

ArtSpace GALLERY

Newsletter # 28

February 2018

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

20 Feb to 26 Mar
THE WONTHAGGI MONSTER
Artist Filippa Buttitta

Deputy Mayor Brett Tessari will be opening the exhibition. Filippa is eager to give talks and demonstrations in the two weeks she is down in Wonthaggi. She will give a talk at 1.30pm before the opening on the 25th Feb. Filippa has also brought with her her Archibald painting of a scientist who believes in the Thylacine, which she will continue to work on as a demonstration.



The Wonthaggi Monster

Artwork that re-imagines a history of Thylacine sightings in the Wonthaggi area
by artist:

Filippa Buttitta

Opening: Sunday, February 25th
2.00 – 4.00pm

20th February – 26th March, 2018

ArtSpace
GALLERY

The Centennial Centre,
1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi, Victoria
Open daily 10.00am – 4.00pm
Ph: 03 56725562

ArtSpace Gallery Wonthaggi 1 Bent Street Wonthaggi Vic 3995
T 03 5672 5767 E artspacenquiries@gmail.com W artspacewonthaggi.com.au

27 Mar to 7 May - **'ABSTRACT IMAGES' PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

8 May to 18 Jun - **CLIMART**

19 Jun to 23 Jul - **WINTER SOLSTICE**

24 Jul to 3 Sep
HAEMOCHROMATOSIS AWARENESS EXHIBITION - **"ARTFRENZY OVERLOAD"**

9 Mar to 12 Mar - **INVERLOCH 32ND ANNUAL ART SHOW**
@ The Stadium, Inverloch Hub, Cnr Reilly St & A'Beckett St, Inverloch

MEET OUR FEATURED ARTIST ... FILIPPA BUTTITTA



Filippa Buttitta is a full time professional artist living in the inner-west Sydney suburb of Lewisham, where she owns and operates Twiverton Gallery and studio.

Her desire to paint began from an early age, and she primarily taught herself to paint prior to pursuing several years majoring in painting and studying its theories at university.

Her portraiture has transformed from painting intimate portraits of Italian immigrants from old photographs, painting Italian-Australians who surrounded her life during the 70s, 80s and 90s, to currently portraying pre-eminent Australians who have had a major impact on Australia's iconic, social, cultural and political character. Her portrayal of both ordinary and well-known Australians reflects a need to record a time, place, and perspective in Australian socio-cultural, iconic, and political history.

Since 1990, Filippa has exhibited regularly both in Sydney and abroad. She is a regular Archibald Prize entrant, and in 2015, her portrait of the renowned artist Judy Cassab AO CBE was selected as a finalist in the **2015 Archibald Prize**. This same portrait was selected as a finalist in the **2016 Black Swan Prize for Portraiture**.



Filippa has been featured on numerous occasions on SBS radio and print media including newspapers such as The Sydney Morning Herald, The Glebe, La Fiama and Il Globo.

Further details on her work and the Twiverton Gallery can be found at [Portrait Artists Australia](#) and [Buttitta Art](#)

My Philosophy

The ability to overcome the limitations of recording what one sees in real life and what the camera can and cannot capture in photography through painting has been my most enduring preoccupation. Fascinated with paint as an inherently difficult medium to control, I primarily taught myself to paint from an early age prior to pursuing several years majoring in painting and studying its theories at university.

Developing from an interest with the aesthetic principles of photorealism, its origins in analogue photography and its development over four decades, my painting has evolved from various degrees of realism to developing a recent conviction toward capturing a form of hyper-realism that is emerging out advancements in highly digitised photography.

For me, painting is not simply a practical challenge, but also a theoretical one. I paint with a commitment towards challenging and contributing to theories of contemporary painting through the practice of painting itself. The concept that technology can be harnessed to increase the practice of painting rather than forcing one to abandon it is of particular interest.

My Inspiration

For nearly my entire life, I have maintained a fascination with painting people. My portrayal of both ordinary and well-known Australians in particular, is sought with an interest in presenting them as a significant record of a time, place and perspective not only in Australia's iconic, social, cultural and political history but also during a phenomenological time that is occurring in painting as a practice.



My Materials

I mainly work with many layers of oil paint on canvas or linen to create my paintings. I also create on the spot sketches of whatever or whoever takes me fancy from life. Often, these sketches are used in preparation for paintings. As an alternative exploration I also like working with Terracotta and porcelain to create 3D busts of people from life.



“THE WONTHAGGI MONSTER” ... ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

ON DECEMBER 1, 1955, the frenzy over ‘The Wonthaggi Monster’ mystery began, and it was on that day that Tom Gannon, editor of the Powlett Express, began writing ongoing articles about claims of sightings of a strange animal by those living or passing through the area surrounding Wonthaggi.

At first, the newspaper reports of Wonthaggi’s ‘Monster’ were mocked, but in later years the tone changed and many people in the area began admitting to sighting the animal. These reports described an animal resembling the characteristics of the extinct Thylacine.

According to the Editor of the Bass Coast Post – Catherine Watson: “Gannon was mostly having fun with the Monster stories. Some said that if he were ever short of a story in his paper, he would add something about the monster to get things going, but the tone of the articles changed in the late 1960’s when Gannon began to declare his seriousness about the existence of the monster. He referred to it as a Tasmanian Tiger-like animal, “light fawn coloured, short-haired and striped on its back and hindquarters ...” In the ‘70s people began talking seriously about Tasmanian Tigers, or Thylacine as they are more commonly known now.”

