



Colour Society  
of Australia

Knowledge  
Inspiration  
Community

## NSW Division 2019 Annual Report

2019 was another busy year in NSW, with nine presentations including several by internationally known speakers, and our largest event since the Sydney 2009 Congress, our International Colour Day event in partnership with Resene Paints.



Above: Presentation by Professor Paul Martin at the Mosman Art Gallery. Below: Dinner at Thai Nine Restaurant, Mosman (Photos: Naggy Devikalar)

World renowned vision specialist **Professor Paul Martin** from the University of Sydney attracted a full house for his talk *Newton's red Hering* at the Mosman Art Gallery on the history of colour vision science on Tuesday **February 12**, Paul highlighted not only some entertaining clashes of individual personalities but also the clash of fundamentally different psychological viewpoints that this history illustrates. At the conclusion of Paul's talk about 25 of us proceeded on to a dinner at Thai Nine restaurant nearby, where we made up for our cancelled end-of-year dinner with a lively beginning-of-year dinner. It was great to see such a mix of new and very long-term members of the society getting together.



Sydney Design Festival 2019 event *Unlocking the Structure of Colour* at the Albion Centre

March 2019 marked the first time that the Colour Society of Australia held an event as part of the Sydney Design Festival. **Annamaria di Cara** and **David Briggs** both gave presentations at a double-header event, *Unlocking the Structure of Colour*, at the Albion Centre in Surry Hills on **Wednesday March 6**. My talk surveyed the historical development of "colour theory" from the Renaissance to the present in order to place notions like the traditional primary, secondary and tertiary colours in the context of our current scientific understanding of colour. Annamaria then gave a presentation explaining the Natural Colour System (NCS) that included a session of practical exercises. Our 50 seats sold out before the event and we regretfully had to turn away several people who tried to book at the last minute. We found that being part of the Sydney Design Festival was a huge help in attracting public interest, which had not really been our experience with the Sydney Science Festival in 2018.



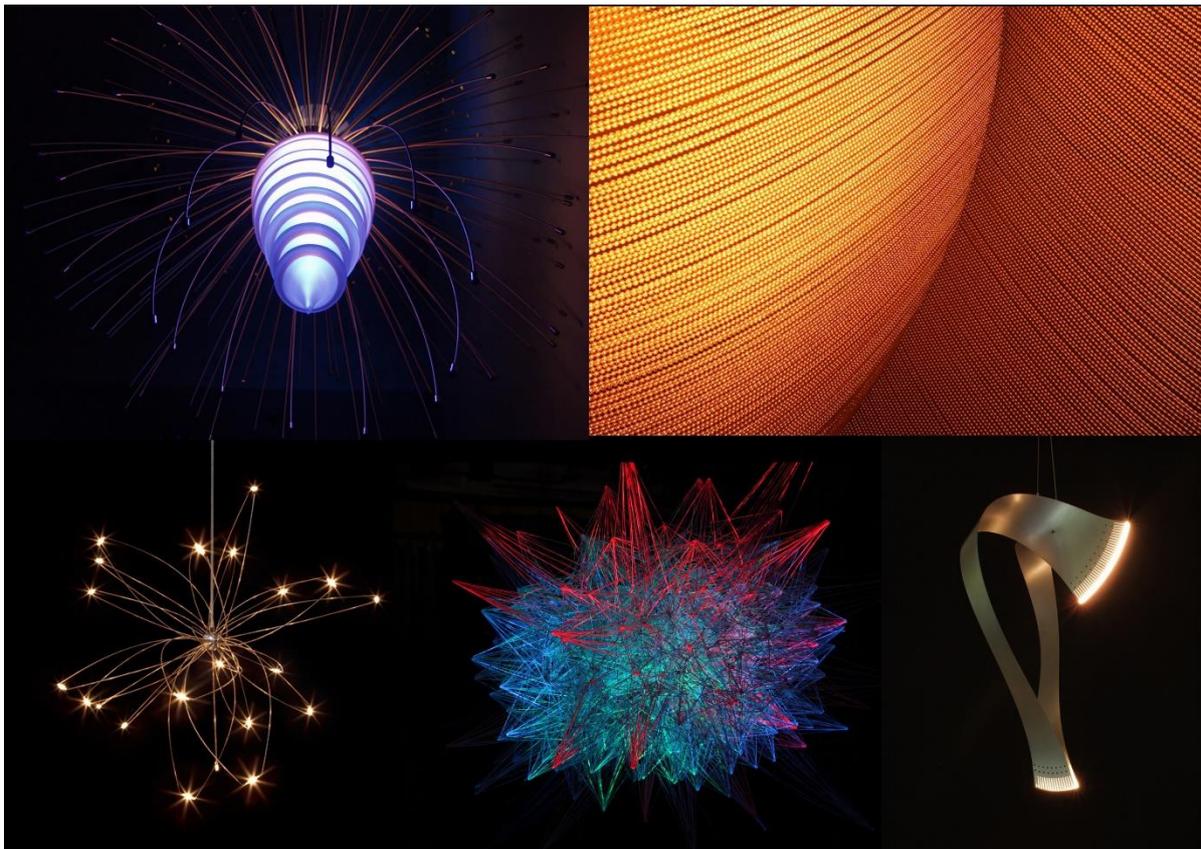
Above: CSA Members Judith Briggs, Cherel Millist, Nageshwari Devikalar, Annamaria di Cara and Therese Moussa with the Resene team at the ICD 2019 event. Below: Workshop participants.

