



Exhibition of Paintings

# “A Colourful Life”

*Mary-Anne Wright Van Ross*

Bahrain Art Centre

Kingdom of Bahrain  
2012

Kingdom of Bahrain مملكة البحرين



Ministry of Culture وزارة الثقافة



*His Majesty*

**King Hamad Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa**

*The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain*



*His Highness*

**Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa**

*The Prime Minister  
of the Kingdom of Bahrain*



*His Highness*

**Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa**

*The Crown Prince & Commander-in Chief of  
BDF of the Kingdom of Bahrain*

# Foreword

by *Mary-Anne*

Welcome to my first solo exhibition in the Middle East held at the Bahrain Arts Centre, Manama Bahrain. It is a truly wonderful venue for artists to display their work and I am grateful for the opportunity. A special thankyou to the Ministry of Culture for their support.

Buildings are venues to display work, but it is the people who are the heart and soul that make things happen. I am most grateful for the excellent support provided by the staff under the guidance of the Director of Culture and Arts, Mr Abdulqader Aqeel under the direction of Her Excellency Sheikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa.

I would also like to thank the esteemed leadership in Bahrain, His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa the Prime Minister and His Highness Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa the Crown Prince, for the opportunity of exhibiting my work.

I hope you enjoy seeing my work and it is my privilege to share it with you. This exhibition has several themes including local scenes and characters of Bahrain and the Middle East, beachscapes, florals and not least some paintings depicting the athleticism and style inherent to ballet.

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Mary-Anne is pleased to support two local charities.

The Palm Association is a not-for-profit, pro-active and accountable organization, run by women, with the sole purpose of providing help and assistance to Bahraini women and their children.

Over the past 12 years it has helped countless families through the distribution of food parcels, educational sponsorship and home improvements.

[www.thepalmassociationbah.com](http://www.thepalmassociationbah.com)



The BSPCA is a charity run by volunteers which cares for the abandoned and stray animals of Bahrain. They find good loving homes for as many animals as possible and care for those that have been abandoned.

[www.bspca.org](http://www.bspca.org)

# Biography



Mary-Anne was born in England and studied art in Portsmouth and Bristol. She was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (Honours). After exhibiting and teaching in London she moved to Australia in 1982 and immersed herself in the Australian art scene. She became a portrait tutor and councillor for the Royal Queensland Art Society, also running various workshops for established art groups including the Pastel Society of Australia, and was frequently invited to judge art competitions.

Moving to Melbourne in 2003 to support her youngest son, Jared, who received a place at the Australian Ballet School, she set up her own gallery and continued to exhibit and teach. Mary-Anne currently has a studio outside of Melbourne near Ballarat as well as a studio in Aveyron in the south of France.

Mary-Anne is an award winning artist and has won many accolades in Australia. Her art is held in both private as well as public collections in the UK, Australia, Canada, India, USA and Japan.



Mary-Anne's skills and talent as a portrait artist has resulted in high profile commissions from institutions, including the Deans and Presidents from Kings College, Sydney, the University of Queensland and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners respectively. Also a portrait of the late Queen Mother was commissioned for the Royal Marine Barracks in Portsmouth, England.

Her youngest son Jared Rainford Wright is a professional dancer with the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam, having previously been a company member of the Australian Ballet. Originally Jared was to perform at the opening of this exhibition but unfortunately his schedule performing principal roles in Carmen and Paquita in Amsterdam have precluded his physical presence.

Jared has however choreographed a piece which he performs with Amanda McGuigan (also of the Dutch National Ballet), which will be premiered at the opening of the exhibition by video. It can also be viewed online via the link on [www.wrightvanross.com](http://www.wrightvanross.com)

*An absolute must for visitors to Manama souq, an opportunity to meet very friendly locals who enjoy a good catch up with their refreshments.*



## **Coffee Shop, Manama Souq.**

*Oil on canvas*

100 x 80



## **Beautiful Eyes**

*Oil on canvas*

50 X 40

## Beachwalkers II

Acrylic on Canvas

130 X 90

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*Fresh air,  
sunshine:  
a beautiful  
partnership*

## Dark Eyes

Acrylic on canvas

60 X 90

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*It is said that  
the eyes are  
the window to  
the soul!*

*Just a little  
boy waiting.  
How long do  
you think it  
will take?*



## **Still Waiting**

*Acrylic on canvas*

60 X 40

*Haven't yet  
seen the  
armada of  
dhows leaving  
late afternoon  
for their  
overnight  
fishing,  
returning  
in the early  
hours? It is  
a beautiful  
sight, so don't  
miss it. Almost  
every day for  
several months  
in the year.*



## **Fishing Dhows at Manama**

*Acrylic on canvas*

40 X 30



## Discerning Eyes

*Acrylic on canvas*

65 X 50

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*Lots to think about!*

## Old Coffee Shop, Manama Souq

*Oil on canvas*

73 X 60

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*An absolute must for visitors to Manama souq. Sitting with the locals enjoying tea, visitors welcome, the memories will linger on.*

*Creatures of great individuality! I met these colourful characters whilst on a desert safari, in the UAE and just had to paint them.*



