

Arkaroola Art Adventure 2019

It's on again for the sixth year running...

Join artist mentors, Peter Griffen, Denise Lithgow and Paul Macklin for a unique experience of studio, 'en plein air', abstract and landscape, painting, drawing, photography, textile, felting and mixed media in Australia's premier, mountain desert reserve, Arkaroola Wilderness Resort, northern Flinders Ranges, South Australia.

Saturday evening 31st August to Sunday morning 8th of September 2019



Arkaroola Art Adventure 2019 is...

- An unparalleled variety of 'en plein air' painting sites all a short drive or walk from our Arkaroola Wilderness Resort accommodation.
- Four-wheel-drive transport to and from our painting sites with experienced and knowledgeable guides.
- Full use of a large indoor studio, day and night.
- Materials - Acrylic paint, cartridge paper, sketch pad and graphite pencil supplied.
- Tuition from three highly experienced artists working together, Peter Griffen, Denise Lithgow and Paul Macklin.
- Day and evening workshops and presentations.
- Single or twin share accommodation at Greenwood Lodge - Arkaroola Wilderness Resort, including all meals.
- An unforgettable week, rich with outstanding studio, 'en plein air', abstract, landscape, painting, drawing, photography, textile, felting and mixed media.

Bookings and further information...

- \$3,290 - Single Room
- \$2,890 - Past participant and Twin Share

Secure your place with a \$500 deposit today.

- * Includes GST
- * Excludes transport too and from Arkaroola Wilderness Resort - Optional bus from Adelaide - Arkaroola return \$440.
- * Participants are advised to take responsibility for their own travel insurance
- * Ask us about special rates for non-painting partners
- * Prices may be subject to change without notice

Paul and Sallie-Ann Macklin
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Peter Griffen and Denise Lithgow
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facebook: Arkaroola Art Adventures Inspire Innovate Create

The Origins of the Arkaroola Art Adventure

In August of 2013 artist cousins, Peter Griffen and Paul Macklin, travelled from Sydney to the Flinders Ranges in search of landscapes to inspire their 'en plein air' painting. Peter, deep into his career as one of Australia's leading abstract expressionist painters and Paul returning to his creative roots.

In the rugged desert mountains of Northern Flinders, well beyond the bitumen, at Arkaroola the two struck artists gold.

Arkaroola, a painter's paradise; the light, colour and ancient architecture of the twisted mountains are totally inspiring.

"The soaring views atop Mt. Painter, the craggy gorges, elusive Yellow Footed Rock Wallabies and deeply reflective waterholes arrested our attention."

Between red wind, brush and campfire yarns the trip soon gave birth to the **Arkaroola Art Adventure**; 'en plein air' painting, sketching, photographing and creative exploration for a group of like minded adventurers.

Peter and Paul initiated the Arkaroola Art Adventure and in 2014 and in 2015, 2016 and 2017, travelled back to the desert with painters and students for a week of creative revelry inspired by the magnificent landscape.

Arkaroola Wilderness Resort

Located 600km north of Adelaide and 130km east of Leigh Creek, and in the ruggedly spectacular northern Flinders Ranges, this 610sq km multi award-winning Wilderness Sanctuary, operated by the Sprigg family, contains some of Australia's most spectacular mountain views and offers numerous Advanced Eco tourism accredited guided tours.

Arkaroola features rugged mountains, towering granite peaks, magnificent gorges and mysterious waterholes, the home to over 160 species of birds and the shy and endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby.

Arkaroola is a mecca for bush-walkers and artists.

The spectacular Advanced Eco tourism accredited rugged 4WD Ridge-top Tour is world famous; journey to the depths of ancient seabeds and across razor-back ridges and peaks of the Flinders Ranges most rugged mountains to the magnificent climax at Stillers Lookout.

Being the first Flinders Ranges tourist organisation to achieve the coveted Advanced Eco tourism accreditation, and with now a total of eleven such products available for you to enjoy, Arkaroola is truly unique. Our third successive S.A. Tourism Award win for Eco tourism (November 2007), saw Arkaroola awarded the coveted Hall of Fame, and is undoubtedly South Australia's premier eco-tourism destination.

To see more of Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary go to...
<http://www.arkaroola.com.au/>



Make Getting There an Adventure!

