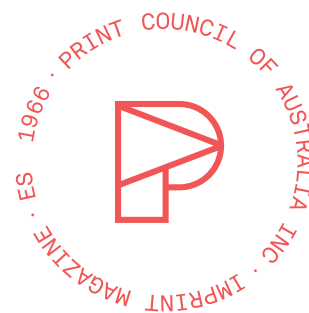


Annual Report 2022



2022 Round-Up

by PCA President, Akky van Ogtrop

What an exciting year we've had at the PCA... In 2022 artists, galleries and curators resumed exhibitions, Sydney Contemporary / PAPER art fair returned in September, the Print Commission was selected and exhibited in various venues, and Marguerite Brown returned from maternity leave to resume her role as PCA Director. We saw the 'Bookish' exhibition take place at the Melbourne Athenaeum Library, participation in the Melbourne Art Book Fair, the Semi-Permanent book fair, the aforementioned successful return of Sydney Contemporary and its ever-popular PAPER section, the much-loved PCA Members Print Exchange, along with another fine year of publishing *IMPRINT* and the Print Commission. And to top it all off, the move to a publicly accessible new premises.

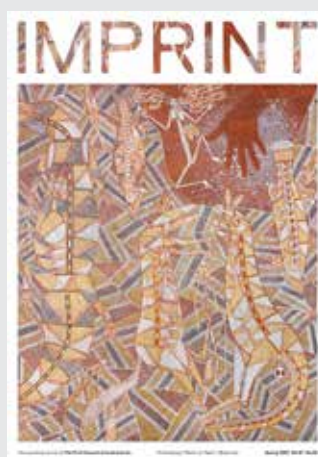
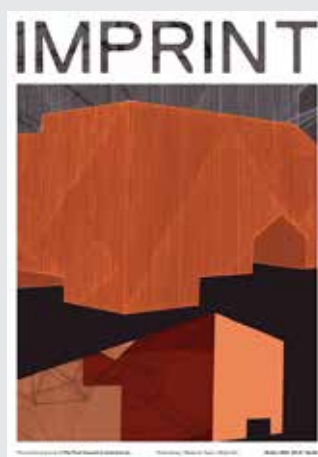
New Premises

A very important step was the organisation's move to a central new location in Melbourne's designated Arts Precinct, at Studio 2 Guild, 152 Sturt Street Southbank. In our new home the PCA print collection and archives can be easily accessed for research, and our print editions available for sale can be viewed and sold to assist with fundraising for the organisation. This space is rented to the PCA through the Creative Spaces program administered by the City of Melbourne, and we thank them for their support.



Print Room & Gallery

We were thrilled to receive a Gordon Darling Foundation grant at the beginning of 2022 to enable us to establish a Print Room at the PCA's new Southbank premises. This provides a dedicated, regular point of access to buy prints, and for researchers to access the archives, whose contents stretch back almost six decades. Prints that were previously stored in folders are now housed in the three new sets of plan drawers, greatly improving their storage conditions and conservation. Our archive of *IMPRINT* has been rearranged and rehoused to improve conservation and create better access to this important resource, which chronicles Australian printmaking since 1966.



2022 saw the PCA launch a fundraising mission to enable us to establish the new PCA Gallery. Sincere thanks to the many PCA members who donated funds to help bring this vision to reality. With this financial support and many messages of warm encouragement, PCA Director Marguerite Brown oversaw the development and fit-out for this new exhibition space dedicated to contemporary printmaking and works on paper just before Christmas. With its exhibition program focussed on new work in print media, the Gallery is a perfect complement to the Print Room area. Both spaces allow the PCA to educate new audiences on the artform of printmaking and the important work of the PCA.

Print Commission 2022

The Print Commission, now in its 55th year, was officially launched again last year. Five artists were shortlisted from close to 70 applications. We thank the judges Robert Heather, Executive Director of the Art Gallery Society of NSW, and Akky van Ogtrop, President Print Council of Australia. The selected artists were: Rona Green, John Ryrie, Sybille Schlumbom, Janet Parker-Smith

and Michael Phillips. We thank these artists for their wonderful contribution and thanks go to our generous sponsors Arthouse Direct and Clairefontaine.

