woollen warp and a cotton weft. In 1974 they were found not to meet the NSW fire regulations and they were removed and put in storage for treatment with chemical flame retardants to make them compliant with state law. For the best part of the past forty five years – other than a few cameo appearances in the 1990's – they have been hidden from the world in a storage unit in Wetherill Park, Sydney.



Due to the fire proofing there was significant damage to the wool and cotton in the curtains with one, the *Curtains of the Moon*, also suffering a significant tear due to a jutting out pipe in the Drama Theatre. The decision was taken for Conservation work to be undertaken to restore the

curtains and of course this requires money. The Association of ADFAS through the Patricia Robertson Fund was delighted to donate \$5,000 towards the Conservation cost of restoring the curtains to mark our 30th Anniversary year.”

Let me thank Val once again for her contributions to our newsletter.

Gordon Wright

Chairman ArtsNational Gold Coast

CANUNGRA VALLEY COACH TRIP

On Wednesday 13 March, 30 Members and their guests travelled by coach to the beautiful Canungra Valley in the Gold Coast hinterland. En route, Past Committee Member Naomi Wright provided some insight into the importance of the Canungra School of Arts which she and fellow ADFAS GC Member, Moira Lockhart, recorded in 2016 for the ArtsNational archives. [Canungra.pdf \(artsnational.au\)](http://Canungra.pdf(artsnational.au))



After a generous Devonshire morning tea at Café Metz in the heart of the quaint, historic township of Canungra, we pushed on to discover what was behind the high fences and barbed wire of the Australian Army’s Kokoda Barracks.



Initially setup as the WWII New Guinea jungle training centre incorporating a difficult obstacle course, it continues to hone the endurance and skills of present day defence force personnel.



After meeting our guide at the new Vietnam War

Memorial completed in December 2023 (the 2000 memorial was moved from inside the Barracks to the entrance to allow more access to the public), we were driven through the grounds on our coach while our guide told us about the various buildings. Most Army Intelligence Officers do a large part of their training at the Barracks. The various sections of the Army Intelligence Museum were brought to life through the real-life experience of our ex-Afghanistan guide.



By then we were definitely ready for lunch and relaxed over mains, dessert and a *vino* on the veranda overlooking the vines at Albert River Winery. The history of the area and the colonial farm which includes historic Tamborine House and Chapel, and the more recently acquired Auchenflower House, was told through the 82 year old eyes of a humorous and ‘matter-of-fact’ real country girl. It was a most enjoyable experience and the perfect end to a perfect day out!



Wendy Spencer

NEW MEMBERS COFFEE CONNECT 2024



18 of our new members for 2024 were joined by Chair Gordon Wright, Secretary Peter Simmonds, Program Secretary Wendy Spencer and me for a lively and enjoyable New Members Welcome Coffee Morning at the HOTA Café on Friday 3 May.

The event was a great opportunity for new members to meet one another and share interests, as well as meet Committee Members and learn more about ArtsNational Gold Coast. Chair Gordon warmly welcomed the group and

in a short address elaborated on some of the association's current projects and objectives.

HOTA kindly provided welcome gifts in the form of a free Cinema Pass and free Drinks/Candy voucher for each new member and ArtsNational Gold Coast provided all new members with a free 2024 Guest Pass.

The lovely Tayla who assists us at the HOTA Welcome Desk dropped by to say hello to everyone.

Also on hand to capture many of the smiling faces was our wonderful photographer Helen O'Reilly.

So far 2024 has been an excellent year for new member intake with 35 new members fully signed up and another 5 associate members (who have recently joined for the remainder of the year) also in the pipeline.

Our thanks go to all new members who attended and to the Committee and HOTA for their participation in this successful event.

Bernadette Fulton



A BIGGER VIEW

The grand scale of the artworks on loan from the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) has surprised many visitors to the HOTA Gallery since the exhibition opened in late June. The prestigious paintings from the NGA are epic in both size and subject. Works by David Hockney, Eugene von Guérard, Imants Tillers and Bridget Riley are on loan to the Gallery through the *Sharing the National Collection* initiative for two years. The exhibition *A Bigger View* brings together masterpieces from the NGA, and includes major works from the HOTA Collection, all demonstrating various approaches to the genre of landscape paintings. It really is awe-inspiring to enter Gallery 3 and feel engulfed by these magnificent works.



