

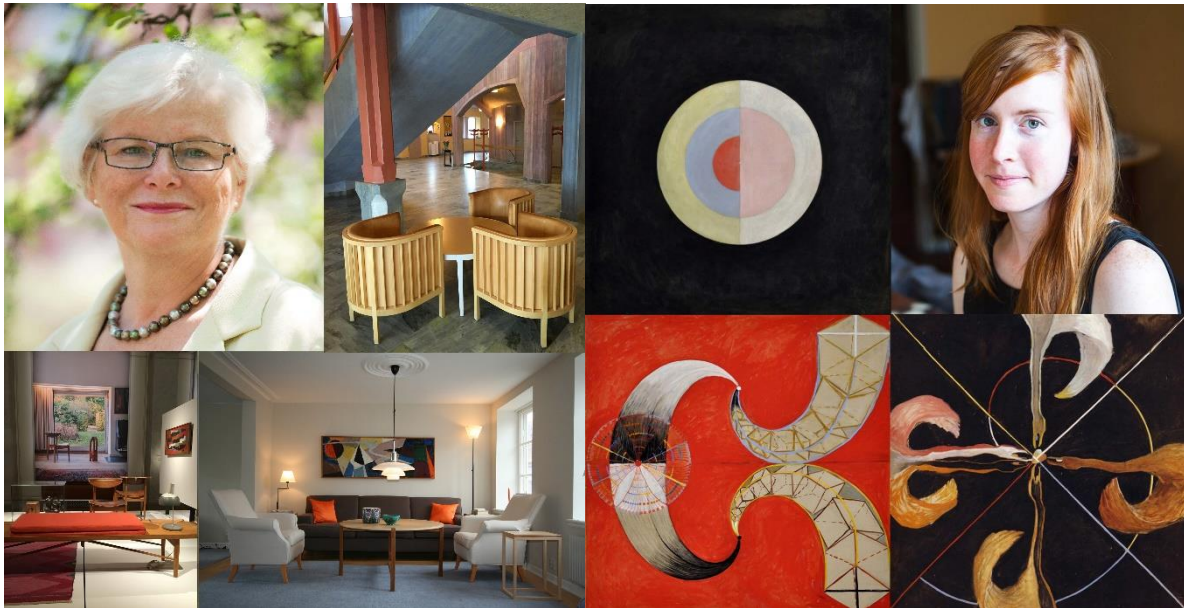
## PRESIDENT'S REPORT, AGM 2021, November 29, 2021

It's a pleasure to thank the entire National Executive Committee for their support over this year. Once again Past President Jean Pretorius has gone far above and beyond the call of duty in providing vital support and assistance to myself and to all of the other members of the committee, and we continue to benefit from his huge efforts in setting up the new website. Glenys Thomson has continued her monumental contribution to the CSA as National Secretary and as Secretary for the Southern States over many years, and Emily Guo did a great job in coming to grips with CSA finances in her first year as Treasurer. Vice President Mike Dixon and Western Australian Division Chair Helen Ponton have provided wise counsel on many occasions, and I'd especially like to highlight their assistance in co-ordinating the Western Australian Division segment at the conference. Similarly, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Julie Blackmore in her roles of Membership Secretary and Spectrum Editor and with Annamaria de Cara as AIC Representative.



The Colour Society of Australia had an exceptionally busy 2021, beginning with our online national conference *Colour Connections Sydney 2021* on March 19-21. This attracted 142 registrants from 13 countries including every state and territory of Australia. A total of twenty-five speakers responded to our open call for abstracts or to subsequent invitations from the conference committee. The online format facilitated the participation of nine international speakers, from the USA (3), Italy (1), Portugal (2) and the UK (3), as well as speakers from every corner of Australia. The conference was dedicated to the memory of former CSA President and Treasurer Derek Grantham.

Huge thanks go to our speakers for generously giving their time and energy, allowing us to present such a diverse and colourful program, and special thanks are due to our session chairs Jean Pretorius, Paul Martin, Aly Indermühle, Sally Ryan, Mike Dixon and Annamaria di Cara. I'd also like to thank everyone else who helped to make the conference a success, including everyone who attended and provided feedback. Our post-conference survey indicated a very high level of satisfaction from *almost* all of our attendees, with 91% rating the conference either "above average" or "far above average" relative to comparable events they had participated in, and 77% or more selecting the maximum rating option for their satisfaction with the conference as a whole, with the work done by the conference organizers, and with the information provided on the conference web page.

