



SPELEO-ART AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SPELEOLOGICAL ART, LEEDS, UK

BRINGING TOGETHER SPELEO ARTISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WITH SPELEO ART
DOWN UNDER

The founding of ISSA

Formally instigated through Carolina Brook, of Leeds, Gt Britain, by a desire to capture the magic of limestone formations in something other than photographs and to educate the public in general to the beauty and splendour of the world that lay beneath our feet.

Carolina with a group of like-minded artists/cavers met for their first workshop at the Caver's Fair, Yorkshire 1994 when the fraternity of ISSA - International Society for Speleological Arts was conceived. Four of those founding member's works, are shown in this exhibition, Carolina Brook, Robin Gray, Mark Lumley and Ceris Jones.

The founding of Speleo-Art

Also founded by Carolina Brook as an organisation for artists and interested people to promote and recognise speleo art as a serious art form in itself. "You get a chance to see the corners ignored in the intensity of exploration and science". (Carolina Brooks, ISSA Newsletter Vol 1 1995 p 4.)

SPELEO ART DOWN UNDER

Speleo Artists are few and far between but we are growing in numbers and working towards being seen and heard around the world by exhibiting with groups like SPELEO-ART and ISSA, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SPELEOLOGICAL ART, both founded in England in the last few years.

In the 19th Century art cave fitted into the art scheme of things, it was sublime, picturesque, and grand. It had a power that matched the new age of steam driven machinery and the grandness of discoveries of the new far away lands. It was fashionable to portray huge refinery furnaces, awesome seascapes or sublime landscapes with huge gaping caves with great holes in the ground it fitted the critique of fashion.

There are many illustrations from this period of black and white superb engravings of caves from around the world but many of these images can only be found in dusty old books in libraries without any mention of the artist. In all but a few of the very famous, they are from unknown hands. Such is the fame of illustrators and the unknown artist.

Through the invention of photography last century, these illustrations that were for the most part carried out for scientific purposes, has all but ceased and unfortunately the 20th Century has remained virtually silent in this field of art.

Things are changing and now through the work of a few artists, speleo art can live again as it has never been seen before. ISSA and SPELEO-ART have gathered these few artists represented here and others together from around the world and given strength to their numbers and their purpose. By exhibiting speleo art whenever possible, be it at a Speleo Conference or exhibiting in an art gallery situation, it offers a chance to show the public the wonders that can be found beneath our feet.



Artists have the ability to record what others miss, * "you get a chance to see the corners ignored in the intensity of exploration and science". This then becomes a chance to educate the public that we must preserve our caves for the benefit of all of us now, as well as for the future generations.

This exhibition of speleo art work from cavers around the world shows a variety of work. It has been brought to you through Australian Speleological Federation and SPELEO-ART at individual artists expense. Please feel free to wonder around. All works are for sale, contact June MacLucas in Adelaide Tel: 08-8261-4180 or Peter Berrill, Rockhampton 074934-2870

*Carolina Brook, ISSA Newsletter Vol 1 1995 p 4.

Carolina Brook

Leeds, UK

Born in 1956 in the UK. Went through art college intending to become a fashion designer but got caught up with speleology. Became concerned with conservation issues and public awareness of caves. ISSA was formed, then SpeleoArt to support and promote recognition of speleo art as an art form to bring about a greater awareness of the preservation of caves for the future.

To see and know more, artist or punter, please contact: carolina@caves.org.uk

Robin Gray

Cheddar, UK

Robin Gray has been exhibiting since 1968 and has had in excess of 30 one-man shows while enjoying a highly successful teaching career as well as achieving a reputation as a leading pyrotechnician and international caver. Robin worked at developing a highly meticulous and academic realism based on Somerset landscapes and legends. He also built a reputation as an innovative abstract painter and colourists and cartoonist with many of his cartoons published in Australian CEGSA NEWS, SSS JOURNAL AND NARGAN.

Linda Heslop

British Columbia, Canada

Linda is a professional artist and illustrator living in Victoria British Columbia Canada. Her depictions of caves and cavers has won her recognition world-wide. She has been published in numerous magazines for the past 15 years, and has illustrated a number of books, (see the fine examples of her work in "*Lechuguilla, Jewel of the Underground*", 1991) and has a collection of her art published as her own book entitled "*The Art of Caving*" 1996. She is varied in her subject matter producing logos, designs for t-shirts and art for television. Linda has received a fellowship in the NSS, was presented the Arts and Letters award, and has been recipient of numerous NSS Art Salon awards. If you wish to purchase *The Art of Caving* contact Linda at e-mail: linda.heslop@bbc.org

Ceris Jones

Lancs, UK

Born in York 1956, studied Art & Design at various Colleges and from 1983 taught at Broughton High School, Preston. A founding member of ISSA is now the Secretary of the group. Ceris interests are mainly concerned with the body and in particular cavers, divers and cave divers where the human form undergoes an almost animal-like appearance when aids, attachments and breathing apparatus are added. "To go into the unknown holds feelings from obsession and apprehension to almost total terror, these feelings is what I try to capture".



