



# LADYBUZZ

# Ladybird International Arts Academy Newsletter

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Ronél Henning

## Collaborations

## Inspiring outcomes

Collaborations are known to motivate a community of artists towards something ‘bigger’ than themselves. The combination of diverse skillsets, ideas and techniques of all involved are woven together to create unique outcomes. For the past twenty-one years, Ladybird’s music, art and drama departments have been collaborating to create innovative initiatives for our annual major productions, *Autumn Canticles*, *Very Best Times* and community projects.

For this year Ladybird will be engaging in various collaborations with outside entities to offer special arts experiences for our students. We will be collaborating with the Kuwait English School for the creation of two artworks. These large-sized artworks will be made by the students of both art departments. The creative process will involve research about the cultural goods of both Arab and African concepts and depicted as tapestries in the format of a very large puzzle. Students from both school's art departments will paint pieces of each other's puzzles so that when the installations are constructed, all the students have contributed to half of each other's artwork.

Another sizzling collaboration is with Chef Ronél van Biljon of Biljoni's Bistro. She is presenting the Ladybird Eight-week Short Cooking Course for adults from 2025. This collaboration aims to serve the adults in our community and region who are interested in a culinary journey of dishes around the globe.

We are looking forward to another year of extraordinary arts experiences. Carpe Artes!

One of the designs for the art collaboration with the  
Kuwait English School.



Congratulations and well done to Milan Badenhorst, whose winning artwork, Window, that was exhibited at Le Carousel du Louvre in Paris.

Ronél Henning

## Milan's art to the Louvre

This very young artist says, she paints ‘because it makes my heart happy’

Milan Badenhorst is a five-year-old artist with exceptional talent who has won the Global Arts, Sports and Culture Association's (GASCA) 2025 Louvre International Art Competition for her artwork, titled Window. The theme of the competition is Environmental Protection, and Milan stated that this should "start in your own home". Her artwork depicts a view through a window from their home to the environment outside. Her natural interest, creativity and ability to draw details, far beyond the norm for her age, was perceived by the panel of international judges as extraordinary. She conveyed a powerful message about our planet's well-being in this artwork that was exhibited in Le Carousel du Louvre in Paris, France on 7 February.

In the vibrant heart of the art world, where creativity meets purpose the GASCA Louvre International Art Competition unfolds, showcasing masterpieces dedicated to Environmental Protection. The discernment of the panel of international judges in selecting artworks for the exhibition in Paris is instrumental in realizing the dreams and aspirations of numerous artists who enter.



## The Van der Merwe Phenomenon

Ronél Henning

We are utterly delighted to welcome many young beginners for arts learning this year. Eight are Van der Merwe's. Read more on...

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## Art adventures

## First term happenings

Chantelle Fraenkel

The art students were busy as bees this term and created wonderfully vibrant works. Have a peep on...

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## Mature learners

## Adult art & cooking

Ronél Henning

Read more about the inspiring art and culinary classes some adults did this term.

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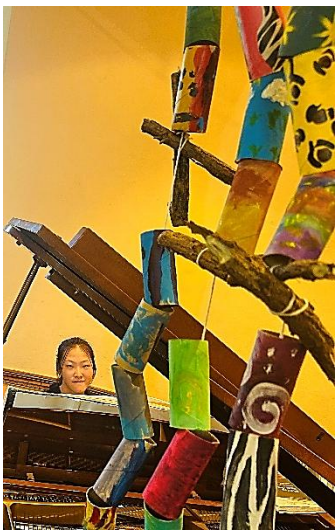
Ilona Knot

Autumn Canticles

The next generation out on stage

What an exciting start to the year 2025! Many new students have found their way through the gates of the Ladybird International Arts Academy. A new generation of students have walked in. With this, also a Young Strings group was born. Five violin students under the age of eleven performed at their first Autumn Canticles concert – some only after a few lessons this term. Finding fun in playing together is a big plus in making music. And besides the fun, music is needed for a child’s development in many areas – such as social development, creativity, teamwork, improved memory, motor skills, cognitive development, confidence, social development, discipline, and math skills – to name just a couple. So, very exciting times at Ladybird and the beginning of new highlights for many young arts learners.