Options for making the journey to Arkaroola an adventure...

- Scenic bus from Adelaide to Arkaroola (10.5 hours) departs Adelaide 6.30am Saturday returns 7.00pm Sunday - if booking a flight please ensure it is after 8pm.
- Driving; the roads are well kept - Access Arkaroola from Adelaide via Leigh Creek and from the Eastern States via Broken Hill and Yunta. Grab your friends and make it a trip you'll remember!
- Or... team up with friends and charter your own aircraft; pick up from the local airport can be arranged

Optional extras available at Arkaroola Resort

- World famous **Ridge-Top Tour**, see the majestic, and aptly named, Mount Painter - 4 hours
- Spectacular **Scenic Flights** over Mawson Plateau and Lake Frome
- **Astronomy Talk** - insight into the origins of the universe and of Arkaroola's unique geology!
- **Observatory** - the stars as you've never seen them before and the knowledge of your guide will astound you!



Peter Griffen a full time, Sydney based artist, has been painting for over forty years. He travels extensively and exhibits throughout Australia and overseas. He enjoys painting outdoors and much of his time is spent in the studio creating abstract images derived from the landscape.

Peter has been a finalist in prizes including the Blake, Sulman, Dobell and Fleurieu prizes and has been published many times in the Australian Artist Magazine.

Peter is represented in many collections in Australia and overseas, has had five solo exhibitions in London, four in Paris, three in regional France and numerous solo exhibitions in Australia.

His approach to teaching is both imaginative and intuitive. Peter, responds both to the student and to the possibilities inherent in the environment and the emergent work.

Workshops involve demonstrations, when needed, and each participant is free to progress at their own rate in a way that opens pathways toward their own individual approach.

"I believe that to make discoveries risks must be taken, the traveler must get lost. A well planned journey can only lead to an already known destination."

I seek to help students make the transition from control to chaos and back again in a way that enables images and possibilities that a more formal teaching approach can not replicate."

Peter tutors workshops with the Art Gallery of NSW and has organised and taught very successful workshops in outback Australia, Italy, UK, USA and New Zealand.

For more information Peter's work and life see Australian Artist magazine, issue 109, "Making Sense of Abstract Images", and issue 352, which included a ten page review of his book, "In and Out of Abstraction".

Denise Lithgow is considered one of Australia's leading textile artists.

Her mediums are sculptured felt vessels, 2-D machine embroidery and the natural dyeing of fabrics.

Her two dimensional works are colourful, vibrant textile semi abstracts which are inspired by her love of the landscape.

The felt vessels are handmade employing very simplistic but elegant lines. Vessels, such as vases and bowls, she enjoys as she sees them as both ancient and familiar "everyday" forms.

She exhibits regularly in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally, has won many prizes, is published regularly at home and abroad and continues to search for new forms of expression.

Born on a sheep property and growing up with wool, Denise responds to the landscape, with a strong, intuitive sense of colour and design and it is not surprising that felting has become her primary media.

"Once I was introduced to felt I was captivated by its tactile qualities, rich range of colours and the magical meshing of fibres which then can be manipulated into forms and shapes to create vessels. Felt is a non woven cloth that is produced by matting, condensing and pressing woolen fibers. I use felt as it's an ecological, sustainable textile."

Kirry Toose, President Australian Textile Arts & Surface Design Association of NSW says of Denise...

"Her skills and ability to fulfill dreams through her art practice, her unrivaled reputation for sharing and being so inclusive of all who meet her..."

Denise is an artist of limitless inspiration and a purveyor of visual delights, representative in her versatility in the various textile and fiber art mediums - from multi layered wall pieces, artwear and felted objects."

Denise is an inspiring and generous teacher, sharing freely her insights, approaches and techniques with her students.

For more information Denise's work see www.deniselithgow.com and www.facebook.com/DeniseLithgowTextileArtist



Paul Macklin has been described as a 'creative provocateur'. He passionately coaches and incites the creative in every person he meets.

In his fifty eight years he has expressed his creativity as poet, musician, potter, painter, actor, graphic designer, creative director and for the past 20 years as the founding director and principle consultant of Amazing People.