June MacLucas

Adelaide, South Australia

Born in Adelaide June has a Diploma of Art and a Bachelor of Fine Art. In 1989 she completed the largest charcoal drawings by one person ever to come from Australia, totalling 64 metres in length by 3.5 in height. The actual specifications of the convict built Ross Bridge, built in 1839 in Ross, Central Tasmania. The next few years were spent completing huge works taken from her own dreams by using the theories of Carl Jung and dream interpretation as well as his theory on the psychological transformation found in medieval alchemy.

With her interest still centred on the unconscious, it was a natural step to join her husband and friends and join CEGSA, Cave Exploration Group SA. Since then her style of work has completely changed, no longer the huge "audience participation of walk into" size works but rolls of paper, boxes, easel etc., are now taken into some of Australia's most beautiful show caves of the Blue Mountains, or some of the more remote caves of the Nullarbor. Left to get on with it, June enjoys the solitude and the challenge of drawing in caves using form and many layers of colour to portray her own emotional response.

In 1994-96 June coordinated and took part in INSIDE EARTH-CAVES BENEATH THE NULLARBOR touring exhibition to 5 leading Australian galleries in 4 different states. The exhibition included many of Australia's leading cave photographers, Norm Poulter, Kevin Mott, Ken Boland and Elery Hamilton Smith, who officially opened 4 of the exhibitions. Since then June has exhibited solo in various galleries including an exhibition held inside Abercrombie Cave NSW celebrating Australia Day 1998 when Elery launched his new book *Perceptions of Australian Caves in the 19th Century: The Visual Record, and Nineteenth Century Paintings, Drawings and Engravings of Australian Caves*. Pub. Through Helictite Vol.35 (1&2) price \$20 contact E-mail elery@melb.alexia.net.au

Mark Lumley

Bath UK

Mark has been involved with art for some time and has his own flourishing Art Design business. A caver for over 20 years Mark has been on caving expeditions to Spain, Austria, Mexico and the United States that included a trip to the famous Lechuguilla Cave system. The diver shown in his work here was painted from a small sketch carried out while diving, using plastic sketch pad and pencils on string.

Andrew Lawrence

Abercrombie NSW

Born Newbury, Berkshire, England. In 1975-76 studied Fine Art at Bristol Polytechnics. From 1976-79 studied Multi Disciplinary Design at Stoke-on-Trent. Developed an interest in caving while at college and was founding member of Newbury and District Caving Club. Became an avid caver in Mendip, Wales, South Coast, the potholes of Yorkshire and Derbyshire, the river caves of Seranagh and Sligo in Ireland. Travelled extensively in early 1980 before settling in Australia in 1983. Set up a business as a freelance artist in Concord NSW until 1986 while still accepting commission based work, mainly utilising oils and acrylics. Exhibited in a variety of locations in the Sydney area.

In 1987 accepted the position as guide in Abercrombie Caves in order to pursue a strong interest in speleology as well as to be close to the Australian bush. Cave photographs and graphics have been used for numerous Abercrombie promotions and signage for the Self Arch Guided Cave Tour. Also received 1st prize in the heritage section of the Evans Arts Council photographic competition.



From 1994 to the present he is employed as manager of Abercrombie Caves while at the same time taking on the more challenging role of parenting. He still accepts a small amount of commissions annually, for inquiries contact Andrew Lawrence, Trunkley NSW 2795 Tel: (W)0263-68-8603, (H)0263-688685
Fax 0263-68-8634, e.mail abercrombie@jenolan.org.au

Ian Chandler

UK

Ellis (Ian Chandler)

MA.MCIOB.FIMBM Prof Emeritus of Building Technology

Ellis has been a caver for over 30 years and his work is based directly on his own caving experience. Using the 3rd dimensional form of sculpture, he often works from a specific trip taking in the effects of the environment, texture, and the dampness in the caves and uses it as a medium which he incorporated into the flow of his art work.

Frantisek Mihal

SLOVAKIA

Mihal has been a caver for over 20 years and in 1972 took part in the discovery of Stratena Cave. He travels all over the country side on his bike or skis drawing wherever he can. Mihal has found that he has discovered Stratena Cave all over again, only this time in pencils and coloured chalk.

Bud Hogbin

UK

Born in Derbyshire in 1942, studied at University of London Goldsmith's College 1961-64. From 1961-70 taught art and ceramics at various Adult Educations Centres. From 1970 taught age group, becoming Deputy Head in 1974 and in 1977 became Head Teacher of a large Infant/Nursery school. In 1975-76 gained a degree and in 1984 awarded a fellowship of the College of Preceptors. Since retiring in 1985, gained a Certificate in Art & Design, a Diploma in Fine Art and Honours Degree in Fine Art at the University of Hertfordshire.

The main sources of inspiration for my work are from the study of forms found in nature, birds, rocks, plants and patterns in landscape. Recently the focus of my work is on caves and geological structures of these internal spaces. I aim to portray the "cathedral" qualities within natural caverns and to depict the struggle of man to explore and conquer these phenomena.

Lucja Radwan

Austria

Speleo artist from Austria. Member of the Austrian Artists Professional Association and a member of the St.Lucas Association of Artists (Antwerp -Vienna). Exhibiting since 1985 her work has been exhibited in Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Japan and Hungary. Essentially a water colourist the world she perceives is shown in a new and different light. She is continuously looking for hidden places and recesses; finding the beauty that is often unnoticed by an inattentive observer.