

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF MINIATURE ART (TAS) INC  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE DRAWING ROOM, FRIDAY 1 APRIL 2022**

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Australian Society of Miniature Art Tasmania. Don and I are very pleased to be able to host you all for this important milestone for your Society and members.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

May I acknowledge among us:

- Bernadette Connor, Founding President
  
- Joan Humble, President
  
- Dorothy Darden, Secretary
  
- Artists and supporters of the Society

The Australian Society of Miniature Art Tasmania Inc (ASMA Tasmania) was founded in 1992 by Bernadette Connor. It is a member of the World Federation of Miniaturists (WFM) that was formed in London in 1995.

In the West, miniature painting emerged at the time of the Renaissance from the medieval practice of illuminating manuscript books. The high point of popularity of the miniature was reached in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These miniatures were often enclosed in jewelled cases and worn as personal adornment. They were also a sign of allegiance, either political or romantic, to the person depicted.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/m/miniature> accessed 23 Mar 22

Now, the style is less common but remains impressive for the skill, patience and dedication evident in the works. I am fortunate to have in my office a miniature oil painting by Carlene Vickers, presented to my predecessor by the West Coast Heritage Centre. I am in awe of her ability to produce a work with such delicate brush strokes and intricate detail in such a small format.

ASMA Tasmania Inc currently has about 45 members, including several from interstate and overseas. Members enter their miniature paintings in exhibitions throughout Australia and in other parts of the world.

ASMA Tasmania accepts both traditional and contemporary work. The work must not exceed 100 square centimetres and be created using the finest brush or pen strokes.

A miniature can, of course, convey all the beauty and power of a larger artwork, but has the added appeal of being a particularly personal object. The miniature has a feeling of preciousness associated with it, due in part, that it can often be held in the palm of your hand.<sup>2</sup>

The first miniaturists in Van Diemen's Land were convicts. One of the most influential was Thomas Bock, who was deported for using a drug to procure an abortion. He was sentenced to fourteen years. He was a professional engraver and miniaturist in Birmingham, prior to his deportation. In 1817, the Society of Arts awarded him a silver medal for portrait engraving. Following a pardon, he became the first professional artist in the Colony. He specialised in portraiture of a very high standard, including portraits of Aboriginal people.<sup>3</sup>

Tasmanians are amongst the most prolific miniature artists and are world renowned for their works. You have been busy with exhibitions and ASMA has hosted two WFM exhibitions, in 2000 and in 2008.

We are looking forward to the Society's 2022 Annual National Exhibition to be held at the School House Gallery, Rosny, later this year.

In conclusion, I congratulate you all on achieving the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society in Tasmania.

I now invite you to join me in refreshments.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://asmansw.com/about-2/> accessed 23 Mar 22

<sup>3</sup> Australian Society of Miniature Art Tasmania 2000. Miniature Art of Australia: Past and Present. Printing Authority of Tasmania. P16