The Autumn Canticles this year also featured our Encore Maluti Chamber Choir, Senior Ensemble and Strings Ensemble, along with senior-level performers. We were privileged to have received as guest artists, alumni Rorisang Ntsasa (tenor) and Joshua Knibbs (violin), and Wilna Leech – cellist and a patron of the Arts Academy.





# **A course for the digitally minded artist**



**DIGITAL DESIGN**  
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**10-week short course**

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# NEWS 1<sup>st</sup> TERM





Ronél Henning

## Story of a piano

### Letter of thanks

Dear friend who gifted this wonderful instrument that has traveled with you since 1992. From South Africa to Egypt to Kazakhstan then to Switzerland and back to South Africa again, and now to us in Ladybrand, bordering Lesotho.

We are inspired by your son's remarkable music journey from the Drakensberg Boys Choir to becoming an international pianist, composer and lecturer, and that you're blessing us with the piano he practiced and composed on.

We humbly receive your gift for more generations to learn to play. As you aptly state, a new journey for mutually this instrument and young learners 'has only just begun'. Sincere thanks from all of us at Ladybird.

Thanks to Mr Jaap Knot, one of our parents, who brought the piano for us from Johannesburg.



Petri Olivier is a very young drummer – here all smiles during a lesson.

Katleho Mothae

## Perc' it up

### Little Drummer Boys

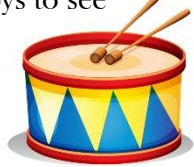
Cooooome, they toooold me

Pa rum pum pum pum.

Two new, young, talented boys to see

Pa rum pum pum pum.

Our finest gifts we receive



Pa rum pum pum pum,

To guide them through their musical journey

Pa rum pum pum pum rum pum pum pum

rum pum pum pum.

Mitchell Fraser and Petri Olivier are our finest young new gifts at Ladybird. Welcome!

Mitchell Fraser enjoying his drums lessons with Katleho Mothae.





Ronél Henning

Tuned

Visit by 'our' piano tuner

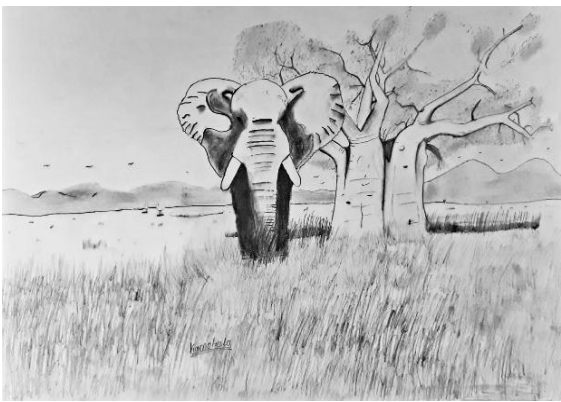
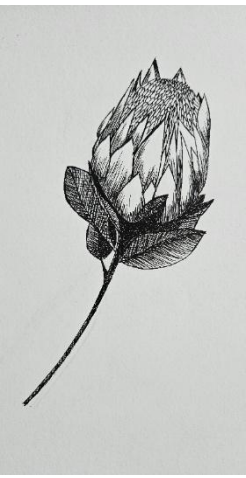
Thanks, Dewald van Deventer of Happy Pianos!



