



AUBURN **Artists**  
SOCIETY



*The Auburn Artists Society (AAS) is a joint initiative of Auburn City Council, Auburn Community Development Network and local artists. The AAS was established in April 2009 and emerged out of an extensive research and consultation process with local artists for the development of the Peacock Gallery and Auburn Arts Studio at the Auburn Botanic Gardens.*

*The AAS represents 17 distinct forms of arts practice. The group meets on a regular basis with the purpose of establishing closer links between local artists, developing individual and collaborative projects, and building a strong and diverse arts community in Auburn. The AAS is an open group and welcomes new members.*

*This Catalogue seeks to showcase and promote Auburn Artists and is one of the first joint initiatives of the AAS.*

## Aghnar Niazi

**Arts Practice:** Drawing, Painting, Textile Design, Printing, Arts Facilitation and Teaching

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**p:** 0405 109 497

**w:** [www.AghnarArtWork.com](http://www.AghnarArtWork.com)

Aghnar obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1982 and graduated in 1990 with a Masters Degree of Fine Arts and Textile Design from the Academy of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad, Iraq. She arrived in Auburn from overseas in 1995 to start a new life and has since exhibited her artwork at various galleries across Sydney and facilitated public art and craft projects with women and young people.



## Alberto Estanislao

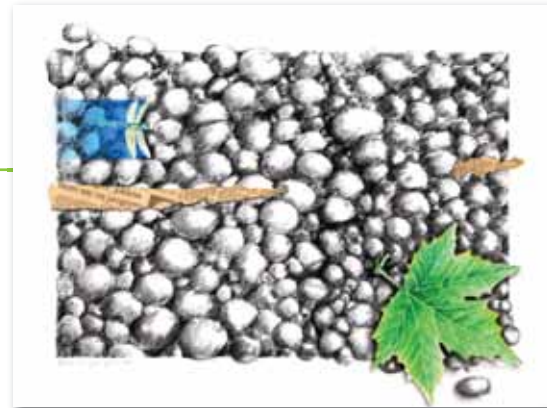
**Arts Practice:** Graphic Design, Visual Arts

**e:** [aestanis@bigpond.net.au](mailto:aestanis@bigpond.net.au)

**p:** 0412 306 684

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Alberto earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Advertising at Far Eastern University. He made a name for himself appearing in the pages of "Who's Who of Australian Visual Arts." Working as a professional Graphic Designer, he has received numerous packaging design, logo and print awards in Australia, the USA, Canada and the Philippines. His skills extend to several mediums including watercolour, oil, pastel, airbrush painting, mixed media and installation art. Has exhibited in Australia and overseas.



## Arezu. R. Meily

**Arts Practice:** Printmaking, Photography, Painting and Drawing

**e:** arezu89m@yahoo.com

**p:** 0450 411 118

Originally from Iran, Arezu holds qualifications in graphic design and fine arts and is currently undertaking an Advanced Diploma in Fine Arts. She has worked at the Atoly Art Academy in Iran and has taught art classes in a variety of mediums such as soft pastels, water colour, coloured pencils, coloured inks and charcoal.



## Birtan Mohammed

**Arts Practice:** Visual Arts

**e:** [birtan70s@yahoo.com](mailto:birtan70s@yahoo.com)

Originally from Kirkuk, Iraq, Birtan graduated from the School of Fine Arts at Bhagdad University in 1994. Since arriving to Australia in 1998, she has participated in exhibitions at the Blacktown Arts Centre, Casula Powerhouse Museum, Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre and with the Muslim Society in Canberra.



## Craze One

**Arts Practice:** Aerosol Art and Photography

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Craze One believes that “art is the expression of self”.  
He captures these expressions through photography of  
the crime known by some as street art.



