

Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2017



Nature inspires SALA artists

A love of the natural world is the inspiration behind ACH Group's South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival works this year.

This year artists have submitted pieces that relate to the theme: 'Reconnecting with nature – people, places and plants'.

Artist Francine Jacques' oil painting 'Storm at Port Noarlunga' has been chosen for the 2017 poster and artwork used to promote ACH Group's SALA venues.

Francine, who is a resident of Perry Park at Port Noarlunga, has been a regular exhibitor since ACH Group first became involved in the festival seven years ago. She is a committed artist who kept painting after suffering a stroke by switching from her right hand to her left and is looking forward to being involved again this year. "I always look at the skies around me – whether it's raining, cloudy, blue, a sunset or sunrise. I like looking at the sky. I think that's why they feature so much in the landscapes that I like to do."

Francine will join a group of other artists at the official opening of SALA at the Art Gallery of South Australia on Friday 28 July.

ACH Group SALA Curator Gianna Miller says the festival acknowledges the value of artistic expression as an integral part of everyday life.

"It brings art to the community and fosters the community through art," she says. "Our long-standing involvement with SALA is just one way in which ACH Group has been able to demonstrate its Healthy Ageing Approach to support people in our residential living homes to 'choose to be active, remain connected and engage in what they love to do'."

Festival Chair John Hill, who is also ACH Group Board Director, says in its 20th year, the month-long open access festival has become an important celebration of artists and the arts community.

"This is the time of year when we shine a light on the creativity and visions of South Australian artists," he says. "This festival provides a platform for visual artists of every type, working in every medium at every level of skill and experience in every part of our state."

SALA Festival Director Penny Griggs says being part of SALA provides many advantages for emerging and established artists.

"The event offers emerging artists a platform to exhibit outside of their training institution, and established local gallery spaces make an annual commitment to South Australian artists."

Last year a total 4,600 artists exhibited work in 630 free exhibitions across 570 venues. Artists exhibited across diverse range of mediums including painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, digital media, moving image, glass, ceramics, textiles and more.

Find out more about ACH Group's involvement in SALA at <http://achgroup.org.au/event/sala-exhibition-2017/>

Pic caption: ACH Group Perry Park resident Francine Jacques loves painting Australian landscapes in oils and acrylics.

ACH Group exhibition venues

Toop & Toop, 84 King William Road, Goodwood

Plato's Philosopher's Kitchen, 164 King William Road, Hyde Park

The Ark Clothing Co. 124 King William Road, Hyde Park

Woodcroft Community Arts Centre, 175 Bairns Road, Morphett Vale

Milpara Residential Living, 147 St Bernards Rd, Rostrevor

Find out more at www.ach.org.au/sala2016

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About ACH Group

ACH Group is a not-for-profit aged care organisation that has been offering services to support good lives for older people in South Australia since 1952. As well as accommodation options across Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula and East Melbourne, the group offers a range of health, wellbeing, respite and support services, help at home and social activities. Our 1700 specialist staff and hundreds of volunteers share the belief that older people should be valued and respected, connected to their communities and in control of their lives.

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