The prints were again launched and displayed at Sydney Contemporary / PAPER in September and for the first time at the PCA Print Room. Thanks also to the Megalo Print Studio, Canberra, and Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, for showing the prints

Projects

The aging database system that previously held the print collection records has been replaced with a cloud-based collections app, removing the threat of losing valuable records due to technological obsolescence. The collections app is accessed on a newly acquired iPad that can be utilised by the general public as a portable and user-friendly way to search the print collection and locate works.

The 'Bookish' exhibition of PCA members artist books took place at the Melbourne Athenaeum Library, one of Melbourne's three oldest cultural institutions. 'Bookish' was an exhibition of contemporary artist books by PCA members.

Our Administration Assistant Priscilla Ambrosini took on this big project with lots of enthusiasm and attention to detail. Thanks to Priscilla for all her work for the PCA.

The PCA took part in the Melbourne Art Book Fair at the NGV presenting a selection of PCA members' artist books and *IMPRINT* magazine. As always, it was a great opportunity to re-connect with publishers and art book studios. In May, the PCA also took part at Semi-Permanent Sydney and the inaugural Permanent Art Book Fair at Carriageworks. Permanent Art Book Fair provided a unique platform for the PCA in Sydney for the display and retail of *IMPRINT* magazine, and Acting General Manager Claire Albrecht and PCA Secretary Therese Kenyon represented the PCA.



PCA Print Commission 2022



John Ryrie
Leda II



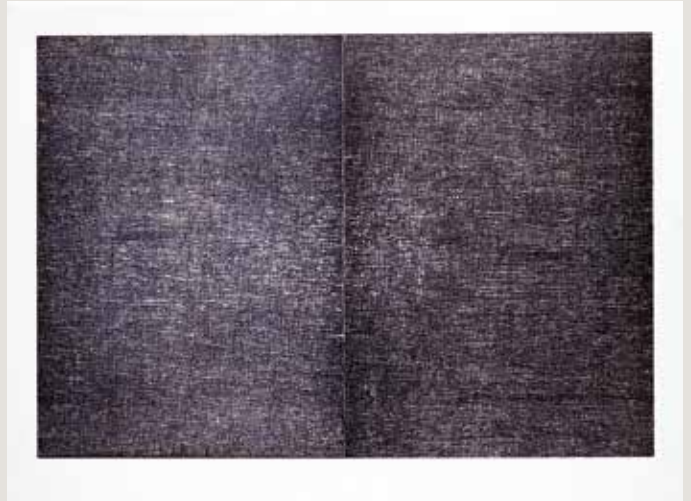
Janet Parker-Smith
Tend the Garden

Sybille Schlumbom
Light Shifting





Rona Green
Welig



Michael Phillips
Saltbush

Projects

The successful return of Sydney Contemporary and its PAPER section described as a 'fair within the Fair' presented for the eighth time in association with the PCA and curated by Akky van Ogtrop. PAPER showed the best of national and international contemporary works on paper, including watercolours, drawings, artist books, prints and editions.

The much-loved biennial PCA members' Print Exchange was held for the fourth time. This is a member-only opportunity to create a new edition of prints to be swapped with other members. We received 110 entries from PCA members and, as always, we saw the breadth of imagery and techniques employed by our talented artist members! Sincere thanks to Sharron Okines (Advertising and Membership Manager) who initiated another successful Print Exchange.

PCA People

I was again honoured to be re-elected as PCA President and look forward to being at the helm with the Director and staff as we move forward in the new premises and take on a more public engagement with the small gallery and the possibility of workshops, talks and fundraising functions.

There were some changes to the PCA Committee at the 2022 AGM with new Committee members joining the team and others standing down.

Long-serving Victorian representative and Vice-President Kate Gorrige-Smith resigned from her role as VP and retired from the committee, while Dr Bridget Hillebrand resigned as Treasurer and retired from the committee to focus on the Education Program. Melissa Smith also retired from her post in Tasmania. I send my heartfelt thanks to these long-serving committee members for their time and commitment and dedication to the organisation over many years. I do hope they continue to be part of the PCA.

Re-nominated to serve another term on the committee were [NSW] Andrew Totman, Dr Thomas Middlemost and Dr Therese Kenyon and [NT] Chips Mackinolty. We welcomed new committee member Olivia Moroney to represent Tasmania. Dr Thomas Middlemost became Vice-President, Andrew Totman took over as Treasurer and Dr Therese Kenyon continued as Secretary.