Paul now divides his time between his family, farm, painting, his corporate role in Amazing People, Head Hand and Heart creative transformation workshops and facilitating the Kincumber Life Drawing Group.

Paul has been engaged in group and solo exhibitions on the Central Coast NSW. The Camino Way, Paul's first solo exhibition captured the spirit and journey of the Camino Way.

Paul's art balances traditional elements of draftsmanship, structure and form with the creative interplay of abstraction and expression inspired from landscape, figure and dreams.

Paul is a consummate learner and he engages those around him in his passionate exploration of art and life. His great joy is to walk the path of discovery, with no fixed destination, while helping others step into the unknown.

"I believe that all creativity embraces reality, abstraction and expression and those three dimensions are all pathways to discovery."

To that extent, Paul is equally at home helping students explore traditional principles of design; form, perspective and colour as he is journeying down the road more post-modern destinations.

"I see that we all have a zone at the edge of our experience where we have the opportunity to learn, to step into the unknown. We can do that by starting with known principles and expanding towards the edge, or simply by stepping off and learning to fly. My job is to help students discover their own method for confidently extending their creative practice."

You can see more of Paul's work on Facebook at Head Hand and Heart.



Inspire Innovate Create

Proudly sponsored by Derivan



Arkaroola Art Adventure

7 Days of creative explorations...

Arkaroola Wilderness Resort northern Flinders Ranges SA

Join artist teachers, Peter Griffen, Denise Lithgow and Paul Macklin for an outstanding creative adventure in one of the Australia's premier mountain-desert, nature reserves.

This very special, seven day painting, drawing, photographing and mixed-media workshop will immerse you in...

- Spectacular, rugged mountain landscapes, broad desert vistas, intimate time-worn waterholes and soaring sunlit canyons.
- The perfect environment to develop, challenge or extend your 'en plein air' painting, drawing or photography skills.
- Creative simulation from three very different and capable artist teachers and the company of like minded artists and students.
- A journey of creative discovery.

Your package includes...

- Full tuition from three highly experienced artist teachers.
- Day and evening workshops, tutorials and presentations.
- Full use of a large indoor studio.
- Single or twin share accommodation at Greenwood Lodge - Arkaroola Wilderness Resort.
- All meals.
- Daily four-wheel-drive transport too and from the resort to our painting sites with experienced and knowledgeable guides.
- Materials including acrylic paint, cartridge paper (please bring your own special painting materials, brushes, canvases, portable easel, etc)



unparalleled inspirational landscapes



unparalleled inspirational landscapes







indoor studio space





a quiet evening and a moment of peace, sketching at Arkaroola Waterhole



lost in the landscape



creative companions, experienced guides and our 'troopie' transport



Barraranna Gorge Peter Griffen 2013



Red Rocks Arkaroola Peter Griffen 2013



Griselda Hill Peter Griffen 2013



Arkaroola Waterhole Paul Macklin 2013



Barraranna Gorge Paul Macklin 2013



Brachina Gorge Paul Macklin 2013



Sunshine Rock Paul Macklin 2014



Noodles Cathedral Paul Macklin 2014



Barraranna In the Pink Paul Macklin 2014



Arid Lands Late Afternoon - Denise Lithgow



From the Summer House - Denise Lithgow



Rivers, Hills and Meadows - Denise Lithgow



Pebbles 3 Black - Denise Lithgow



Rock Holes - Denise Lithgow



Droplets 3 - Denise Lithgow

Frequently asked questions...

We have attempted to answer the most frequently asked questions about the program. If you have any further questions please phone Paul on 0409 114 271, Peter on 0402 116818, Denise on 0417 215218 or Sallie-Ann on 0408 114 272.

When does the formal program start and finish?

The formal program runs from the evening Saturday with dinner, and introductions to the group. It officially finished on the following Saturday night after a celebration and exhibition of work completed by everyone during the week. Breakfast on the Sunday morning is provided. Your accommodation and catering are booked from dinner on the evening of the first Saturday through to breakfast on the Sunday morning.

How does that fit with the bus from Adelaide?

We have organised a bus that will run from Adelaide as an optional extra. The bus departs Adelaide Saturday morning at 6.30am (we can advise hotels to overnight for easy pick up) and returns to Adelaide on the Sunday evening around 7.00pm.