Chantelle Fraenkel

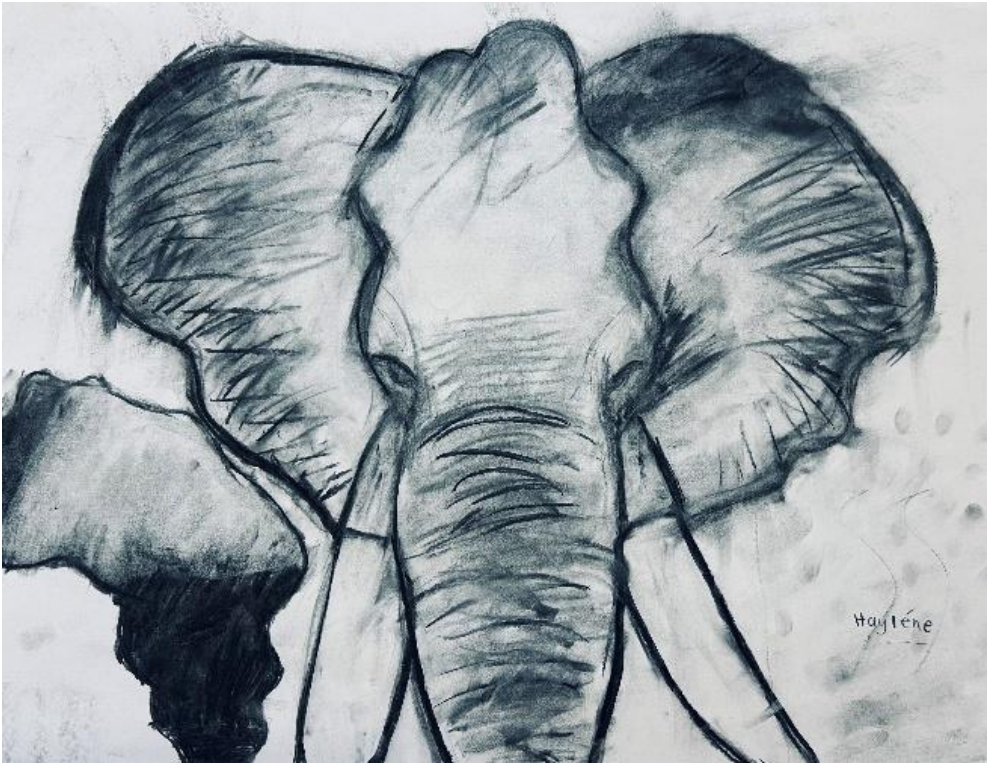
Art adventures

Colourful outcomes in art making this term





Continued from page 6  
**Art...**





Ronél Henning

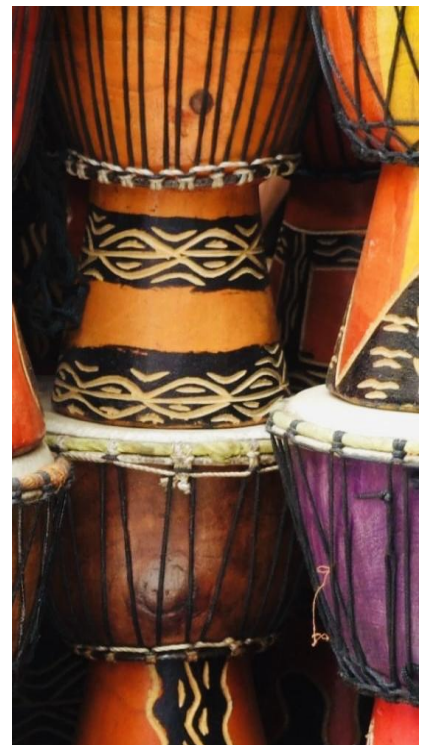
## Ladybird-Kuwait Art Collaboration

The story of two cultures across two continents

Ladybird International Arts is looking forward to a collaboration with the Visual Arts Department of the Kuwait English School. The vision for the collaboration is two mega-sized art installations. The chosen theme will be researched and sourced from Kuwait and South African traditional concepts to depict Arab and African cultures, so the students learn about each other uniqueness, and enjoy the colours as well as many beautiful topics to paint permeating from the diverse landscapes of people.

We are privileged to welcome the well-known Ladybrand artist, Chantelle Fraenkel, as Head of Visual Arts on the Ladybird staff for this year. She comments that she is excited to spearhead the art collaboration and for the year ahead of artmaking with her students.

The two giant art installations will form the heart of our student art exhibition for 2025.