Members continuing their terms in 2022

We thank the following committee members for continuing their work supporting the PCA. ACT Alexandra Lundy, Clare Jackson; NSW Susan Baran, and Akky van Ogtrop; QLD Sandy Hook, Dian Darmansjah, Dr Jill Sullivan; VIC August Carpenter, Jimmy Pasakos, Julia Reed and Bronwyn Rees; SA Mei Sheong Wong; TAS Jan Hogan; WA Monika Lukowska & Sarah Robinson (joint position), Lyn Nixon.

Volunteers & Interns

We thank our committee of management for their voluntary work in 2022 and Priscilla Ambrosini for contributing voluntary hours to bolster the PCA social media presence.

Staff

For most of us, 2022 was again an extraordinary year for the PCA, and we were extremely lucky that our small but dedicated team of staff members was able to come back in person following COVID restrictions.

Claire Albrecht served as Acting General Manager through to July and we thank her for her fantastic contribution to the organisation, which included overseeing the move to the PCA's new premises in Southbank. PCA Director Marguerite Brown returned after maternity leave to lead the team again from July, navigating a period of change as we settled into our new home while continuing to deliver our longstanding programs and the Print Exchange. Andrew Stephens continues to produce our flagship publication *IMPRINT* with vision and integrity, lending his creative direction and editorial skill to this long-running publication.

Priscilla Ambrosini took on the role of Administration Assistant quickly becoming an invaluable member of the team as she worked on various projects including the 'Bookish' exhibition, Print Exchange, and PCA's move from the Fitzroy Town Hall to Southbank. Accounts Manager Julian Twigg continued to lend his financial expertise to the organisation. Bridget Hillebrand worked as a project-based Education Manager, to help establish the PCA Access Artists education program which connects PCA members with education institutions for workshops and teaching opportunities. Sincere thanks to Bridget for all her hard work on this project.

Sharron Okines, our Advertising & Membership Manager, attentively looked after our members' needs and our network of advertisers in *IMPRINT* until September when, after many years of service, she resigned from this position. It was a great pleasure to work with Sharron who, after close to a decade working at the PCA, became a special person in the history of the organisation. We send our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes to Sharron for her next adventures.

Summary

We started the year with a decided sense of renewed energy as artists, galleries and curators resumed exhibitions. Art fairs resumed in 2022, the Print Commission exhibited again in various states and the new venue and hub for the Print Council is officially open to members and the general public.

I would like to thank sincerely all those members who continued to express interest and commitment to the PCA. We appreciate your participation in our artist-focussed programs such as the Print Commission, the biennial PCA members' Print Exchange and the support of *IMPRINT* magazine and our blog and newsletter. Thanks also goes to all those who sent donations: please accept our heartfelt thanks. The organisation looks forward to an energetic 2023 in the new space. By continuing to extend the PCA presence to wider audiences, we hope to increase membership and sustain what we have already achieved.

Akky van Ogtrop
President

Building on its well-earned reputation as Australia's only journal devoted to print-related media, *IMPRINT* continued strongly in 2022-23 as the PCA's flagship publication, expanding its editorial coverage and responding to the activity of PCA members as well as the wider print community.

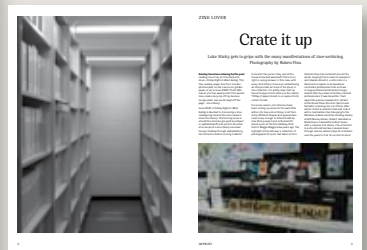
Now well-settled into its re-designed pages, introduced at the beginning of 2021, the contemporary look of the magazine is reflected in the high-quality content which now has a stronger focus on experimental approaches and the impact of new technologies on the expanded field of print media. The magazine also reflects a strong interest among members in artist books, through the regular 'Book Arts' column as well as 'Zine Lover', which explores zine culture around Australia. This is balanced against more traditional interests, in the form of columns such as 'Tech Talk'.

