

Founder: Julian Rossi Ashton CBE.

Honoured Patrons, past and present:

Dr Lloyd Rees AC CMG. Lady Ashton. Lady Turbott.
Amina Belgiorno Nettis, Franco Belgiorno Nettis CBE AM,
Charles Blackman OBE, Don Burrows AO MBE,
Tom Keneally AO, John Olsen OBE,
Sir Ian Turbott CMG CVO Hon D Litt (UWS).

THE SCHOOL NOW



BASIC DRAWING



FIGURE PAINTING



LANDSCAPE PAINTING



ANATOMY

WATER COLOUR



STILL LIFE

COLOUR THEORY

DRAPERY

SCULPTURE



Owen Thomson teaching

Samuel Wade Self Portrait



The School Philosophy
Learning to see
The Drawing School

In Julian Ashton's office there hung a print of a drawing of a bison from the Lascaux caves which he greatly admired. There is a strong linear tradition in the school. Julian influenced Lambert

and Rees and this carried through via Dobell and Passmore to Olsen, Whiteley and the present day. Line defines the limits of the form of an object and reveals structure. Although he was a great admirer of classical drawing Julian above all believed in the search for beauty and meaning and that observation was the necessary vehicle for expression.

Mr Henry Gibbons was once asked if there was a unifying principle underlying the unique achievements of the students; and he replied,

"Ashton used to say to me, Teach them to see, Gibbons, to see the beauty of the form, the tone and the colour of the world around them and represent it on paper and canvas."

It is the philosophy of this School to encourage fine drawing and sound practice in the craft of painting.

Norman Lindsay said of the the School; *"An educational institution of the highest cultural importance where the students are inspired to emulate the achievements of past students by the very atmosphere in which they worked."*

Technique is the key!

Because there are no time limits and no inflexible curriculum the student can engage totally with a chosen subject.

This is real learning. Artists tend to be single minded by temperament and this opportunity for sustained study gives structure on which to overlay individuality and feelings.

Our students become articulate in the language of art.

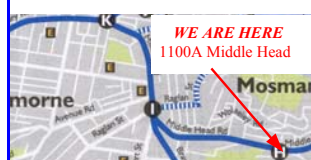
Paul Delprat



As the oldest resident the school thanks The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority for the creation of the Rocks Art Precinct.

When the school moved to The Rocks it was a wild neglected area of town and students were escorted to the Quay to ferries and buses after the night class past the wild pubs lining George St North. Now, in the 21st century, having been joined by the Museum of Contemporary Art and other arts organisations, the art school is proud to be an integral part of a thriving vital art community.

Mon to Fri 244 BUS to / from city to Georges Heights departs Wynyard (on Carrington St) Tel for timetable - 131500. See www.131500.com.au
Sat 238 BUS meets Taronga Zoo ferry from Circular Quay. Alight Beaconsfield Road. **CAR PARKING**



You are welcome to visit The Heritage Art School in the Rocks or our Georges Heights Gallery and view the historical exhibition By Appointment or on open days

Tel 02 92411641

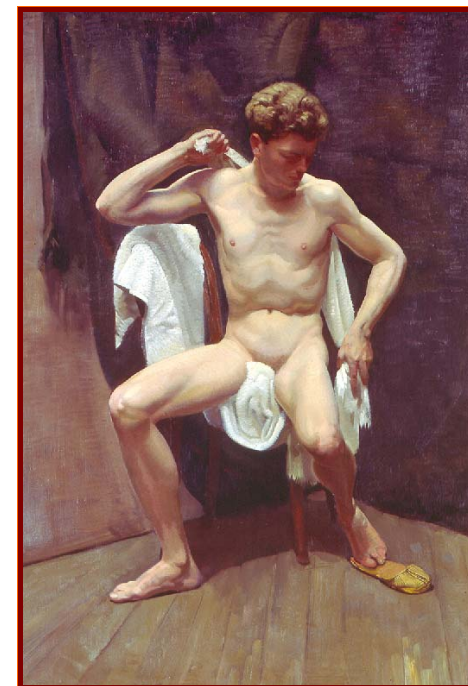
THE HISTORIC ROCKS ART SCHOOL



JULIAN ASHTON ART SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1890

PAUL ASHTON DELPRAT
PRINCIPAL

WWW.JULIANASHTONARTSCHOOL.COM.AU



Sir William Dobell

NSW Travelling Scholarship nude

Australia's oldest continuous Fine Art School

Level 2 117 George Street The Rocks
Opposite the Museum of contemporary Art
and

Building 17 Headland Park 1100A Middle Head Rd
Corner of Cobbittee St Mosman.



Julian Rossi Ashton CBE

A famous family of Artists.....

Early days

When Julian Rossi Ashton arrived in Australia in 1878 it was at a time when colonial art imitated the English watercolour and when young painters like Arthur Streeton were criticized for depicting the harsh sun-lit landscape.

Julian was dismayed by this and became the leader in the battle for Australian art. One of his first achievements was, as a trustee, to convince The New South Wales art gallery to buy the work of local artists of promise.