Thylacinus cynocephalus had become extremely rare or extinct on the Australian mainland before British settlement of the continent, but it survived on the island of Tasmania along with several other endemic species. The last known Thylacine was known to have died in a Tasmanian Zoo in 1936. Intensive hunting encouraged by bounties is generally blamed for its



extinction, but other contributing factors may have been disease, the introduction of dogs, and human encroachment into its habitat. Despite its official classification as extinct, hundreds of sightings are still reported, though none has been conclusively proven.



Proven or not, newspapers throughout Gippsland were reporting sightings of the Thylacine without any of the hysteria that accompanied earlier sightings. Mostly people were excited and impressed with what they had seen. Gannon continued to be inundated with information about sightings. Usually, it was people seeing it cross a road in an uninhabited section along the coast. Many sightings occurred near Bass/Grantville area. There have been over 106 newspaper articles written about the 'Wonthaggi Monster' as a result.

This exhibition attempts to visually re-imagine the stories of sightings and the ways these become cemented as part of Australian folklore, myths and legends over time. Many are still circulating amongst the locals of Wonthaggi. Australians are known for being able to tell a good yarn and ongoing reports of Thylacine sightings sensationalised through news reports and social media keep the world riveted. Perhaps it is the vastness of our country and the mysteries easily hidden in our landscape that ideally contribute to Australia's sense of place and identity. The



Stockyard Gallery, cnr Main Street & McDonald Street Foster, invites you to:

from land to sea
an exhibition by
Marilyn Ardley

Thursday 1st February
until Monday 26th February, 2018.

Gallery hours 10:00am - 4:00pm daily.

www.stockyardgalleryandshop.org.au
stockyardgallery@desi.net.au
ph 03 5682 1125
contact Marilyn 0478 034 881



'Wonthaggi Monster' is indeed an intriguing example of the riveting ongoing mysteries found in the Australian bush and its stories have inspired this collection of works.

<https://www.facebook.com/filippa.buttitta>

<https://www.facebook.com/TwivertonFineArtGallery/>

<http://www.filippabuttitta.com/>

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NOTICES

'ABSTRACT IMAGES' PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

27 Mar to 7 May 2018

Cost is \$60.

Artists can send a completed entry form to ArtSpace by the 25th Feb 2018. Up to 4 works can be entered and delivered to the Gallery on or before 26th Mar 2018. Completed entries can be left in Susan Hall's pigeon hole at ArtSpace Gallery.

Work must be framed, block printed or on aluminium. Digital and/or 35mm prints. No canvas prints. D rings for secure hanging to be attached approx. 15cm from the top of each side of the frame.

Expressions of interest, please email Susan Hall (gesue@dcsi.net.au) and include an image of the work(s). Limited places left.

Title 1	Price
Title 2	Price
Title 3	Price
Title 4	Price
Name of artist:	
Address:	
Contact phone number:	
Email address:	

Payment may be made by direct deposit to the Bendigo Bank:

BSB 633000

Acc no. 153496120

Acc name Wonthaggi Community Gallery



Raffle first prize is this iconic painting by Susan Hall

The Inverloch Art Show

Raising money to buy food boxes for local families experiencing short term difficulties.

Labour Day Weekend
same weekend as the Jazz Festival
The Stadium at Inverloch Hub
Cnr A'Beckett and Reilly Streets in lovely Inverloch

Contemporary and traditional art on display and for sale
Art prizes are awarded in the different categories along with an overall prize for the best in show.

Opening night is Friday 9th March at 7pm.
All welcome!

Closing Monday 12th at 3pm

Contact us: inverlochartshow@gmail.com
Facebook: Inverloch Art Show

Inverloch Art Show Labour Day Weekend 9-12 March 2018

Raffle Tickets

\$2 each / 3 for \$5 / 7 for \$10
Prizes Drawn at midday on
Monday 12th March 2018
Winners will be notified

INVERLOCH ART SHOW

The Inverloch Art Show raises essential funds to buy food boxes for local families experiencing short term difficulties.

The signature fundraising event is the annual exhibition and sale of artworks by local, regional and metropolitan artists.

The art covers contemporary and traditional styles in a variety of mediums and prizes are awarded in the different categories along with an overall prize for the best in show.

The Show is held every year on the March Labour Day long weekend along with the Inverloch Jazz Festival.

As from 2018 the Show will be in the recreation centre at the back of The Hub on the corner of A'Beckett and Reilly Streets, Inverloch.

Opening night is Friday 9th March at 7pm.
All welcome!

Raffle Prizes

1st Prize

Original artwork by **Susan Hall**

Title: Beach Sculpture, Inverloch

Description: Acrylic on canvas, framed

About Susan: Susan is a local artist who creates work from many genres – painting with acrylics and oils, charcoal, printmaking and sculpture. She exhibits frequently in local galleries and has an international reputation for her print making techniques.



2nd Prize

The Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) 2 concert tickets plus interval drinks and post performance hospitality

Date of Concert: Saturday 16 June

Venue: South Melbourne Town Hall

Start time: 7.30 pm

Music: by *BIBER, MOZART, WOOLRICH AND SHOSTAKOVICH*

3rd Prize

Original glass art by **Deb Watson**

Title: Vanilla Coral

Description: Kiln formed art glass

About Deb: Deb is a local glass artist who has been making kiln formed glass pieces to her own designs for over 10 years. Her pieces can be found in ArtSpace Gallery, Wonthaggi and Moeniyen Art Gallery.