## Dona Samson Zappone

**Arts Practice:** Visual Arts, Craft, Design, Writing, Filmmaking and Performance Poet

**e:** [dszappone2001@yahoo.com.au](mailto:dszappone2001@yahoo.com.au)

**p:** (02) 9637 2110/ 0421 654 148

Dona was born in Malaysia of Sri Lankan parents and migrated to Australia in 1981. Dona has participated in numerous community arts projects and group exhibitions across Western Sydney. Dona is a self taught artist who enjoys working with different mediums. She hopes to teach in the near future.



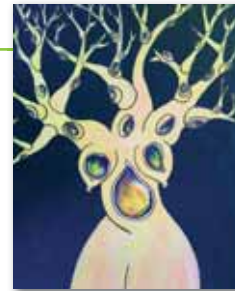
## Fathia Balla

**Arts Practice:** Painting, Directing, Writing, Acting and Arts Facilitation

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**p:** 0431 546 061

Born in Sudan, Fathia has directed for film and television and is a proficient painter, writer and actor. Fathia has written several film scripts and held acting roles for which she has won several awards. She also has experience in conducting art workshops for women and children.



## Francisco Rovero

**Arts Practice:** Visual Arts, Design and Sculpture

**e:** [frankrovero@optusnet.com.au](mailto:frankrovero@optusnet.com.au)

**p:** (02) 9749 5625

**w:** [www.francisorovero.com](http://www.francisorovero.com)

In 1970, Francisco graduated from the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

A painter, sculptor, and an art tutor. Experienced in curatorial roles with galleries in the Philippines and Australia. He held solo and group exhibitions including number of regional galleries in Australia and at the Museum of Contemporary Arts, Sydney. A recipient of numerous awards and founding President of the Philippine-Australia Art Association, Sydney.



## Howard Su

**Arts Practice:** Painting, Graphic Design and Sign Writing

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**p:** 0413 535 209

**w:** [www.howardfineart.com.au](http://www.howardfineart.com.au)

Howard grew up in Guangzhou, China. He began painting at high school where he became dux of arts at the age of twelve. In 1975, Howard graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Guangzhou Fine Arts Institute and worked as a stage arts designer for an opera troupe. Howard migrated to Australia with his family in 1987 and started a career as a portrait artist. Howard set up his own commercial arts business in 1995.



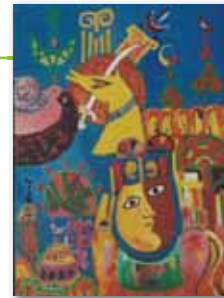
## Issam K Abdulla

**Arts Practice:** Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Ceramics, Jewellery, Photography, Mixed Media and Ready Made Arts

**e:** [issam@auburndiversity.org.au](mailto:issam@auburndiversity.org.au)

**p:** 9649 6955

Born in Iraq, Issam graduated from Sydney University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Visual Arts and completed a Masters in Contemporary Arts at the University of Western Sydney in 1996. Issam has participated in several solo and group exhibitions throughout Sydney and believes that art is something to do when you are in crisis or in opposition and not something to do when you are happy.



## Jessica King

**Arts Practice:** Photography

**e:** [worldofkidz@gmail.com](mailto:worldofkidz@gmail.com)

Jessica has been involved in photography for 3 years and has recently joined the Auburn Artists Society in the hope of meeting other Artists and learning new skills and art forms.



## Josef John

**Arts Practice:** Painting, Drawing and Sculpture

**p:** 0403 085 569

Josef John was born in Turkey and immigrated to Australia in 1995. He attended the National Art School in 1997 where he developed an interest in sculpture, particularly abstract, geometric and organic forms and undertook further study at the Northern Institute of TAFE in 2000. Josef works with recycled materials including scrap metal, wood, building materials, household and industrial waste. His focus has shifted to making “art for the community”, which he sees as his own unique way of getting involved in making Auburn a better place to live.