“Still glides the stream” by Arthur Streeton was the first of these. As a teacher Ashton was without peer. “There is no better teacher in Paris” said George Lambert.

Julian Ashton and Henry Fullwood established an artists’ camp at the northern end of Balmoral Beach in the 1880’s (see From the Artist Camp A History) Julian was joined by many of his first students at the camp at Balmoral painting en plein air in the landscape



Julian with students

1895

Foundation

In 1890 Julian opened his School in Beaumont Chambers, King St. Celebrated painters who came from this period include Elioth Gruner, George Lambert, Thea Proctor, Adrian Feint, Sydney Long, Dorrit Black and J.J.Hilder.



Howard and Ethel on right

The School then moved to Queen Victoria Building. Student climbed to classes via a spiral staircase. Howard Ashton, Julian’s son met his future wife Ethel Roberts at the school as later Howards son Richard was to meet his



Queen Victoria Building Henry Gibbons on right

wife Wenda. George Lambert gave demonstrations which were instructive to many including William Dobell as a student. The paintings hang in the school. Brian Gaston remembers Julian advising him only to use the best materials. He thought that he was being advised to try some other occupation. Paul Delprat informed him that it was a family saying. As Howard said “If a master cannot succeed with poor materials how can a student.” Pixie O,Harris, aunt of Rolf Harris, in a talk to the students recalled Julian being curious about the little



Julian teaching

John Passmore at easel on right

fairies she had drawn passing in and out of the skull she had been asked to draw. (Students still master the skull first before moving on to other subjects.)

“Miss Harris. I thought I told you to draw what you see.” Pixie coyly replied, “Well Mr Ashton, How did old masters draw angels if they didn’t see them and it doesnt mean that I don’t.” Julian walked off chuckling.



Julian Ashton teaching. Henry Gibbons observing

Pixie was to be a famous childrens book illustrator. Henry Cornwallis Gibbons joined the school in 1922 and after Julian’s passing in 1942 continued to run it until 1960. William Dobell, Eric Wilson, Jean Bellette, Douglas Dundas, William Dadswell, John Passmore, Joshua Smith and Max Dupain attended in this period.



Henry Gibbons demonstrates drawing

Henry Gibbons joined the school in 1922 and after Julian’s passing in 1942 continued to run it until 1960. William Dobell, Eric Wilson, Jean Bellette, Douglas Dundas, William Dadswell, John Passmore, Joshua Smith and Max Dupain attended in this period. painted the harbour from the windows overlooking Circular Quay Among the artists attending the school at the Mining Museum in the following decades were John Olsen, Michael Johnston, Brett Whiteley, Nigel Thomson and Salvatore Zofrea. On the retirement of Henry Gibbons in 1960 Howard Ashton’s son J. Richard Ashton and his wife Wenda ran the School. Among many gifted ones, Francis Giacco, Vicki Parrish and Ian Chapman attended. In 1977 Phillip Ashton, Richard’s son, became Principal this being the time of Haydn Wilson and Bill Leak In 1988 the School was incorporated and Paul Ashton Delprat, Julian’s great grandson and an



George St before renovation

ex student, took over its’ running In 1989 the school’s antique casts, easels and paintings were classified by The National Trust. The school has a restoration program of its unique



Julian Ashton conducts a class in the Mining Museum



Mining Museum 1968

collection of casts. In 1962 It moved to its present home opposite the Museum of Contemporary Art in George Street.

The Centenary of the school in 1990 was celebrated by The Artists Picnic, a Festival held throughout The Rocks sponsored by The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA). An exhibition was held at the S H Irvin Gallery . The School moved briefly across the road to the Quay whilst our George Street studio was renovated . The SHFA designed a new purpose built studio for the School having extensive south facing skylights. Our heritage home is listed as The Julian Ashton Art School Building and is a landmark in the Rocks .

President Clinton, whilst in office, visited the school and noted that there used to be “wonderful little art schools like this in America” and advised us to keep up the good work. Peter Ustinoff told the students about his love of realistic art that - “you could ping.” John Olsen has visited his old school over the years, giving demonstrations. Other visiting masters include Lloyd Rees, Charles Blackman

and John Coburn. Visiting lecturers include Tim Storrier, Wendy Sharpe, Jocelyn Maughan, Brian Dunlop, John Caldwell and Fred Cress. The school has held exhibition classes at The Museum of Contemporary Art.

The School is part of the program of The Heritage Houses Trust. Through the Dept of Education and the AGNSW the School has endowed the Art Express Drawing Scholarship since 1995.

The Sir William Dobell Scholarship has been awarded since 1990. The prestigious A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship has recently been won by eight of our students.

Samuel Wade also won the Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship. Nigel Thomson won both the Archibald prize and the Sulman prize, twice. Francis Giacco is an Archibald winner.

Josefia Lemon won the RAS grand prize and Nafisa Naomi won the Bi Centenary Gold Medal in Florence for 2007.

As can be seen from our annual Students and Teachers exhibition the schools high standard is ongoing.

See over for The School Now



Richard Porter teaching over the years



Art school, MCA and Opera House



Nigel Thomson teaching 1995



Keith Dewell teaches drawing