The trip travels up and back through some spectacular country including the beautiful wine growing areas of the Barossa or Clare Valleys and then the lower Wilpena, arriving at Arkaroola around sunset. Allow 10.5 hours each way.

What's the daily schedule?

As for the daily routine we don't have a formal agenda but in general our days look something one of these two options.

Morning 'en plein air' session and afternoon studio

- Breakfast from 7.30 am
- Touch base in the studio and orient for the day around 9.00
- Depart to painting site 9.30am
- Lunch at the site
- Return around 1.00 -2.00 pm - generally we find 3 - 4 hours on site is enough for most people
- Free work and coaching in the studio during the afternoon
- Perhaps a late afternoon workshop or presentation - generally we found after dinner presentations too much
- Drinks and dinner around 7.00 pm
- Some people will work in the studio during the evening

or the reverse

Morning studio and afternoon en plain air

- Breakfast from 7.30am
- Workshop, presentation or demonstration in the studio
- Lunch at the resort
- 1 pm Depart to painting site - generally something close - Arkaroola Waterhole for example
- Return around 5 pm
- Drinks and dinner around 7.00 pm
- Some people will work in the studio during the evening



salt encrusted rocks and afternoon sunlight at 'noodles'

What happens on day one?

Because we often have quite a mix of abilities and needs we like to do a bit of a get to know you, find out what you want on the morning of day one. That way we can tailor the program to the needs of the participants (some just want to come and paint, some want tuition, some are quite experienced but want coaching, some are new to acrylics or painting 'en plain air' and want technical instruction, etc)

We also do a piece on 'the unique challenges of painting 'en plain air' with acrylics' and make sure everyone has their kit in order.

Then we do a site visit in the afternoon to a painting site not too far from the resort, to get those new to 'en plain air' painting used to the conditions and their 'kit' working in the great outdoors.

From then on we play it a bit by ear depending on where the group is at, energy levels, interests, weather, etc., with either a morning or afternoon site visit.

If the group is up to it we may even do one or two long days in the field.

Some days some people may choose to stay back when the group goes out and work in the studio quietly on their own. With two teachers managing the sessions we can easily split the group to meet the needs.

There are also some great sites within a very short walk of the accommodation - so it's easy to do an outdoors session close to home.

How will I know what's happening each day?

We discuss the needs with the group during the day, check the availability of our drivers and then, each evening we publish a schedule for the following day.

I'm only a beginner, will I be OK?

The program is designed to suit people of all capabilities and experience levels. For beginners there is ample formal tuition and the opportunity for one-on-one coaching, plus...there is simply no substitute for the raw experience of being out there doing it.

In our experience art adventure participants are a super encouraging group, it's not about abilities and egos, its about being out there having a fantastic time creating and having fun.

We are both passionate about creating an non-judgmental, positive learning environment.

I'm an experienced artist and would just like to come and do my own thing, is that OK?

The program is designed to suit people of all capabilities and experience levels and we really welcome experienced artists who want to come and be part of the adventure.

All workshops are voluntary, so if you just want to avail yourself of the amenities, transport and painting opportunities that's fine.

We will encourage you to share your work and your experiences with the group - we can all learn so much from each other.

Are there any formal teaching workshops?

Peter really likes to just get in there and paint, see what comes up and then to address that at the time. Paul is a bit more structured and ensures we do some formal teaching too - of course attendance is purely voluntary.

We will tailor the content to suit the abilities and needs of the group - but you might expect we would cover such topics as...

- The unique challenges of painting 'en plain air' - materials, tools, techniques, challenges and approaches.
- New to acrylic -materials, tools, techniques and approaches.
- Finding your way in - various approaches to getting started, overcoming the voice of 'the judge' and entering your 'creative zone'.
- From drawing to painting - using drawing as a starting point, drawings that become paintings, drawing with paint and pure painting approaches.
- Balancing Reality - Abstraction and Expression.
- Working with colour and form in the landscape - some great preparatory exercises to simplify your work.
- Loosening up and letting go - pathways to greater freedom and self expression.
- Expressive mark making and how to capture first impressions and the spirit of the moment.
- Creating interest through your composition.
- Building courage and confidence in your creative practice.

Do you provide any one-on-one coaching and mentoring?