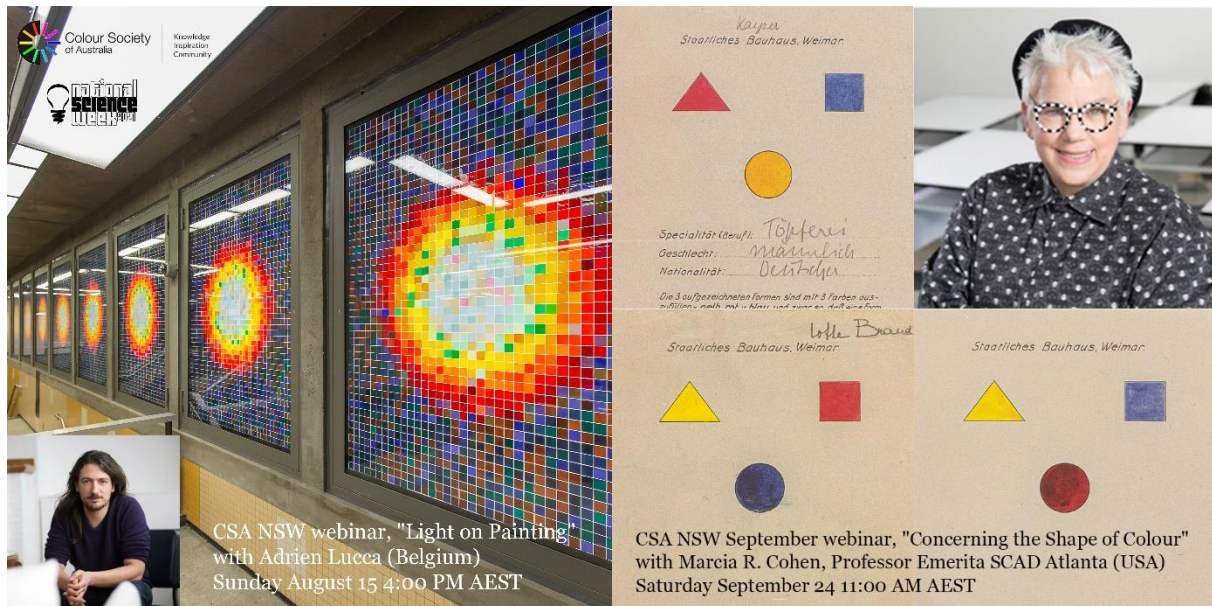


We resumed our series of free webinars on **April 22** with an inspiring Zoom presentation by Berit Bergstrom (Berit Colour Talks, Sweden) on *Scandinavian Colour Design of Today*, hosted by Annamaria di Cara. Berit ably communicated the key influences on Scandinavian design, emphasizing its attunement to the colours of nature, showing some remarkable examples of architecture integrated with forests and snowfields, and many examples of the influence of natural colours such as birch bark and chlorophyll greens. Berit then gave a fascinating overview of the historical background to Scandinavian design, including the results of her research into 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century interior colours in terms of their NCS notations, and finished with a beautifully illustrated survey and discussion of the use of colour in Swedish design today.

On **July 3** Kristen Tivey of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation and the Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum of New York gave a very insightful presentation on the pioneering abstract painter Hilma af Klint, with particular reference to her use of colour. Kristen discussed in detail the "Swan Series" from af Klint's magnum opus "Paintings from the Temple" and deftly answered the