Internationally renowned contemporary artist, David Hockney's *A Bigger Grand Canyon*, painted in 1988, is a striking landscape painting measuring 7.4 metres in length and consisting of 60 canvases capturing the famous natural wonder from different viewpoints throughout the day. Alongside this work is an extraordinary painting by Australian artist Imants Tillers, titled *Mount Analogue*. Featuring a largescale rendering of the view from the top of Mount Kosciusko spanning 5 metres, this momentous piece was inspired by renowned colonial landscape painter Eugene von Guérard's work from 1863

titled *North-east view from the northern top of Mount Kosciusko*. I am thrilled that von Guérard's painting is also featured in the exhibition, making our show one of few times these magnificent works have been shown together.

Alongside these works, you can also see two beautiful paintings by British modernist artist Bridget Riley. These two works play tricks on your eyes, such is their captivating power. And because we have such gems in our own HOTA Collection, complementing these works are expansive paintings by beloved Australian artists William Robinson and Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori.

Although we have these stunners from the NGA on loan for two years, I guarantee you that you'll find something different in them every time!

Hope to see you at the Gallery soon!

Best wishes

Susi

Susi Muddiman OAM

Director, Gallery and Visual Arts at HOTA

VIGNETTE: LEILA JEFFREYS: *Temple*

Leila Jeffreys (left) is a fine art photographer famous for her portraits of Australian birds. Rather than capturing her subjects in the outdoors she brings them into her photographic studio or photographs them in rescue centres. After seeing the devastation on animals in the wild wrought by bushfires, she now dedicates her work to their preservation.

She was born in Papua New Guinea but grew up in Western Australia. For a time the family lived in a village in India and on a houseboat in Kashmir. The animals and especially the birds inhabiting those areas inspired the young Leila to become a photographer when she grew up.

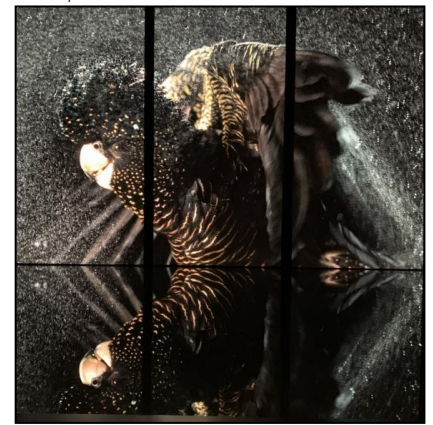
Image address: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fstudioarc.com%2Fcut-the-mustard%2Fleila-jeffreys%2F&psig=AOvVaw219zZhlPIV2-75MkYIXOJ-&ust=1722326765730000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CBEQiRqFwoTChi2wubny4cDFQAAAAAdAAAAABAE>

For those of you lucky enough to be at VIVID 2022 in Sydney, you probably would have been mesmerised by an installation called *Temple* in Jessie Street Gardens, Loftus Street, Circular Quay. We stumbled across it on a recent visit to Canberra in the Gallery of the National Film and Sound Archive in Acton. Within its darkened

space we were quickly absorbed into the exhibition, *Temple*. To view the 6:26 minutes continuous loop *Leila Jeffreys and Melvin J Montalban Collaboration*, click on this link: [Temple — Leila Jeffreys](#).

Unable to sufficiently describe it, I turned to the NFSA website [Temple at the NFSA | National Film and Sound](#)

[Archive of Australia](#) “*Temple 2022* is a contemplative artwork created by Australian artists Leila Jeffreys and Melvin J. Montalban that **celebrates the awe-inspiring beauty of native cockatoos**. Slow-motion visuals play across a triptych of towering screens, transforming the NFSA’s expansive Gallery into a mesmerising space of wonder and delight. A shallow pool of still water (see image right with reflection) extends the dramatic impact of striking, larger-than-life Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, Galahs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, evoking the beauty of natural waterways and presenting a space of quiet contemplation. *Temple* invites us to reflect on the wonder of nature and our place within it. The installation is a temple to nature with the power to immerse us in the present moment.”