We have found that some people like a bit of one-on-one time, so we are both widely available to help when needed. For example, last year we had three participants who were particularly interested in photography and learning more about their cameras, so they booked Paul in for a couple of small group sessions after dinner. We are really inspired to help others as much as possible and make ourselves available day and night.

Will we be showing and sharing our work?

People vary in their need and confidence in showing and sharing their work. So we make 'show and tell' purely optional.

The workshop space really lends itself to posting work for display so we certainly encourage that. In fact, by the end of the week the studio will look like a gallery!!! In addition, every couple of days we will do a voluntary show and tell.

Many people say these are some of the best sessions of the week as we learn from each other and our approaches, experiments, successes and challenges.

Peter very much likes to teach by finding and highlighting the best in people's work and making that known to the group so that we can each learn from that in some way.

How many different painting sites will we visit...

Last year we visited five different painting sites and we visited Arkaroola Waterhole twice as it is really handy and simply amazing in the afternoon sunlight.

If you include the optional extra **Ridge Top Tour** and the **Scenic Flight** that most people engaged in, then really there is something new every day.

The resort faces Griselda Hill, named after Griselda Sprigg, pioneer and co-founder of the resort. This makes a great subject and is really close at hand day and night.

In addition, a small group of 'dawn busters' usually get up early to catch the sun rise on the mountains - it's a great way to start the day! There are several easy short walks around the resort.

Do I have to participate in everything?

No, not at all, we I have created an agenda and an approach that gives you lots of freedom - freedom to participate in the workshops, studio painting, 'en plain air' painting, drawing, photography and discussions, or freedom to simply do your own thing.

You may also want to take some time out for some of the Arkaroola Wilderness Resort tours.

We aim to create a program and experiences that work for everyone.

What clothing should I bring?

Arkaroola can be both hot and cold at this time of the year, our experience last year was that mornings and evenings sometimes fell below zero and the middle of the day was temperate.

Some good warm clothing, beanies, gloves, scarves, thick socks and warm, waterproof jacket will be worth packing even if you don't end up using them.

Likewise some light comfortable, 'I can get it dirty' day wear will also be useful.

A painting jacket, coat or t-shirt is great if you want to stay clean, acrylic paint dries more or less permanent and is hard to remove.

Many people find an old light long sleeve shirt the best option for paint and sun protection.

Good foot wear is essential. Arkaroola = rocks!!! If you intend to do some bush-walking, ridge climbing or even just walking around the painting sites then good quality trainers or light weight enclosed walking boots/shoes are essential.

A broad brimmed hat is a real must when painting 'en plain air' as are sun glasses, insect repellent and block out.

Causal evening wear, for those inclined to dress up! (Peter likes to dress up!!!)

What art materials and equipment are supplied

We will supply the following...

- Cartridge paper - A1 and A2
- Acrylic paint from Derivan
- A1 drawing boards and bull dog clips
- Water containers
- Small pallet come portable paint carrier
- Sketch pad

What art materials and equipment should I bring?

We highly recommend you also bring the following...

- Lightweight folding transportable easel
- Lightweight folding transportable chair
- Your own brushes

If you have space in your travel kit or if you have your own preferred way of painting or drawing you may also want to consider...

- Water-colour papers or water-colour pad - 300 gsm is great for the outdoors, it holds it's shape, doesn't really require stretching
- Your drawing kit and spare sketch book
- Digital camera, storage device (computer) and download cables. (I will have a video projector so we can put together shows in the evenings of our photography explorations)
- If you have a favourite art video or slide show of your work please bring to share with others. (We will have digital video projector available)

Do you cater for special diets or gourmet taste buds?

With advanced notice we can cater for most special dietary requirements. Please contact Sallie-Ann.

It's worth bearing in mind that Arkaroola is in the middle of the desert and 2 hours from the nearest serious shops. The food is adequate, but if you have a penchant for something really special then we recommend you bring it with you - particularly your favorite wines, beverages, biscuits, fruit cakes etc.

Supplies at the Arkaroola store are basic, not exotic and due to the remote location are expensive. If you have special 'treats, delicacies or drinkables' that you simply can't live without then you will be best to bring them with you.