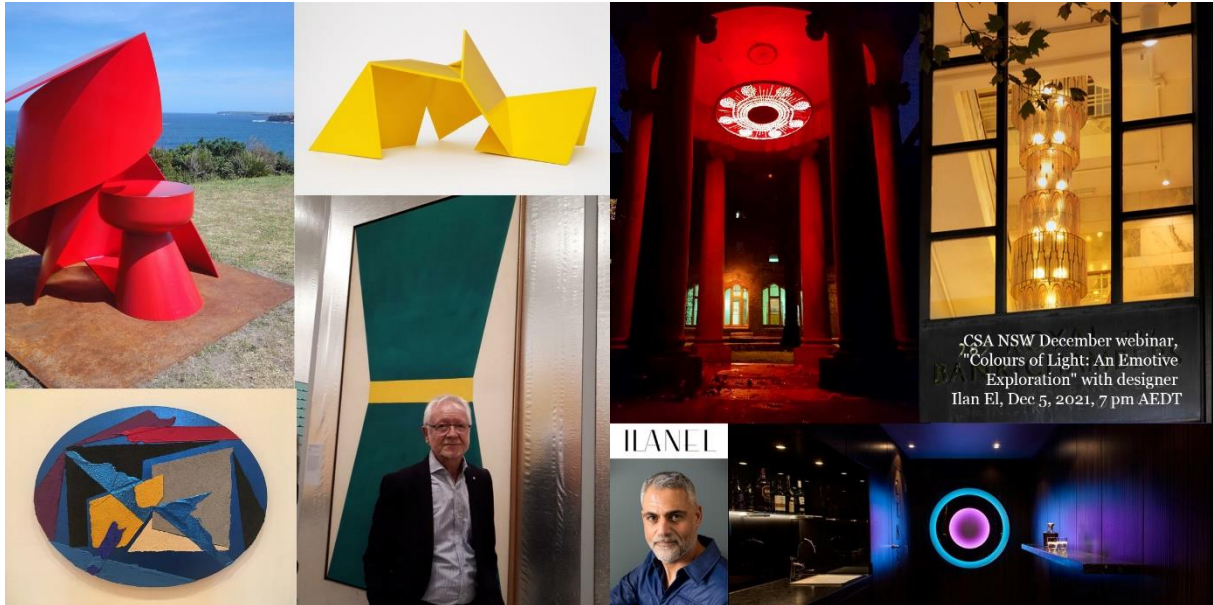
numerous questions submitted by our enthusiastic global audience. The Swan Series was the focus of Kristen's Master's Thesis at the Pratt Institute of New York.



On **August 15** artist Adrien Lucca gave a webinar from Belgium on the topic of "Light on Painting", which was included in the program of National Science Week 2021. Adrien gave us a close look into the research methods that go into his paintings, installations and publications, which use chemistry, spectrometry, electronics and computer science for artistic purposes. The webinar was dedicated to the memory of Colour Society of Australia founding member Max Luescher, who passed away in March last year, and who was an expert on colours of surface coatings, printing inks and plastics, and on colour appearance under different sources of illumination. The webinar was hosted by CSA Past President Jean Pretorius, who also secured the participation of the speaker.

