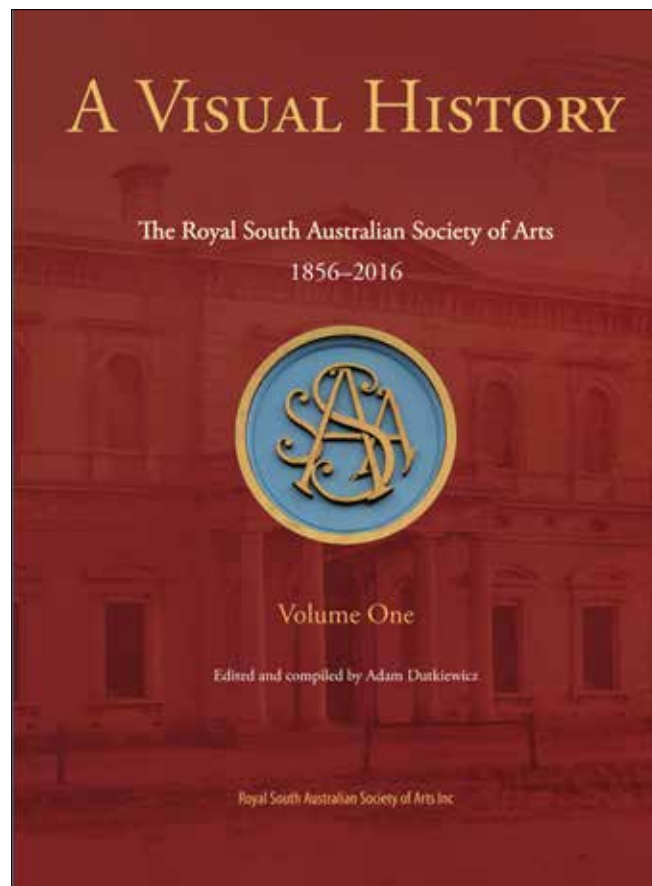


THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARTS HISTORY PROJECT CELEBRATING THE SOCIETY'S 160TH ANNIVERSARY



THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARTS (RSASA) has made a continuous contribution to the Arts in Adelaide since Colonial times. It is the oldest art society in Australia, having been established in 1856, by the artist and teacher **Charles Hill**. In **October 2016** the RSASA celebrated its 160th Anniversary.

As part of its celebrations the Society is producing a book titled **A VISUAL HISTORY: THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARTS 1856-2016** summarising its long and rich history.

The book is intended in **two volumes**, with the first volume funding a second. Each volume will be 276 x 203 mm; the spine depth on the paperback edition is around 30 mm.

Volume One was released to coincide with its anniversary at the **end of October 2016**. It comprises a vast amount of historical material, with a survey of the Foundational Years and its early artists, and profiles of its affiliated bodies, its Presidents, significant officials and Honorary Life Members. In all it features **nearly 100 artists**, including around 40% women. It contains **420 pages and over 400 illustrations**.

Volume Two followed in early 2018, featuring many of the Society's other significant artists. People such as Margaret Preston, Dorrit Black, Horace Trenergy, Sir Ivor Hele, Nora Heysen, and many other historical and current members could not be included in Volume One. Volume Two contains **424 pages and 616 illustrations**.

The Society has offered **pre-orders** for these titles, with **signed and numbered copies** of each edition available for people who ordered in advance.

Volume One was prepared as a **limited edition of 250 copies in paperback**, with a deluxe edition for \$75 and both volumes are available in economy editions for **\$50**. You can order both volumes or multiple copies - **an ideal birthday or Christmas present for lovers of art and history**.

BACKGROUND: HISTORY IN THE MAKING

For the first 80 years the RSASA was known as the South Australian Society of Arts (SASA), and for the first 36 years the Governor of the day was its President; however, in 1892 the Governors' roles changed to become the principle patrons of the Society.

At first the Society held its exhibitions in Parliament House's Legislative Council Hall and the Adelaide Town

Hall; in 1861 the Society went to the newly built Institute Building on North Terrace.

It outgrew those rooms, so a specially designed exhibition and meeting area for the Society's needs were added as a North Wing in 1905–07, and the Society still uses most of these historic rooms today.

The Society is run by a Council, as a non-profit organization with Incorporated status, obtained in 1894. It is run by its members as volunteers. In recent times it has been recognised officially as a Charity.

THE SOCIETY AND ITS GREAT ARTISTS

Prominent members in the mid-late 1800s included **Charles Hill, James Shaw**, Alexander Schramm, Edmund Gouldsmith, **Andrew MacCormac, Rosa Fiveash** and photographers Townsend Duryea and Saul Solomon. Members from the Federation era included the early artist presidents **Harry P Gill, James Ashton** and **Edward Davies**; and fine traditional painters like **Sir Hans Heysen, Harold Septimus Power, Archibald Collins**, the **Hambidge sisters** and the photographer John Kauffmann.

Post-WWI, artists such as **Henri van Raalte, Leslie Wilkie**, Gwen Barringer, Arthur d'Auvergne Boxall, George Whinnen, Horace Trenergy, Rex Battarbee, Albert Namatjira and the China painter **Mamie Venner** were prominent.

Its **War artists** have included **John Goodchild**, Sir Ivor Hele, **Lawrence Howie, Max Ragless** and Stella Bowen. Its most internationally renowned artists have been **Hayley Lever, Bessie Davidson** and **Jeffrey Smart**, and its main modernists were **Marie Tuck, Jacqueline Hick, Mervyn Smith, Ruth Tuck**, Geoff Wilson, **Ivor Francis, John Dowie**, Francis Roy Thompson, Dorrit Black, Malcolm Carbins, Stan Ostoja-Kotkowski, **Wladyslaw Dutkiewicz** and **Lidia Grobicka**.

Other members have been commercial artists, art critics, art teachers, architects, photographers, sculptors, ceramists, jewellers, illustrators and botanical artists.

* **Bold** designates artists profiled in **Volume One**

BECOMING A MEMBER

The RSASA has over 400 members from professional and non-professional artists with around 100 members as Fellows (Senior members) of the Society. The Society is also open to general membership of enthusiasts and supporters.

Artists and others interested can join the RSASA by completing the application form and fulfilling the conditions of entry on its website:

www.rsasarts.com.au

ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

A VISUAL HISTORY: THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARTS 1856-2016

The RSASA commissioned Dr Adam Dutkiewicz as editor of the publication during the 160th Anniversary celebrations of the Society. Adam is a Past President and Honorary Life Member of the Society. He has written or contributed to, edited and produced a dozen books on South Australian art and artists since 2004, including on a number of senior and past members of the Society. He was also a publisher in the 1980s. The motto of his own small company, Moon Arrow Press, is "Books on Art and Artistic Books". *A Visual History*, vols 1 & 2, is designed as a 'Best Of', not only comprehensive and full of valuable historical information, but also as an experience of beauty in itself. It's an important document on South Australia's visual culture and history.

Donations are tax deductible.



PRE-ORDERS OF LIMITED EDITIONS

You are invited to purchase a copy or copies of the publication(s). The initial pre-order offer has now expired. Orders will be taken on a 'first come first served' basis, until the editions expire.

PAYMENT DETAILS

You can purchase a copy or copies of the publication in deluxe or economy editions in three ways (see below). Please ensure you fill in the tear-off section of this pamphlet (right) and return it to the Society as your order. Because of the **high cost of postage**, it is best to collect your order direct from the Society during **Office Hours (Tuesdays & Thursdays 10.30 am - 4 pm)** or from the front desk during exhibitions (most days except during exhibition set-ups).

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