There is 'barista coffee' at the resort but we also take our own percolators, coffee brewers and 'special blends'. There is a kitchen as part of Greenwood Lodge and it gets a good workout for coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits morning, noon and night.

Can we drive to Arkaroola and do I need a 4x4?

Many people choose to make the trip to Arkaroola an adventure in itself and there are certainly enough fantastic sights along the way, particularly traveling up from the South via the Southern Flinders Ranges.

There is an 'it depends' factor for road travel in the outback and the biggest it depends is the weather. Roads in the outback are obviously subject to flooding in the wet. Having said that it's mostly dry and there are now excellent websites to keep travelers informed of conditions.

<http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads>

While we were out there we saw several people in station wagons and smaller vehicles like a Subaru Forrester for example. However, to be sure, I'd give Arkaroola a call and canvass their opinion.

The plus is that the roads are fairly well maintained these days to service the mining companies in the desert.

There is a qualified mechanic and fuel available at Arkaroola.

There are three ways into Arkaroola from the South if you are coming from NSW, Vic, SA or WA.

- Traveling from Sydney the shortest route is via Dubbo, Broken Hill and then turn right at Yunta on the Broken Hill Adelaide road and travel North on about 300km of unsealed road to Arkaroola.
- Alternately you can travel Dubbo, Broken Hill and then to Hawker in the Lower Flinders Ranges and travel **The Flinders Ranges Way** up via Wilpena Pound and Blinman and then out traveling North East to Arkaroola, approximately 250k from Hawker to Arkaroola. The unsealed road starts around Blinman.
- Finally you can skirt right around the Flinders Ranges to the West and travel up to Leigh Creek, bitumen all the way but a longer trip. Then travel Leigh Creek to Arkaroola on unsealed road approximately 150k.

The second alternative, traveling up the **The Flinders Ranges Way**, is certainly the most scenic route and if you have time to make a holiday of it the southern Flinders Ranges, Wilpena etc. are certainly worth a visit. Obviously you can go one way and return another.

Some of the tracks around Arkaroola are be suitable for non 4x4 however, some certainly require a vehicle suitable for off-road conditions, That advice and local area maps are available from the resort.

Having said all that it always pays to do your homework and take all of the usual precautions and preparations for yourselves and your vehicle re traveling on unsealed roads in remote areas.



What else is there to do at Arkaroola?

Arkaroola Wilderness Resort offers the following optional extras, not in the package...

- Ridge Top Tour
- Scenic Flights
- Observatory Tour
- Astronomy Talks

We had many people in our group wanting to do both the Ridge Top Tour, Scenic Flight and Astronomy Talk last year so we arranged for those events to happen as a group.

It's about half a day for the Ridge Top and a couple of hours for the flight. The Astronomy Talk is a night event. On those days we usually either do a short trip out to a nearby painting site or work in the studio or around the resort for those that remain behind. I can highly recommend both the Tour and the Fights - sensational.

Is there phone and Internet reception at Arkaroola?

On site at the **Arkaroola Wilderness Resort** there is Internet reception. However mobile phone reception is patchy to non existent. You may be able to send text messages from some sites.

The use of Skype and Facetime over the Internet at the resort is possible in emergencies but not encouraged as it uses so much of the remote resort's limited data allowance.

We travel with UHF radios when we are out painting for emergency contact only.

Can I bring my non-painting partner and can they participate in some way?

Partners are very welcome to join the adventure and to join us in their own vehicles, at their own risk, during our outdoor excursions.

Partners are also welcome to join us for meals and these are included in the non-painting partner price below.

There are many great self-drive, hire tours and walking trails around the resort and much to photograph and see.

Partners usually join in for the optional extras; the Ridge Top Tour Scenic Flights, Astronomy etc..

Unfortunately because of the size of the studio we are limited to a maximum of 20 painting participants and therefore can not accommodate non-painting partners during the workshops.

How do I find out more or reserve my place?

If you have any further questions please phone Sallie-Ann on 0408 114 272 or email sam@amazingpeople.com.au



Testimonial...

We loved every minute of our time in Arkaroola and I am now starting to paint over my paintings and drawings and work them up again!! There is so much to think about from our time there .

I especially loved the remoteness of the place with no outside distractions. I don't think the experience could be much better.

