



Paint Pit Newsletter May 2011

The Paint Pit is an online art boutique that explores diverse and contemporary art in the making. Each individual artist's contribution is amazing and the sharing of their own unique vision can also be inspirational for your own creative passion. Visit www.paintpit.com for more information.

Why Art is Important

Art is more than just a decoration on the wall, or a collectible investment object. The world needs beauty, color, and light, and visual art can provide those things and more.

Art inspires people, and allows them to share their appreciation of the subject.

Art allows us to see through the eyes of the artist or photographer, or see a place we've never been.

It can be educational, a recording of history, or it can simply capture the feeling of a moment in time. Some artworks provide social commentary and bring about empathy in the viewers. Art enhances our experience, especially if it expresses emotion or ideas. Sometimes it is the amazing skill of the artist that enthralls the viewers.

Artworks enhance homes, businesses, and public spaces. There is no thing as too much good design.

Featured Artist - Carolyn Stephens, Wanganui Artist

My art is inspired by a life-long love of beauty and balance. Storytelling, whether fact or fiction, is the catalyst for my work. I create visual tales, leaving the viewer to weave the story that relates to their own life journey.



Symbolism is used extensively. The vessel depicting personal journeys - Bird, personification of soul - Tree, home to Soul - ladder, spiritual ascension - Key, holds the answers to the challenges and opportunities the doors and windows offer. Visit Carolyn's profile on The Paint Pit website for more information.

Here are a selection of Carolyn's artwork



Newest Artist - Wendy Grace Allen, North Auckland Artist



My work connects people by facilitating and by my participation in artistic collaborations that build networks and forge links between art, life and communities. I approach my collaborative work with humility, integrity and respect for difference.

My cross-cultural work promotes, peace, empathy and mutual understanding through shared knowledge and rich conversations in contemporary visual culture. A current example of this is my co coordination of a touring exhibition around New Zealand of refugee's art from Myanmar for Partners Relief and Development. Visit Wendy's profile on The Paint Pit website for more information.

Here are a selection of Wendy's artwork



Afternoon - Poem written in 1931 by Elisabeth Augustin



Today my little daughter
pulled a feather from her pillow
tickled my ear
my mouth my neck.
In the silence of our house
only the cheerful chuckles and squeals
of my little daughter
filled the room with joyful sounds.

Poem by the Holocaust survivor and writer-in-exile Elisabeth Augustin

Free [Ai Weiwei!](#)



World-famous and beloved Chinese artist Ai Weiwei has been "disappeared" by China's state security forces. Every [trace of Ai's life](#) and [art](#) has been erased from the Chinese Internet, and his only hope may be a global outcry for his release.

Architectural designer, photographer, conceptual artist, curator and a prolific blogger, Ai Weiwei, is doing it all and speaking out while he's at it. Born in Beijing, to parents who were rightist rejects in a communist society (sent off to a "reeducation through labor" camp), he has become an influential advocate of freedoms of expression in China.

As somebody who has lived through the cultural revolution of the late 60's and 70's, he has strong reservations on this issue - societal conflicts and government inflicted limitations are detrimental to the individual's self-awareness and recognition of aesthetic values. With this in mind, Mr. Ai has been showcasing his creations and opinions all over the world - criticizing various political leaders and notions using "an in-your-face style" that seems suicidal given Beijing's limited tolerance for dissent. Well, he certainly lives his art to the max, and to me personally, his pieces speak louder [than words](#).

Fearful of the pro-democracy protests [sweeping the world](#), the government has cracked down on hundreds of free thinking Chinese [artists](#), intellectuals, students and citizens. But across the world, artists and art-

lovers have begun to speak out in solidarity with Ai.

Chinese elites are major buyers of contemporary art, and are now planning a huge art fair in Beijing. If international galleries and artists stay away from China until Ai is freed, they'll send shock waves through the regime. Let's build a massive global wave of support for top gallery's and artists to stop exhibiting in China until Ai Weiwei is released. We'll deliver it at the upcoming Venice Biennial exhibition and other shows

106,445 have signed the petition. Help get to 300,000 signatures visit www.avaaz.org/en/artists_for_ai_weiwei to sign the petition.



Artists wanted

If wish to feature on the website, become a member of the site then email me dee@paintpit.com an artist introduction, 10-19 named images of your best work, and a portrait photo of your. Please include your website address (if you have one) and Facebook fan page (ditto). There are a number of questions I would like you to answer, visit the website and pick at least 5 under the artist wanted link for your online bio at Paintpit.com

REMINDER: If you want to update your profile and gallery page, please email them to me. You could be the next featured artist.

Artists with May Birthdays

- 11th [Salvador Dalí](#) (1904) and [Yaacov Agam](#) (1928)
- 12th [Dante Gabriel Rossetti](#) (1828)
- 13th [Georges Braque](#) (1882)
- 14th [Thomas Gainsborough](#) (Baptized, 1727)
- 15th [Jasper Johns](#) (1930)
- 21st [Henri Rousseau](#) (1844)
- 23rd [Franz Kline](#) (1910)
- 25th [Mary Cassatt](#) (1844)
- 30th [Alexander Archipenko](#) (1887)

Quotes for the month - Salvador Dalí



Born May 11, 1904, in Figueras, Spain. Dalí was a good, technical painter. In the 1920s, he read Freud, took up with other emerging Surrealists, and began actively seeking his subconscious mind so as to paint the visions there. The results of his (self-induced) hallucinogenic states are highly realistic paintings of a bizarre dream world. He switched to a classical style in the early 1940s and created works with primarily religious themes for the rest of his life.

The only difference between me and a madman is that I'm not mad.

At the age of six I wanted to be a cook. At seven I wanted to be Napoleon. And my ambition has been growing steadily ever since.

Don't bother about being modern. Unfortunately it is the one thing that, whatever you do, you cannot avoid.

Drawing is the honesty of the art. There is no possibility of cheating. It is either good or bad.

Each morning when I awake, I experience again a supreme pleasure - that of being Salvador Dali.

Have no fear of perfection - you'll never reach it.

I do not paint a portrait to look like the subject, rather does the person grow to look like his portrait.

When I paint, the sea roars. The others splash about in the bath.

Those who do not want to imitate anything, produce nothing.

In order to acquire a growing and lasting respect in society, it is a good thing, if you possess great talent, to give, early in your youth, a very hard kick to the right shin of the society that you love. After that, be a snob.

Instead of stubbornly attempting to use surrealism for purposes of subversion, it is necessary to try to make of surrealism something as solid, complete and classic as the works of museums.

Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings.

Liking money like I like it, is nothing less than mysticism. Money is a glory.

Mistakes are almost always of a sacred nature. Never try to correct them. On the contrary: rationalize them, understand them thoroughly. After that, it will be possible for you to sublimate them.

Painting is an infinitely minute part of my personality.

Progressive art can assist people to learn not only about the objective forces at work in the society in which they live, but also about the intensely social character of their interior lives. Ultimately, it can propel people toward social emancipation.

Recommended Links

- thebigidea.co.nz
- maoriartmarket.com
- artandwork.us
- artnews.co.nz/whats-on
- artshow.co.nz
- artbizcoach.com

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