IMPRINT also keeps a focus on the breadth of experience among the membership, with the 'Emerging Artist' column bringing to light the work of little-known practitioners embarking in this field, and the First Nations column

reflecting Indigenous artists' work and practices from around Australia. The 'From the Archive' column celebrates the rich holdings of the PCA Archive, which is now getting an even more expanded and public life thanks to the new gallery-focussed premises at Guild in the heart of Melbourne's designated arts precinct: archive-based shows are certain to be a regular item on the calendar of exhibitions

IMPRINT is augmented by the PCA blog, where current exhibitions are written about and promoted via social media. The blog is an excellent opportunity to give artists a way of sharing their work and exhibitions easily at the most crucial time – just before a show opens and during its exhibiting period. Being a quarterly with long lead-times, the magazine cannot be this responsive or timely, and thus maintains a focus on wider issues and themes. The blog, by contrast, is highly responsive to current exhibitions.

Looking ahead, it is hoped that extra funding and support will be accessed in order to maintain the quality of this important and historic publication.



PCA Finances

The PCA reports its financials on a calendar year. The organisation functions independently of non-project-based Government grants and has completed another year of valuable service and advocacy to the Australian printmaking community.

Independent auditors, Michael Jensen & Associates has concluded that the financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the PCA as at 31st December 2022 and that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the PCA will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due.

The PCA made a substantial loss in 2022 due to increased expenses across the board, with the largest increase seen in salaries, and the move to the new premises and increased rental costs. Continuing to print and distribute our flagship journal *IMPRINT* remains one of our largest expenses.

While 2022 was an expensive year our new premises in Southbank creates potential to generate new revenue streams and bolster our existing programs through the PCA Gallery, and the new audiences that it attracts. We have made a modest increase to membership fees to support the financial viability of the organisation, while an increased focus on fundraising by Committee and staff is of key importance moving forward.

Advertising/Membership

Advertising sales for 2022 totalled \$41,495 (ex GST), a slight improvement from 2021 as artists and galleries resume their exhibition programs with gusto. We are thrilled to continue providing this advertising platform for those working in the visual arts and printmaking arenas to share their creative works, artmaking supplies and opportunities on the pages of *IMPRINT*.

Our E-Newsletter list of printmakers and enthusiasts continues to grow, as does our social media presence. We include complimentary additional advertising through these channels for our *IMPRINT* advertisers, giving even more value for their advertising dollar. In a concerted effort to remain accessible to our members, particularly through these uncertain times, the PCA has not increased advertising rates since 2015. The PCA thanks its loyal regular advertisers whose ongoing support plays an important part enabling us to produce *IMPRINT* magazine.

Membership

Our 2022 membership numbers are higher than 2021, with a slight drop in some states and territories, and increases in others. We continue to work hard on increasing benefits (especially with free promotion opportunities), discounts and experiences for our members, which along with our strong digital presence, offers many options to connect and stay in touch.

We would like to thank our loyal members who are the backbone of the PCA. We received a very generous \$6,563 in tax deductible donations. The PCA is funded largely through its membership base with no continual external grant funding. Every resource available is focused on delivering and improving our programs and benefits to members.

2022 Budget Actuals

	2022	2021
Income	\$173,267	\$196,909
Expenses	\$255,067	\$212,844
Operating Profit/Loss	-\$81,800	-\$15,935

Major revenue sources

	2022	2021
Membership	\$80,464	\$77,447
Print Commission Subscriptions	\$15,865	\$17,961
Grants Received	\$8,409	\$10,000
<i>IMPRINT</i> Advertising	\$41,495	\$41,296
Donations	\$6,563	\$1,756
Print Sales	\$5,806	\$4,200
COVID-19 Government Support	-	\$27,300

Significant costs for 2022

	2022	2021
<i>IMPRINT</i> – contributor fees, design, print, distribution	\$53,596	\$51,149
Staff*	\$142,214	\$121,830
Print Commission	\$5,672	\$6,217
General operations, rent, phone, internet, stationary, web, software subscriptions	\$26,878	\$18,428
Postage	\$2,589	\$2,717
PCA office move	\$2,533	

*includes superannuation, contract staff and bookkeeping

Membership per state and int'l	2022	2021
ACT	31	31
NSW	319	319
NT	9	5
QLD	146	143
SA	55	57
TAS	51	43
VIC	344	327
WA	39	66
INTERNATIONAL	42	39

As at 31 December 2022, 2021 respectively