I have now been on two art adventure workshops with Paul Macklin. One to Arkaroola and one on the Hawkesbury River, and have found him to be a great teacher who is very generous in his information and technical advice and passionate in his enthusiasm for his subject. He has the ability to make the workshops not only extremely worthwhile but also great fun.

Annie Herron

I would like to thank you for the great photos and I had a great time, great people very well organised Paul! Arkaroola is such a magic place, I am recording my memories sketches and photographs of Arkaroola onto my canvas.

I like to share with you the good news my painting has selected in the finalist for the Paddington Art Prize 2014.

Susanna Chen Chow

Thank you very much for a great week at Arkaroola! What a great destination for a painting workshop. It has everything, fantastic environment and a most convenient residential set-up.

Ingeborg Girgensohn

The Arkaroola Art Adventure has been a highlight of my year. I probably expected to be influenced by a certain style.. but instead was challenged to become myself, which I am thankful for and am keen to explore further. I valued the input, interesting environment, social connections and challenges and feel empowered to move on in my artistic journey with a whole new perspective and focus, feeling like I have a new direction, more understanding and a better plan of development. I think I learned as much about myself, as I did my art.

What I loved most...

- The stretch and challenge to kick me out of my comfort zones
- The creative and artistic input
- The fresh, unique and different & education experience of a new environment
- Meeting new and different people on a similar artistic journey
- The 'no pressure' 'no expectation' sense of freedom about it
- The weather
- The opportunity to do some other things as well, and making it work with the program, like the flight and 4WD ridge top tour
- Growing and see others grow

Suzy Newman

Our Art trip to Arkaroola was a highlight of my life. The highlight for me was the venue. The landscape around Arkaroola is amazing. I spent more time on photography than painting which I regret. I was only really getting in to the painting on the last day which I really enjoyed.

Di Frank

My personal highlight was having my confidence and my creativity reignited despite my initial resistance. My old thinking habits had been keeping me from freely and confidently expressing visually my views on the Arkaroola land. The place is extraordinary. I found it challenging but very worthwhile. I am now excited and confident in my work and am excited by my art making. What a fascinating and beautiful place Arkaroola is!

Rosalie Rigby

“Having a whole 7 days with a group of curious, creative, inquiring artists, led by the inspiration and energy of Paul, and the wisdom and depth of knowledge of Ambrose, set in a landscape of mountains and desert, was wonderful. We challenged ourselves and learned from each other; when I came back home I had wonderful flashbacks for several days, and I know that I will incorporate the experience into my art practice.”

Tori Wade

I am just loving the buzz of energy I have brought back, and so grateful for the experience of the Arkaroola Art Adventure. I met so many excellent people and learned so much about my own path of creativity. Thanks again Paul for all of your patience and inspiration,every work is a footstep on the creative path.....

Anni Smithson

“Paul is a gifted teacher but so much more; compassionate, understanding, insightful and constructively honest, he gives just enough guidance and space to allow one to find one’s own way in a field which demands individuality if it is to retain its integrity.”

Peter Stuckey

Thank you (Peter) for a fabulous weekend with the Abstract Portraiture. I just loved it and came away inspired and refreshed - and tired!! You have the most wonderful “retreat” and are very generous. Being welcomed into your home and studio is just such a special treat - and your nurturing meals, Denise, are fantastic. Got the girls in the studio I share very jealous.

Rhae Hooper

On behalf of the whole team that assisted in bringing together the Summer Art Experience 2015, we thank you for your outstanding contributions to the event.

The feedback received from the participants both verbally and from evaluation forms suggest that the manner in which you tutored your class, the excellence of the demonstrations, and the support to individual students that you offered were of the highest level. A cursory review of the “participant” evaluations also reveals how much each person learned from you, and how much your efforts were appreciated.

I personally valued the time spent getting to know you over discussion sessions during the spasmodic visits I was able to make to your classes; and I know I speak for everyone when I say how much we all enjoyed your presence. I hope that your experience was equally rewarding.....

My Sincere thanks and best wishes,

Dr Alan J Jones

President of the Artists Society of Canberra

Coordinator of the Summer Art Experience 2015



Arkaroola Art Adventure

Explore Experience Learn Create

Seven days of inspiration and creativity...



rewards for early risers