



AUCKLAND AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL ASSOCIATION

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Profile: Juliet Powell

As a child Juliet, who was born in England, led the kind of life a lot of kids can only dream of. While she went to many schools in England and Scotland, from a very early age she was, like the rest of her family, also a circus performer. Her father Frank Foster was a well-known circus Ring Master at Blackpool Tower Circus then at Bertram Mills Circus (his autobiography 'Pink Coat, Spangles and Sawdust' is now a collector's item), her elder brother, who was a clown, stilt walker and horseback rider, became ringmaster after Frank retired. "I have photographs of myself getting on elephants when I was about five," says Juliet, "it's just what we were expected to do."

As a teenager she worked in a London in an office for a while, before becoming apprenticed to a circus family in Germany. Employed to balance on a globe, Juliet travelled all over Europe doing live and televised performances, then went with the family to the US and performed at Radio City and Hollywood Palace. A year in Spain followed. She was always interested in art, sometimes sketching in dressing rooms while she waited to go on, but says at that stage of her life, she "had no real time to do it and didn't know much about it." Back in London Juliet was working on starting her own act when, on one of her odd jobs, she met her future husband, photographer John Powell. In the early years of the marriage she worked with John in his photography business.

Juliet and John moved to in New Zealand in 1974 where they eventually built a boat, lived aboard and travelled. At 28 Juliet began going to art classes in Auckland, first painting in watercolour then moving to acrylic. Then, about 10 years ago when she was with Auckland East Arts, she visited Bartizans. "I saw all this wonderful work and felt very lucky when they said I could join," she says. "On my first day with Bartizans, I didn't have a canvas, so John gave me a 5' x 4' canvas. I looked at it and said, 'oh alright' and I sat down and tackled doing a seascape with a big paintbrush. The painting is still up in a friend's house and they love it. I usually just paint out of my head, sometimes other things, but mostly seascapes."

Juliet enjoys selling her work and enjoys exhibiting alongside the other Bartizans, a group she says is fabulous and a wonderful support. "Painting is captivating. You're painting, and suddenly you see something works when this picture emerges from a white canvas. I would encourage anybody to take it up."

Helen Martin

SPECIAL MEMBERS ONLY OFFER

Have you got an event coming up? Advertise for free in our next issue of Art News!

Contact aucklandap@asbshowgrounds.co.nz

Children's art

ARTerslie is held in May in the Church of Christ Hall in association with the Ellerslie Business Association. Bartsians and people who belong to the A&P Association exhibit from Friday to Sunday then children's art created at their schools is exhibited. From there, the children chosen as the winning artists are invited to come to our Children's Art Workshop in mid-July at the A&P Showgrounds. At the workshop they're given a day's free tuition and we provide all the materials using the money we've raise from the gold coin collection at the Easter Show and ARTerslie. It's always very successful and the kids love it. Last year 40 children took part.

When the workshop is on this year the Suzuki School of music are going to have a concert on the stage and at lunchtime, we're having a talent quest. It's going to be really cool!

Judy O'Brien



Calling all young artists

There are still a couple of places left in our youth workshop to be held on 14 July. First in first served. Interested? Ring Elaine on 0220213369 or email elly.art@gmail.com. Remember, spaces are limited.

A top tip from the Net

When trying to produce a masterpiece, remember this - creativity is taking all the shapes and forms available to all artists and rearranging them to create something no-one else has thought about.

Calling all A&P artists

Entries are now open for the art showcase to be held at Edmund Hillary Village on 14/15 September. This is one of our showcase exhibitions, held in the beautiful indoor garden area, and we do have good sales. For entry forms or more information, please email Gailene Marsden at jgmarsden@xtra.co.nz or John Towers at j.andme@xtra.co.nz

Remember this is an A&P membership-only exhibition. The good news is that the cost of joining the A&P and reaping the benefits is just \$30 per year.



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