Temple was made possible by Vivid Sydney, Cinematographer Chris Bryan, and Bird Trainers Ravi Wasan from Feathered Friends Bird Sanctuary.

From her website [About Leila Jeffreys — Leila Jeffreys](#) “Leila Jeffreys is a renowned contemporary artist working across photography, moving image and installation. She is best known for images of birds, photographed at human scale, that explore and subvert the conventions of portraiture....Jeffreys’ work is a result of years-long periods of research and exploration. In the tradition of artist-activists, she conducts fieldwork, collaborates with conservationists, ornithologists and sanctuaries and champions programs to protect and restore endangered habitats.... Jeffreys lives and works in Sydney has exhibited in Australia and around the world for fifteen years.... is the author of three acclaimed books.... Her artworks have captured the Australian imagination, inspiring *Bird Nerd*, a documentary by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

In 2022, Australia Post released a set of stamps of her iconic images from her *High Society* series, a love letter to the budgerigar that first showed in 2019 at Sydney’s Olsen Gallery....

Image address right: https://australiapostcollectables.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp_microsites/collectables/articles-2022/budgerigars-an-interview-with-leila-jeffreys/budgie-stamps.jpg [auspostimage.1530*0.medium.jpg](https://australiapostcollectables.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp_microsites/collectables/articles-2022/budgerigars-an-interview-with-leila-jeffreys/budgie-stamps.jpg)



Her practice has evolved beyond portraiture into the realm of large-scale conceptual work alongside video and installation art created with collaborator Melvin J. Montalban..... **In a culture that is increasingly disconnected, Jeffreys’ art creates spaces for contemplation and wonder while asking urgent questions about the connections between humans and the natural world... ” Amen**



Images left from <https://www.leilajeffreys.com/stockroom>

Left: Wompoo Pigeon Photograph on archival fibre based cotton rag paper
Standard: Edition of 25 + 2 APs, 44 x 35” (112 x 89cm) Large: Edition of 6 + 2APs, 55 x 44” (140 x 112cm)
Wompoo pigeon 2017 Series: Ornithurae

Right: ‘Dexter’ White-bellied sea eagle Photograph on archival fibre based cotton rag paper Edition of 14 + 2 APs, 44 x 35 inches (112 x 89cm) ‘Dexter’ White-bellied sea eagle 2014 Series: Prey

***For an excellent 9:18 min Gardening Australia video about Leila Jeffreys and her work: *Inside the stunning world of bird photographer Leila Jeffreys* click on this link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MhP0jbiU-g>

Images of Leila Jeffreys’ photographs of birds: <https://www.leilajeffreys.com/journal>

Wendy Spencer

LÉONARD TSUGUHARU FOUJITA

Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita (1886-1968) was a Japanese artist who became a French citizen and contributed to the Post-Impressionist art movement in Paris after World War 1. He was part of a group of artists called the *École de Paris*, based around Montparnasse.

Left: Foujita Self-Portrait with cat 1928 Image credit: <https://uploads2.wikiart.org/images/tsuguharu-foujita/self-portrait-in-the-studio-1926.jpg!PinterestSmall.jpg>

Japanese art made a great impression on the Impressionists, particularly the close cropping in composition, the unusual angles observed and the vibrancy of colour. Many Impressionists collected Japanese prints including Monet's great collection of *ukiyo-e prints* in Giverny.

To see Claude Monet's collection of Japanese prints: <https://www.giverny.fr/en/information/cultural-information/giverny-collection-of-japanese-prints-of-claude-monet>

Floral motifs and domestic interiors common in Japanese art are present in numerous impressionist compositions. Although traditional Japanese art was watercolour on canvas, some Japanese artists travelled to France to study the techniques of oil painting on canvas.

Foujita, as he was known at the time, trained at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. His family was established and conservative. His father who was head of Medicine in the Imperial Army of Japan, reluctantly allowed his son to train formally as an artist. Following graduation in 1910, Foujita developed his skill in French language and eventually travelled to France in 1913.