To celebrate International Colour Day 2019 Judith Briggs organized an exciting event jointly with **Resene Paints** on **Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the Resene Showroom in Artarmon. Participants explored Resene paint products and application, unique Resene coloured bases and tinting technology and the science and technology of paint in workshops led by passionate and knowledgeable Resene technicians. Architects were able to earn up to 3 CPD points. Thanks are due to Resene for collaborating with the CSA NSW Division for an inspiring and fun celebration of ICD 2019 and for the generous lunch and goodie bag, Attendance was free thanks to Resene's generous sponsorship. We attracted 110 attendees, a record number for any CSA event in Sydney since AIC 2009, and added 75 names to our mailing list.



Our audience at the Albion Centre for *Leonardo da Vinci on Colour Light and Vision*.

To mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of **Leonardo da Vinci** I gave a talk on the subject of *Leonardo da Vinci on Colour, Light and Vision* on **Wednesday May 29** at the Albion Centre The talk attracted an audience of 30 guests including many non-members, reflecting the enduring interest that Leonardo holds for the general public.



Lighting designs by Christopher Moulder

Our **July** event was an inspiring presentation by American lighting designer and UNSW Art and Design Lecturer **Christopher Moulder**, who traced his journey into the use of colour through his experimentation with light (**Thursday, July 4**). Since 1993 Chris has been designing, engineering, fabricating and installing one-of-a-kind lighting sculptures and a line of limited-edition lighting fixtures. His extensive client list includes department stores, theatres, hotels, resorts and restaurants throughout the United States and in the United Kingdom, France, Saudi Arabia, the Maldives and Mauritius. His current Ph. D. project at UNSW uses sound and coloured light as a material response to body movement in a synesthetic experience. Although attendance on the night was unfortunately relatively low, this at least meant that everyone who attended got to talk with this exceptionally interesting speaker, paradoxically reinforcing for all of us the value of our live, face-to-face events. Some of Chris' extraordinary work can be seen on his website:

<http://www.christophermoulder.com/>



Our audience at the Julian Ashton Art School for *Aristotle and the Philosophy of Colour Perception*.