## Layla Naji

**Arts Practice:** Visual Arts, Arabic Calligraphy, Arts Facilitation and Teaching

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**p:** 9649 5559

Layla was born in Baghdad, studied mechanical engineering at the University of Baghdad during the Iraq-Iran war and graduated in 1989. She survived the first US Gulf War in 1991, arrived in Australia as a skilled migrant in 1993. Layla is a founding member of the Arabic Calligraphy Group. She has facilitated artist groups and participated as a visual artist in a number of exhibitions such as InsideOut at ACDN and T'feh at Mori Gallery. She has also worked as a Cultural Consultant providing translation, cultural training and cultural specific editing for film and theatre.



## Mazin Ahmad

**Arts Practice:** Visual Arts, Abstract Painting, Public Art, Arts Facilitation in Ceramics, Mosaics and Sculpture

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**p:** 0402 479 340

**w:** [www.mazinarts.com](http://www.mazinarts.com)

Mazin obtained a bachelor degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in 1990 and has represented Australia at the International Biennale of Contemporary Art Florence, Italy. Mazin was awarded Winner of the Blacktown Art Prize in 2006 and Winner of the Auburn Mayoral Art Award in 2009 and has exhibited in several galleries around Australia and overseas.



## Michelle Tran

**Arts Practice:** Visual Arts and Design

**p:** Please contact via Auburn Council by phoning 9735 1316.

Michelle is an artist with a designer's mindset, or a designer with an artistic bent, mainly working in the areas of drawing, painting, graphic design and public art. She graduated with a Bachelor of Design from the College of Fine Arts at the University of NSW and has competed, won prizes and exhibited in a multitude of art and design competitions from a young age. Michelle is proud to be working on art and design based projects in Auburn where she has always lived and has permanent public artworks located in Auburn Library, Auburn West Public School, Rookwood Cemetery and at the Regents Park Men's Shed and Community Kitchen.



## Resala Alazzawi

**Arts Practice:** Craft and Arts Facilitator

**e:** [alazzawiresala@yahoo.com.au](mailto:alazzawiresala@yahoo.com.au)

Resala is a craft artist working with ceramic, mosaic, painting on glass and textiles. She has facilitated several craft and public art projects in the Auburn area and exhibited her own works at Perelman House in Canberra, Fairfield Museum and Parramatta Heritage Centre.



## Rosemary Dunham

**Arts Practice:** Botanical Illustration, Painting, Drawing, Teaching, Sculpture and Ceramics

**e:** [rosemary.d@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rosemary.d@optusnet.com.au)

**p:** 9649 1036

Rosemary has extensive experience in ceramics and has exhibited at the Tin Sheds, Sydney University, Limited Addition, Wattle Gallery and Balmain Art Gallery. She has sold work through the Craft Gallery of NSW. She has extensive experience in teaching ceramics at the University of Sydney. Rosemary teaches botanical illustration at the Macquarie Community College and regularly exhibits at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney.

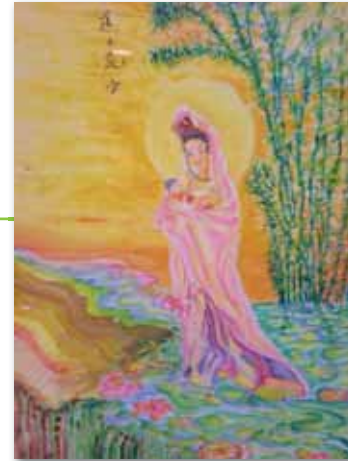


## Upali Gunaratna

**Arts Practice:** Painting and Drawing

**e:** [upachit@g-node.com.au](mailto:upachit@g-node.com.au)

Upali was born in Sri Lanka and migrated to the UK in 1976, working as an Engineer in Europe, North Africa and Zambia. Having loved art his whole life, Upali began painting in 1996 when he retired. Upali migrated to Australia in 2001 and studied Fine Arts at TAFE in 2003. He has since participated in exhibitions at the Newington Community Centre and TAP Gallery as well as the Auburn Mayoral Art Award. He lives and continues to paint at his home in Newington.





For more information about the Auburn Artists Society please contact 9735 1222  
or visit [www.auburn.nsw.gov.au](http://www.auburn.nsw.gov.au)