Within days of his arrival in Paris, Foujita met Picasso and Zarate and soon became a recognised member of the *École de Paris*. The school was well established before World War 1 but flourished in the aftermath of the conflict.

After a brief visit to Japan, he returned to Paris where his art was well received and sales were lucrative. He focussed on three genres: self-portraits, nudes and still life. His model Kiki de Montparnasse was the symbol of the jazz age. Her body was famously photographed by Man Ray from the back with two f symbols in the shape of a violin. Image credit: <https://arthive.com/res/media/img/oy800/article/98a/3756717@2x.jpg>

By 1931 the flapper age was over, the depression was starting to deepen and following a broken relationship, Foujita left for South America. He collaborated with Diego Rivera and other Mexican artists during this period and his style evolved yet again. He then returned to Japan via the USA.

The next few years were the most controversial in Foujita's life. He joined the Imperial Japanese Army Art Association and produced a series of paintings designed to inspire the Japanese war effort. The art works were extensively used in the war cabinet propaganda. As the war changed course, the US was able to support him in changing public perception during the occupation of Japan. He then returned to the USA but public demonstrations against him meant he was unable to work in New York. He then returned to France where he was still highly regarded and with the help of various supporters including René Lalou, head of Mumm champagne, he settled in France and continued his creative practice. He became a French citizen in 1955 and settled in Rheims. He had converted to Catholicism in 1954 in a ceremony in Rheims Cathedral, took the name Léonard and married his fifth wife. He devoted a considerable part of his later years to building a chapel in Rheims (right) where his body now lies.

His motives seemed to him extremely clear and he wrote, "I built this chapel to atone for 80 years of sin." In this regard there are great similarities in the life of Foujita and Matisse whom he originally met in 1913.

Image address: https://maisons-champagne.com/local/cache-vignettes/L400xH322/foujita_chapelle-6de08.jpg?1653319421

I first came across Foujita's work at the Nagoya City Art Museum where the permanent collection includes many Foujita paintings together with other works from the *École De Paris* including Modigliani and Kandinsky together with a large South American art collection including Diego Rivera. Japan is a popular tourist destination, but Nagoya is not the regular route. If you enjoy the Impressionists, you will find many great galleries outside Tokyo and like me, you will be surprised by the size of their collections.

Gordon Wright



From WikiArt Visual Art Encyclopaedia: Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita (藤田 嗣治, Fujita Tsuguharu, November 27, 1886 – January 29, 1968) was a Japanese–French painter and printmaker born in Tokyo, Japan, who applied Japanese ink techniques to Western style paintings. He has been called "the most important Japanese artist working in the West during the 20th century". His *Book of Cats*, published in New York by Covici Friede, 1930, with 20 etched plate drawings by Foujita, is one of the top 500 (in price) rare books ever sold, and is ranked by rare book dealers as "the most popular and desirable book on cats ever published".

Right: Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita, *Couturier Cat*, 1927, private collection. [Fondation Foujita](https://www.fondationfoujita.com/).

To see a comprehensive range of images of Foujita's art:

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/tsuguharu-foujita/all-works#!#filterName=all-paintings-chronologically,resultType=masonry>



PARIS 2024 OPENING CEREMONY: SYMBOLIC ART



France's leading newspaper, *Le Monde* stated, "We were promised a party, and (despite the rain) I think it's safe to say we got one. It all started at midnight (Paris time) July 27 with an explosive beginning in blue, white and red as smoke resembling the French flag dispersed from the Pont d'Austerlitz... After that was a dizzying array of singers, dancers, and performers representing the best in French culture and history and beyond..."

Left: Image credit:

https://img.lemdc.fr/2024/07/26/0/0/0/0/720/0/75/0/1912034_1722015646505-1047c39-5179914-01-06.jpg

Later in the ceremony, a 1.80-metre-high galloping horse made of shiny metal and carrying a hooded rider draped with an Olympic flag floated along the River Seine. This spectacle symbolised *Sequana*, the Gallo-Roman goddess of the Seine River and its springs. The precise mechanism simulating a horse at full gallop was designed and created by two French companies in a workshop in Nantes.