Chantelle Sousa

# Brigade of Little Chefs warming the heart

A buzzing term with wonderful culinary outcomes

- o Creamy Tomato Rigatoni Pesto Pasta
- o Phyllo Crinkle Cut Cake with Almonds & Cinnamon
- o Butter Chicken Curry with Basmati Rice & Papadams
- o Rocky-road Pineapple Fridge Cake
- o Black Beans Savoury Mince with Avo & Mozzarella
- o Chocolate Pudding with Shortbread
- o Chicken Burger with Pineapple & Cheese
- o Steak Onion & Cheese Beef Tacos
- o Cake Pops
- o Stuffed Pasta Shells with Napolitana Sauce
- o Flapjacks with Berry Coulis

Chef Chantelle inspired her brigade of Little Chefs to deliver a remarkable repertoire of dishes this term. True to the practice of chefs

in the industry, they worked as a collaborative team towards creating the outcomes of every week’s splendid dishes.





# **Take some 'me time' and fulfill your dream to paint...**

Ladybird International Arts Academy

2025

**ART CLASSES ADULTS**  
**8-week short course**  
Presenter CHANTELE FRAENKEL

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JOIN OUR CHOIR?

Come and enjoy choral singing experiences  
with Encore Maluti

Chamber choir of the Ladybird International Arts Academy  
Conductor KATLEHO MOTHAE

Talented singers between the ages of 10 - 15 years welcome  
Rehearsals Wednesdays 15h30 to 16h00 during terms  
R150 per month

WhatsApp Ronél Henning for enrolment  
[www.ladybirdarts.com](http://www.ladybirdarts.com)



Ronél Henning

Singing for joy

Benefits for children’s education

Singing in a choir is a joyful recreation and has many benefits, including improved mood, social connections, and physical health. The release of endorphins, serotonin and dopamine – are the so-called 'happy' chemicals that boost the mood of singers and make them feel good about themselves.

Encore Maluti is the residential chamber choir of the Ladybird International Arts Academy. The choir functions weekly during school terms for rehearsals. Due to some schools without residential choirs, the Arts Academy has decided to invite talented singers to enjoy singing to join us.



Encore Maluti Chamber Choir in a concert conducted by Katleho Mothae.





Ronél Henning

Arts learning experiences for adults

Engaging in creative new paths

Creative Arts are known recreational stimulants to support flourishing lives. Creative activities encourage self-expression, self-growth and reflection. Adults can experience stress relief, intellectual stimulation and mental wellness by making art or cooking at Ladybird. For these reasons, the Arts Academy rolled out short courses in visual art, cooking and graphic design to offer opportunities for adults who wish to join us in these weekly fun sessions for their recreation. Friends and spouses are welcome to team up, or if you just want ‘me-time’, you’re welcome to join us. The theme for the cooking journey is Bits and Bites Around the Globe. The topics for exploring various mediums and techniques in the art courses are personalised.



Creative artmaking and cooking can be a joyful social time for adults and ‘nourishing’ for the mind and soul.



A lovely outcome of one of the Visual Art classes to frame and enjoy.





Ronél Henning

The Van der Merwe phenomenon

Always exciting to hear...

It is indeed an honour for us at Ladybird International Arts when alumni enroll their children. We are blessed to have received eight very young students of alumni for various programmes – all Van der Merwe’s – for this year. A unique phenomenon indeed! We are consequently privileged that these alumni trust our standards and commitment to arts learning for their children.

At the end of 2024, our top echelon of music performers and visual art students left to go to their various choices of tertiary studies and outside-Ladybird schools. However, the past year has seen the rise of a new generation of very young and upcoming students in music, drama, and visual art. Some of them were out in public for the first time and participated in the first Wednesday Soirée of the year on 29 January. Some after only two classes. We hope to see more young ones coming out with their artwork and performances in the year ahead.

At the start of every Ladybird term, I am always amazed to see what has been achieved in such a short time by our young and old learners. Sincere thanks to all our parents, students, and staff for a truly magic start to the year for arts learning at Ladybird.



Focused young violinists playing in their first concert of the new academic year.

Out on stage for the first time – after only two violin lessons. Bravo!



Getting a ‘feel’ of the grand piano from a different angle – the eight Van der Merwe girls.



The eight Van der Merwe’s – all between the ages of four and eight – happy to start off their various arts learning journeys at Ladybird.



Enjoy a blessed  
Autumn holiday

