

**HERITAGE ART GROUP OF TASMANIA — ‘NEW VISIONS’ EXHIBITION
OPENING REMARKS
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
LADY FRANKLIN GALLERY, SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2022**

Good morning everyone and welcome to this beautiful gallery for another magnificent exhibition of works by the Heritage Art Group of Tasmania.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and culture. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

May I also acknowledge Joan Humble, artistic founder and educator, all the exhibitors, and also the Art Society of Tasmania for their assistance in providing space in this gallery.

The Heritage Art Group began in 1987 as the Humble Art and Company. The group exhibited seven times before being renamed as the Heritage Art Group in 1996. It has, since then, exhibited regularly.

There are usually four exhibitions each year. This is the last for 2022. And what an impressive exhibition with which to finish. There are some 60 artworks on display, from the very large to the very small, and utilising a range of different media.

‘New Visions’ is a fitting title for this exhibition. New members are exhibiting for the first time. In addition, long-standing members of the group have explored new and different ways of approaching their subjects. For the second year, digital art also forms a part of these ‘new visions.’

I am also informed that some of the artworks on display will have been influenced by workshops held during the year and across the State. Topics such

as seascapes, painting in miniature, different ways to view landscapes, and colour mixing and applications provide opportunities to broaden our artists' understanding and application of different techniques; 'New Visions' indeed.

This is the 15th exhibition of the Heritage Art Group. It is a significant example of the cultural and artistic endeavour that makes our island home so special.

That endeavour was, of course, the original reason that this gallery was built. Lady Jane Franklin, apparently was disturbed by the lack of cultural institutions and the general indifference of the early colonists to cultural pursuits. She provided her own private funding for the construction of a museum and library to be used to store and display Tasmanian memorabilia, books and artworks. Many were from her own collection at Government House.

The building fell on hard times and was even used as an apple store and cow shed. Fortunately, the Art Society of Tasmania successfully proposed that they lease the facility as their gallery.

I am sure we all agree that the space is perfect for smaller exhibitions like this. This space provides a direct link between the artworks, the landscape and society that inspired them, and between the art community and Government House.

May I mention and hope that you may be interested to learn that we are in the process of updating our current art displays at Government House. With assistance from the TMAG, we shall aim to balance the mix of artworks on display to include aboriginal and contemporary works to complement our colonial collection.

I congratulate everyone involved in this exhibition, from curators, volunteers and, of course, exhibiting artists.

I have the great pleasure to formally declare this 15th exhibition of the Heritage Art Group 'New Visions' officially open.

Thank you.