



Press Release
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50th milestone for Southland Art Society

The Southland Art Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special exhibition in Invercargill next month, followed by the popular ILT Southland Art Awards.

President Anne McCracken said it was an exciting milestone for the society, which was originally formed as an art group in April 1961.

“We have a very proud history and there have been some well-known artists who have started with the society,” she said.

“Former members have been contacted to see if they will include a piece and we’ve had a wonderful response.”

The exhibition opens on June 10 with a cocktail function which will be followed by a formal dinner at Elmwood.

“There will be a lot of reminiscing,” Mrs McCracken said. “And the society is still in good heart. We have a wonderful gallery where people can just sit on the couch and refresh their soul with the artwork around them. It’s a place to just pop in and take time to smell the roses.”

The anniversary celebrations will be followed by the annual ILT Southland Art Awards at the end of July. The Invercargill Licensing Trust recently approved funding of \$31,000 to stage the awards and assist with hosting the anniversary celebrations.

Attracting entries of a high calibre from throughout the South Island in previous years, Mrs McCracken expected this year to be no exception.

ILT chairman Alan Dennis said the awards were a fantastic opportunity for local artists to showcase their work.

“The ILT Art Awards provide a valuable platform every year for our talented artists to showcase their creativity and an opportunity for the Southland public to appreciate the quality of artists in our midst,” he said.

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