## Leading the way

*Acrylic on canvas*

46 X 36

*These two ladies were doing a roaring trade selling crêpes to visitors in the souq in Doha.*



## Ladies of Qatar

*Acrylic on canvas*

30 X 25

*In the Manama Souq, the little alleyway café where locals and visitors take time out to relax and catch up.*



## Taking a moment (study for Coffee Shop)

*Acrylic on canvas*

55 X 46

## Dhows at Reef Island

Acrylic on Canvas

100 X 80

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*Don't miss the boats! Almost every day you can watch these dhows heading out to sea late afternoon for overnight prawn fishing. They return early next morning to get their catch off to the markets.*

## The Step

Acrylic on Canvas

55 X 39

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*Step forward, step back, where to from here?*

*Materials and colours to win any heart. Well worth a visit.*



## **Textile Souq, Manama**

*Acrylic on Canvas*

60 X 75

*A great history of strength and endurance.*



## **Desert Friend**

*Acrylic on Canvas*

60 X 80

## Basket Weaver

Acrylic on Canvas

45 X 60

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*A wonderful craft and a joy to watch.*

## Old Muharraq Bahrain

Acrylic on Canvas

50 X 40

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*One of the old streets of Muharraq, a taste of the past worth holding on to.*



*The narrow alleyways offer shade and cool relief from the dazzling sunlight.*



## **Visitor to Muharraq**

*Acrylic on Canvas*

60 X 45

*Out of the sun and into coffee shop alley!*



## **Shade in the Souq II**

*Acrylic on Canvas*

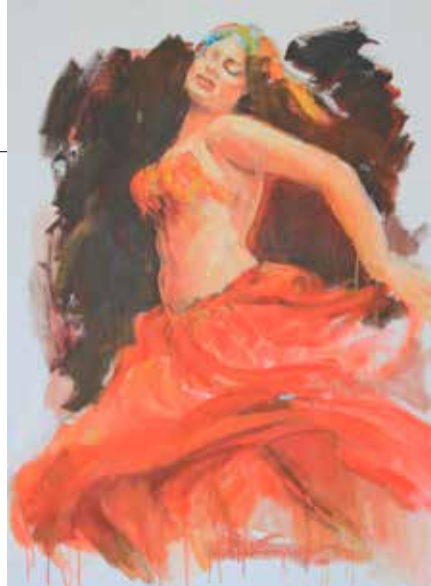
120 X 90

## Belly Dancer

*Acrylic on Canvas*

120 X 90

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*It is great to see the old tradition of belly dancing is alive and well.*

## Into the Sunlight

*Acrylic on Canvas*

50 X 40

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*What a great life, enjoy!*

*Ready and waiting with anticipation.*



## Side stage

*Acrylic on canvas*

75 X 75

*Athleticism and grace.*



## Grand Jête

*Mixed Media on canvas*

55 X 45

*In control but pushing the body to the limit.*



## In the Moment (study for Aerial)

*Charcoal Drawing on canvas*

90 X 60



## Aerial

*Print on canvas*

195 X 123

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*In the moment of great athleticism and exertion, the dancer is still able to show beauty and grace.*

## Curtain Call

*Acrylic on canvas*

120 X 75

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*Out of sight in the cool light backstage.*

*As a mother of a young dancer I have experienced the hushed excitement of these young ballerinas listening to the music and waiting for their cue.*



## **Waiting in the Wings**

*Acrylic on Canvas*

40 X 40

*Well prepared, and ready to perform.*



## **Backstage**

*Acrylic on Canvas*

60 X 75

## Awesome

*Oil on canvas*

120 X 75

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*That breathtaking moment when a child experiences the ocean.*

## Racing the Waves

*Acrylic on canvas*

120 X 37

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*Never get tired of watching the delight of children racing the endless waves.*

*Serenity in a  
flower.*



## **White Iris**

*Acrylic on Canvas*

120 X 90

*Strong colours  
and strong  
shapes.  
Each flower  
individual and  
sculptural,  
offering the  
artist a wide  
scope for  
interpretation.*



## **Blue Iris**

*Acrylic on canvas*

150 X 90

## Sketch for Blue Iris

*Acrylic on canvas*

50 X 70

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## Colour Release

*Mixed Media on canvas*

148 X 100

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*For myself,  
and those who  
appreciate  
the intrinsic  
beauty and  
energy of  
colour.*

*A fine tradition  
of gathering  
for discussion.*



## **Majlis**

*Mixed Media on canvas*

162 X 100



## **Outer Darkness, Inner Light (The Watcher Series)**

*Mixed Media on canvas*

150 X 100

## Certificate of Authenticity

All paintings and prints on display are for sale and are provided with a signed Certificate of Authenticity by the artist. (on request)

This Certificate can be used for insurance purposes and validation that the painting and/or print “is an original by Mary-Anne Wright Van Ross.



## Limited Edition Prints

Most paintings at the exhibition are available as Limited Edition prints.

The prints are professionally prepared on quality canvas and stretched accordingly.

The edition for each painting has been limited and set at 50 and all prints will be individually numbered and signed by the artist.

[www.wrightvanross.com](http://www.wrightvanross.com)





شكراً بحرين