Image credit: <https://cdn.sortiraparis.com/images/80/1467/1101813-jo-paris-2024-qui-etait-la-cavaliere-sur-cheval-d-argent-a-la-ceremonie-d-ouverture.jpg>

Video: The making of Olympics opening ceremony's galloping silver horse •

FRANCE 24 English 1:36 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rsqzby1_8fU



Flying Olympic Cauldron

From <https://apnews.com/article/olympics-2024-torch-cauldron-balloon-f0a78e7efa4669f35b0c6282e1af62bf>

"For the first time in the history of the Games, the cauldron — a 7-metre (23-feet) diameter ring of fire supported by a giant air balloon — flew through the air. Inspired by the [ancient Greek Olympic flame ceremony](#), designer Mathieu Lehanneur aimed to represent freedom — one of the three words in the French national motto: "Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité."

Image credit left: <https://www.gettyimages.com.au/search/more-like-is/2162955361?assettype=image&phrase=2024%20summer%20olympics%20paris&family=editorial>

"It's the first time there is a cauldron like this, the first time there is a cauldron that flies and the first time there is an

Olympic flame that is not a real flame. There were many firsts," said Lehanneur, "and there were many challenges."

The first hot air balloon flight in history was carried out by the Montgolfier brothers at Versailles in 1783. So for Lehanneur, it made perfect sense to design a hot air balloon when he won the design competition and was awarded what he thinks is the most important project of his career so far.

Right: model of the Montgolfier brothers' balloon at the [London Science Museum](#) Image credit:

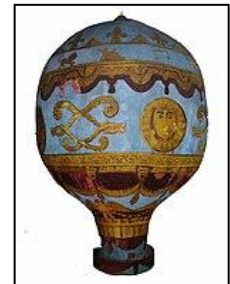
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9a/Montgolfier_Balloon.JPG/800px-Montgolfier_Balloon.JPG

For the first time, the flame isn't real, but one made of water and light, not needing fossil fuels to shine. What Lehanneur could have never imagined, though, is the incredible success the cauldron had during and after the opening ceremony. So much so that now [Parisians are collecting signatures](#) to make the balloon, which sits on the ground during the day and rises each evening, a permanent monument in the City of Lights — just like the Eiffel Tower, which was supposed to be a temporary construction for the 1889 World Expo in Paris.

*Click on the link below to view a 6:53 min Montgolfier Brothers video from the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJb1nJvRZNo>

Val Shooter



SCANDINAVIAN DESIGN: YGGDRASIL – THE TREE OF LIFE and NORSE MYTHOLOGY

A three month cruise from Australia to England aboard *Viking Sky* earlier this year immersed Margot Davies in



Norse mythology. Especially revered by the Vikings of old is Yggdrasil, the eternal green ash tree, also called the Tree of Life, or World Tree. The Vikings believed its branches extended far into the heavens to support the universe and to enable the gods to travel up and down the tree to hold their daily court. Legend has it that Odin; Father of the Gods, once hanged himself for nine nights from the World Tree to gain the knowledge of runes. (Brief information and links to runes appear below.) To see a short colourful video of the Norse legend of the tree and its lands, please click on this link:



Yggdrasil video (3:38 min) <https://youtu.be/-VAIUeJ8svI>

Yggdrasil is closely related to the tree of life and the tree of knowledge, found across many cultures. In Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) it is believed to grow in the Garden of Eden.

Above left: Yggdrasil – cast crystal sculpture with painted and sandblasted motif by Swedish sculptor, Mats Jonasson.

For more information about Mats Jonasson's Yggdrasil click on this link: [Målerås - Yggdrasil \(maleras.se\)](https://www.maleras.se/en/mats-jonasson-1.html)

Right: Margot is wearing her Norwegian design jacket made from Australian merino wool and her Thor's Hammer pendant

Information from Mats Jonasson's website: <https://www.maleras.se/en/mats-jonasson-1.html>
Mats Jonasson's talent as a designer attracted attention from when he started work as an apprentice engraver at the glassworks in 1959. Over the next few decades he worked with many of the most respected contemporary glass artists in Sweden. During this period, he developed a natural style which he's since perfected. He says, "Our forests have captured the hearts and minds of people since time immemorial" and inspired by the natural world around him, he created his distinctive masterpieces in the finest Swedish crystal. Nowadays, this son of the glassworks is represented all over the world.