For our **August** event we were privileged to have **Professor Mohan Matthen**, one of the world's foremost experts on the philosophy of perception in general and of colour in particular, give a fascinating presentation on *Aristotle and the Philosophy of Colour Perception* (**Sunday, August 11**). Mohan is Professor of Philosophy and senior Canada Research Chair at the University of Toronto and has written extensively on the philosophy of perception and more recently on aesthetics. Among his numerous publications he is the author of *Seeing, Doing and Knowing* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2005) and the editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Perception* (OUP, 2015), *Perception and Its Modalities* (with Dustin Stokes and Stephen Biggs, OUP, 2014), *Color Science and Color Ontology* (with Jonathan Cohen, MIT Press, 2010) and *Philosophy of Biology* (with Christopher Stephens, Elsevier 2006). Our thanks are also due to our audience of forty members and

guests who sustained a lively and wide-ranging discussion about many aspects of colour perception at the end of Mohan's talk, and to the Julian Ashton Art School for generously providing us with a venue for this very special event.



Randal Arvilla demonstrates a range of tools and newly developed materials before his presentation at the Workshop Art Centre at Willoughby (Photo: David Briggs)

A great mix of new faces and CSA NSW Division stalwarts enjoyed Costa Rican-born painter **Randal Arvilla's** presentation on **Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Workshop Art Centre (WAC), Willoughby on *Encaustic Painting: History and Contemporary Perspectives*. Randal is a leading proponent of encaustic technique (painting with melted wax) in Australia and gives workshops in the technique both here and in Costa Rica. His website is at <https://www.randalarvilla.com/>. Randal not only put a tremendous effort into his talk but also demonstrated an amazing selection of tools, art materials (many very newly developed and unfamiliar to most painters), student works (foreground) and a selection of his own encaustic paintings from his three solo exhibitions in Sydney in recent years. We are very grateful to Randal for making this such a fabulous event and to Louise Ruddock for generously allowing us to use the facilities of the Workshop Art Centre.

For our final event of the year on **December 4** special guest from the UK **Karen Haller** will speak about and sign copies of her new book *The Little Book of Colour* followed optionally by dinner, at the Balkan Seafood Restaurant in Surry Hills.

Sincere thanks are due to all of our wonderful speakers for generously providing their time and efforts to help the society in its aim of providing “a forum on colour and its application in science, industry, the visual arts and education”. As usual we touched on a very broad range of colour-related disciplines, this year including the history of colour science, colour fundamentals and education, paint technology and application, art history and theory, lighting design and technology, philosophy of colour and perception, fine art and colour psychology. We hope to cover even more disciplines next year, particularly at our "Colour Connections" conference in Sydney on September 18-20. I also want to thank all our members and friends who attended events this year, and all who helped to spread word of the events among their friends, colleagues and students - your efforts are vital to us!

I'd like to express my gratitude to the rest of the 2019 committee for their efforts this year and especially to our Secretary Virginia Furner and her husband Paul for making several events possible at the Albion Centre in Surry Hills this year. Virginia's generosity in making this well-equipped and centrally located venue available, often in the face of her own health issues, has played a huge part in the success of the NSW Division's programme of events since 2015.

I regret to note that long-time committee member Judith Briggs will be leaving Sydney to live overseas from early next year, though she has kindly offered to remain available for advice in view of upcoming conference. Judith became a CSA member in 2001, joined the NSW Committee in 2004 and served as NSW Chairperson from 2009 to 2013. She also served on the CSA national committee from 2009 to 2019, taking on the role of Vice President in late 2013 and President from the end of 2015 until September 2018. Judith played important roles in the creation of our old website and online payment systems and (with Jean Pretorius) our new website launched this month. She also played important roles in our student awards program and in providing valuable advice to an inexperienced NSW Chairperson from 2015 to the present.

I am also very sorry to note the sudden passing recently of NSW Division member Bernard O'Hanlon, who was a regular at our events over the last couple of years. Our condolences go out to Rhana for her loss.

David Briggs,

Chairperson, NSW Division

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