

NEWSLETTER

Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School
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The Management Committee consists of:
 Chairperson: Margo Hoekstra
 Secretary: Virginia Lloyd-Tait
 Treasurer: Cliff Pain
 Public Officer: Christine Crimmins
 Committee member: Julie Mahony

Administrative Officer is Janet Coyne and Teachers are: Tom Bass, Damien Lucas, Michael Christie and Katherine Dickson

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

1. Contact any past student of the school and ask them to make contact with the school as soon as possible.
2. Become a Friend of the school by sending you contribution with the form below.
3. Become involved with one of the Sub committees to help progress the functioning of the school.

We need help with:

- 30 Year Anniversary Exhibition—Sponsorship / Grant applications.
- Library
- Web site
- We seek an honorary auditor
- If you have other skills please contact us

Previous student information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ Fax No: _____

Email: _____ Mobile: _____

NEWSLETTER

Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School

Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School Incorporation

A Time of Change

On March 26th 2003 the Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School became Incorporated as an Association. For 30 years Tom has been the teacher, manager, cleaner, telephonist, initiator of all activities and the time has come to relieve him of all the day to day functioning so that he can continue as a Master

teacher and visitor and guide to the school as he enters his 88th year. The new management committee has a few challenges as it takes over. We will need to determine where the school will continue to reside, as it is unlikely that we will be able to afford to continue in Clara Street past this year. We need to look after the Library and the

'hardware' in the school. We would also like to develop a Web site. If we can attain tax deductible status we will be able to attract sponsorship and donations. So we are working on this. We will also explore grants. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the school and we would like to have a retrospective of past

Go to p3



Essential Drawing

Inside this issue:

- A Word from Tom 2
- Incorporation Cont. 3
- Expressions of interest 3
- Committee members 4
- Help wanted 4

Our aim is to learn to see the figure—or any form—simply; and to convey authentically this experience of the 3—dimensional in a 2—dimensional way.

The real task is to engage the mind and the intuition so that we are drawing what we know and understand—in using only the eyes we imitate and copy instead of recreating or translating into the language of drawing.

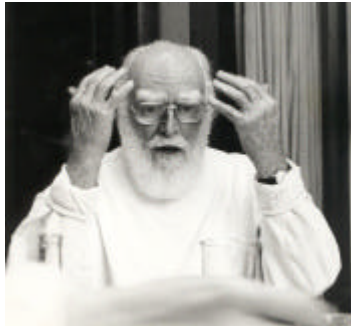
It is helpful to remember that a drawing is a thought on paper. When we have learnt to see simply, we can simply express our thought about what we have seen.

Damien Lucas

A Word from Tom Bass

The School

The ending is the beginning of the beginning.



The ending is the ending of my 'one man' bureaucracy, which began 30 years ago. In that time I can claim that I did something that a full-scale educational bureaucracy could not have done.

In the realm of art education this school is unique. Simply to say that there would be no curriculum created an environment in which real creative values could flourish. There has been a prevailing recognition of the value of economy.

Because the school has been truly independent and consequently un-funded it has been imperative to be thrifty with materials. To use old coat hangers for wire and soft drink cans for aluminium shims. I be-

lieved in the value of economy just as a good drawing is an economical drawing that 'less is more'.

At opposite ends of the school the library and the clay bin have been crucial in the life and development of the school. The clay bin houses the clay I dug out of the ground at Minto more than 50 years ago. It is full of the dreams and visions and struggles of countless people.

The library is the place that contains the sources of the language of sculpture as it has been used throughout the ages. We learn the language from those sources and go on to find our own unique ways to use it.

The teaching has been fundamentally to find the starting point for each person that comes to the school, which may be an idea that the person has brought with them or it may be a starting point that has to be found. The teachers are like midwives who assist at the birth of the idea, and mentors or guides in bringing the ideas to maturity.

The things that are learned at the school:

- The value and subtlety of form

- The relationships of positive and negative forms
- That a negative form is a shape as much as a positive form
- That light is a tool
- That it is only in the relationship of light and shadow that we can see form
- That the light must be constantly rearranged to see the totality of form
- That the more we see of detail the less we see of the totality of what is seen
- That real seeing is much more than looking; looking is functional and automatic, real seeing must be learned and developed, just as it is in learning to play an instrument.

Drawing has always been a fundamental part of what we do at the school particularly as it relates to the life study. Sculpture is the ultimate drawing—in three dimensions.

A recent development in the school has been the establishment of a Life Drawing class by Damien Lucas; Damien is a splendid draughtsman himself and his way of teaching drawing shows a profound understanding of the principles of drawing for sculpture

from Tom cont.

which is of immense value to the real purposes of this school
As the school moves from my direction to the management of the new association I have no doubt that there will be change. My hope is that some of the fundamental values I have set out here will be retained.

Tom Bass

School Incorporation cont.

past student work.
We welcome enthusiastic support from students, past and present. We hope you will become a **"FRIEND of the SCHOOL"**. If you know people who have been involved with the school in the past can you contact them

so that we can add them to our "Friends of the School List".
We feel that a \$20 annual membership fee would help greatly with distribution and other costs.

Margo Hoekstra
Chairperson

**30 YEAR
RETROSPECTIVE**

**DATE TO BE
ADVISED**

*Please register your
interest*

Application to become a Friend of the Tom Bass Sculpture Studio School

Are you interested:

In becoming a friend of the school? YES / NO
In participating in a retrospective? YES / NO
Help organise it? YES / NO
Help with any other activities? YES / NO
Do you know other past Students? YES / NO

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ Fax No: _____

Email: _____ Mobile: _____

Were you a student at the school? _____ Year(s) _____

I enclose my \$20 annual membership fee for "Friends of the School"