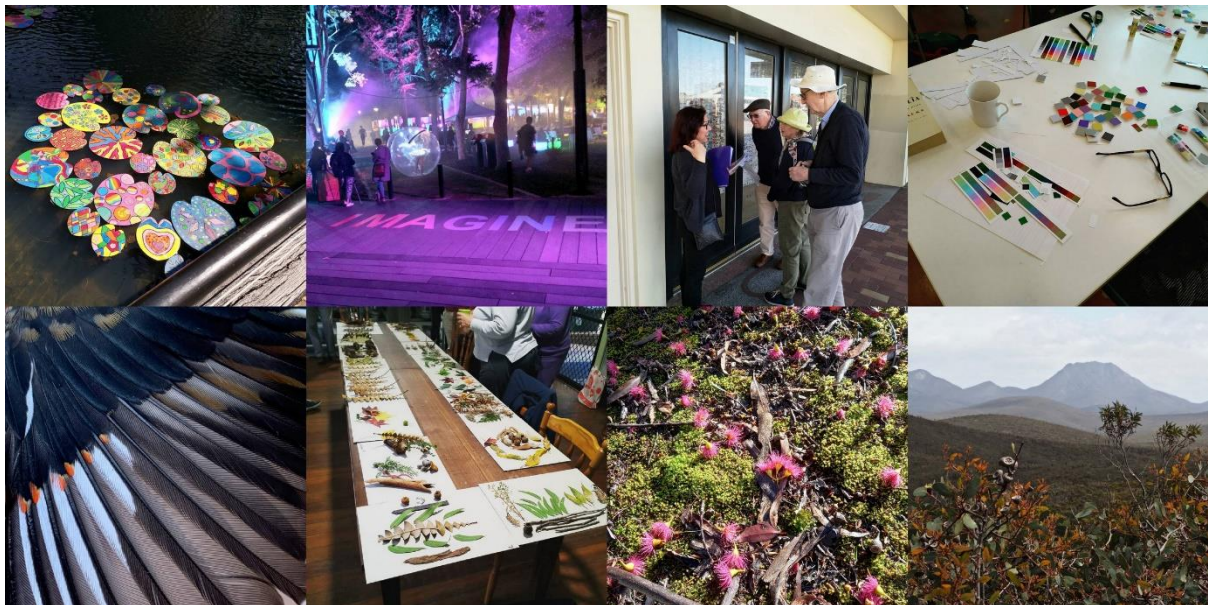
Our September webinar "Concerning the Shape of Colour" with Marcia R. Cohen, Professor Emerita SCAD Atlanta (USA), was held on **September 25**. We are very grateful to Annamaria di Cara for hosting the session, and for securing the services of such a popular and accomplished educator and artist as our speaker. Marcia gave a fascinating overview of her non-traditional approach to teaching colour theory, which involved critical and hands-on engagement with the ideas and investigations of historical theorists ranging from Goethe and Chevreul to Rood and the Bauhaus masters, including Kandinsky's supposed colour-shape associations. This overview was intertwined with insights into the impact of this exploration on her own studio practice. Marcia's presentation was I think a record in being fully subscribed a good couple of weeks in advance of the session.

Another very special event was "A Conversation about Colour" on **October 31** with eminent Australian sculptor, painter and educator Ron Robertson-Swann, expertly hosted by artist and CSA NSW Division Secretary Aly Indermühle. Ron shared a wealth of fascinating anecdotes and insights, some of which drew quite passionate agreement from the audience in the chat. In the words of two



members of the audience, Ron, came across as “a talented, humble, good-humoured person” who “conveys his love and work with colour so well”.

Our next and final free webinar for the year will be “Colours of Light: An Emotive Exploration” with Melbourne-based designer Ilan El, on Sunday **December 5** at 7 PM AEDT UTC+10:00. The webinar will examine Ilan’s journey from practicing architecture overseas, through his academic research at RMIT, to his current creative practice and artistic expression. We again have Aly Indermühle to thank for securing Ilan for us as a speaker.



Finally, Western Australian Division Chair Helen Ponton and her team have done a brilliant job in conducting activities in the west with a very successful program of formal and informal face-to-face events this year. Their theme for 2021 was ‘Colour and Music’, explored in the 2 sessions, one in March with Paul Green-Armytage conducting an activity relating music and colour, and one in September with neuroscientist and musician Professor Alan Harvey speaking about the importance of music throughout human evolution, Georgina Noble speaking on artist Paul Klee, and Dr Ashley Smith (UWA) speaking on ‘The Art of Orchestration - Painting with Sound’. Other events have included a weekend away at Dwellingup in May, a viewing on Saturday 30 October of the ‘Castaway





Sculpture' event at Rockingham, in which WA Division Secretary Sean Adams had a sculpture, and an end-of-year event with a colour theme at Perth Zoo on Friday 26 November. (Photos from the CSA WA Division's Instagram account at <https://www.instagram.com/coloursocietyofaustralia.wa/>)

2021 has been an exceptionally successful year for the CSA in many ways, including in terms of membership and financially, as Julie and Emily's reports will show. Both the conference and the webinar series have brought vastly increased international attention to the CSA, to the point where registrations for our online events are routinely 30 to 40 percent of the total. We have covered an amazing diversity of aspects of colour, including the history of colour theory and practice, colour science and lighting technology, colour in nature, philosophy of colour, colour design, colour in light art, painting, sculpture, and technological imaging, the phenomenology of colour, and colour education. I want to thank all of you for supporting this achievement through your membership of the Society.

David Briggs

President,

Colour Society of Australia