

Malcolm inspired by new techniques

Trying new painting techniques has enabled Malcolm Moss to continue making art while living with advanced Parkinson's disease.

Mr Moss, 80, is a member of ACH Group's 'Not The Da Vinci's' art group at Wynn Vale and is looking forward to exhibiting four works in this year's South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival.

Diagnosed with Parkinson's at the age of 52, he draws inspiration from a variety of places and techniques, including the dot painting used in Aboriginal art.

He was also inspired by ABC TV's 'Making Child Prodigies' documentary, broadcast in June this year. "I liked the way she (10-year-old prodigy Aelita) sloshed the paint onto the canvas," he said. "I am using a dropper, steel wool, a pallet knife and pouring straight from a tube, resulting in these different effects."

A former Civil Engineer, Malcolm retired at the age of 50 and has spent many years travelling Australia with his wife Dorothy. He joined Not the Da Vincis five years ago and has exhibited works at several exhibitions including SALA last year.

He says that while his condition means he finds it difficult to walk and talk, he still enjoys the challenge of creating art. "I was always interested in Aboriginal art," he says. "I like painting Australian animals; I would photograph penguins at Philip Island and paint them, I've done bilbies and black-faced cormorants."

ACH Group Support Worker and artist Penny Shevlin says Malcolm is an inspiration to the group. "He never gives up, he comes with a big smile on his face no matter what," she says. "Everyone here thinks he's fabulous and he inspires them to keep going."

Group member Linda Frick, 75, is set to enter her first SALA exhibition this year. "I haven't done art since school and I've learnt a few techniques; putting in the right backgrounds and making sure the structure is right. For me, I enjoy the satisfaction of seeing the finished product. You think 'I did that, that's it up on the wall', and that's a good feeling."

Enid Lackerstein, 91, was one of the founding members of the group which started eight years ago. "I had been painting from my school days, then I married with children and gave it up. I love to paint flowers, oceans and fish. I enjoy art. When I have sad moments, it makes me feel better."

The Not the Da Vincis at Wynn Vale is one of several art groups submitting works as part of ACH Group's SALA exhibition. This year's SALA theme for ACH Group customers, volunteers and staff is: 'A moment in time and everything in between'.

Exhibitions will be held at six venues across Adelaide, including the Adelaide Convention Centre, Glenelg Football Club, ACH Group Head Office at Mile End, South Adelaide Football Club at Noarlunga Downs, Campbelltown Library and ACH Group's Milpara Residential Care at Rostrevor.

For more information, visit <https://achgroup.org.au/event/sala/>

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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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