To see short videos of casting glass and crystal, as well as blowing and painting on glass and crystal at the Målerås Factory in Sweden, click on this link: <https://www.maleras.se/en/handmade-in-sweden-1.html>

Mats Jonasson Crystal: <https://allsculptures.com/pages/mats-jonasson-crystal>

If you are visiting Sweden, free guided tours of the factory at Målerås are available.

Thor's Hammer

From Wikipedia (Click on these links for more information)

Mjöllnir (from [Old Norse Mjöllnir](#)) is the [hammer](#) of the [thunder god Thor](#) in [Norse mythology](#), used both as a devastating weapon and as a divine instrument to provide blessings.



Photo above left: The silver-gilded [Thor's hammer](#) found in [Scania](#), Sweden, once belonged to the collection of Baron Claes Kurck.

Right: Margot's Tree of Life crystal and Thor's Hammer pendant



Viking Cruise ships honour Yggdrasil in a larger and more stylised way. Located on the pool deck, the spacious Wintergarden tearoom (left) has been designed around the legend of Yggdrasil, the Nordic Tree of Life, and made of white pigmented ash. Viking's delectable and popular High Teas are served there every afternoon.

Margot Davies

RUNES

Early Germanic tribes of northern Europe were first to develop runes but the Scandinavians soon adopted the symbols for

their own use. When the seafaring Vikings travelled to faraway lands, they brought their system of writing with them, leaving runic inscriptions in places as distant as Greenland. A great number of documents in stone, wood and metal were written in runes. Runes were also used to tell fortunes, cast spells, and provide protection.

From Wikipedia: Left: [Viking runes surround the Tree of Life](#)

Image address: https://i.etsystatic.com/25951207/r/il/1b18fc/3741886093/il_1140xN.3741886093_1ggf.jpg

Right: An inscription using [cipher runes](#), the [Elder Futhark](#), and the [Younger Futhark](#), on the 9th-century [Rök runestone](#) in Sweden

By Benet Olof ÅRADSSON - Own work. CC BY 1.0. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=382340>



***For more information on Runes and to write your own name in runes click on this link:**

[NOVA Online | The Vikings | Write Your Name in Runes \(pbs.org\)](#)

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ALIVE - at HOTA GALLERY: Friday 31 May 2024



In the words of the creators, Grande Experiences, “Experience the beauty and brilliance of the Italian masters in *Italian Renaissance Alive*, an immersive journey celebrating Europe’s cultural rebirth. From the creators of *Van Gogh Alive*, this mesmerising experience covers the 14th to 17th centuries, showcasing masterpieces by Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli, Caravaggio and more. You’ll be immersed in the era’s explosion of art, culture, architecture, sculpture and literature”. And we were! The stunning digital multisensory gallery accompanied by a powerful operatic musical score was a winning combination.



We were delighted we had been able to convince our very own HOTA Gallery director, Susi Muddiman OAM, to introduce the exhibition to us before we tackled it ourselves – which she did as we enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea. In fact, Susi didn’t need any convincing as she is always ready to share her passion and commitment to the many forms of the Arts. [This was formally recognised on Australia Day in 2015 with her Medal of the Order of



Australia for ‘service to the museums and galleries sector in regional NSW’.]



Giant backdrops to step into for taking photos have become part of the “Alive” events. This time it was Botticelli’s *Birth of Venus* – and we didn’t even have to pose naked.



We all agreed that

Susi’s perspective added greatly to our enjoyment of *Italian Renaissance Alive* so thank you Susi.

Wendy Spencer



* Acknowledged images, links, recordings and videos in the newsletter have been sourced by Editor, Val Shooter. No copyright infringement is intended. The intent is to make our members aware of a wide variety of artists and websites so they can access information of personal interest.

* Contributing Photographers: Helen O’Reilly, Wendy Spencer, Val Shooter

PHOTO GALLERY



