



The indoor Garden Party!



Our Summer Garden Party was a great success despite the dreadful weather – we had unfortunately chosen the day the storms finally broke after a spell of lovely weather. However, undeterred, over 30 members turned up, all laden

with copious amounts of food. And while we were disappointed not to be able to make use of Clive Dand's lovely garden, the more intimate space of his studio served to bring us all closer together – literally!

Looking ahead...

Impressionists on Paper: Degas to Toulouse-Lautrec
Royal Academy 25 November 2023-10 March 2024

The impressionists lifted the status of works on paper – drawings, pastels, watercolours, temperas, gouaches – from something preparatory that you left in a studio, to artworks in their own right and this is the focus of the Royal Academy's winter exhibition.



**TIP
OF THE
DAY!**



We have all experienced the disaster that can ensue when using a field easel on a windy day! It was therefore embarrassing to discover that I had been ignoring the solution provided by my very own easel. The mysterious strap with Velcro fixings that dangled pointlessly below my canvas is actually designed to enable the artist to secure it to something heavy – I just loop it through the handles of my bag, but I'm sure you can come up with alternative ideas. If your easel doesn't have a strap like this, look into the possibility of attaching one yourself!

SUMMER'S NEARLY OVER...

... and our last outdoor painting day is fast approaching. Wendy Phillip's plein air programme has proved exceptionally popular this year with more members attending than ever. Tackling such a wide variety of subjects has given us all a great deal of experience and it is always a pleasure to see our artists exchanging ideas on each other's work.

WINTER'S ON THE WAY...

... and it's not all bad news! Our events programme will restart on Thursday 28th September with a Meet and Create session focussing on composition. We will tackle a still life with guidance provided on how to explore different possible compositions. So bring along your paints and your enthusiasm! Further details of our Autumn Programme are listed above right.



FRANS HALS EXHIBITION

It is 400 years since Frans Hals came up with a new style of portrait – highly unusual in his time – showing relaxed, lively sitters, often smiling, and even laughing. The National Gallery's major retrospective, due to open on September 30th, will give a new generation of visitors a chance to see for themselves how he breathed such life into his portraits.

2023 Dates for your Diary



Thursday 28th September 7-9.30pm

Meet & Create: Composition - a guided painting session

Thursday 12th October 7-9.30pm

Kerry Bennet demo abstract watercolour landscape

Saturday 21st October 9.45am – 3.15pm

*Workshop: Dani Humberstone on Colour

Thursday 26th October 7-9.30pm Meet and Create (details tba)

Thursday 9th November 7-9.30pm Meet and Create (details tba)

Saturday 18th November 9am-5pm Open Day

Thursday 30th November 2-4.30pm Nick Archer: Painting from photos

Saturday 2nd December 10am-2pm *Workshop: Simon Mills

Thursday 14th December 7-9.30pm Christmas do + Art Quiz

**Workshops in bold are charged at £30.*

All other activities are free for members.

Gwen John, Art and Life in London and Paris



Currently on show at The Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, this excellent exhibition has attracted rave reviews. Starting from her early years when the sister of Augustus John trained at the Slade School of Fine Art to her move to Paris where she spent most of her life and her work came to be much respected. Gwen John supported herself as she struggled as a woman artist in Paris working as an artist's life model and becoming the lover of the sculptor Auguste Rodin. The gallery is showing many of her inventive self-portraits and paint-

ings of women, models and nuns. They are the work of a solitary reflective artist, devoted to her art, who has long been overshadowed by her brother but is now recognised as a progressive artist of the early 20th century. The exhibition finishes 8 October 2023.

Clive Dand

Hastings Contemporary Art Classes

The Hastings Contemporary gallery (formerly the Jerwood Gallery) now offers some art classes and life drawing sessions. Details can be found at <https://www.hastingscontemporary.org/event-category/adult-classes/> where classes can be booked.



Royal Academy Online Sketch Club

Drawing from Imagination

Drawing Costumes

Drawing Plants



Diane's sketch

A review by Diane Wharton

Some of us sketch regularly, and others go for months, or weeks without being inspired and thinking we don't have time to put a pencil on paper. Either way, you could be inspired and benefit from the Royal Academy Online Sketch Club. I hadn't sketched for a while, when I received an email from the RA, advertising their Saturday Sketch Club, on 15th July. For just £10 (or £8 as a reward for reaching a certain age), it seemed good value and I booked in on their website.

The theme was drawing hair. Definitely an interesting subject. I followed the email link they sent me to the online Zoom class and waited until it opened with my sketchpad, pencils, rubber and some charcoal to hand.

There are several assignments of different timings during the 15 minutes so it's best to have all your stuff in easy grabbing distance.

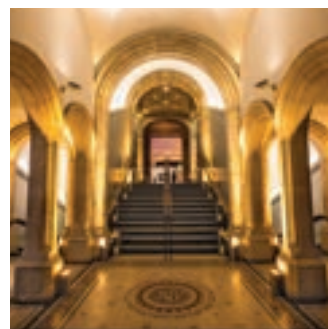
There is a host and a useful introduction by an expert in the field. After that, the pace is quite quick. They show you a photograph and you're listening to the technique hints and giving it a go. Part of me wanted to write down the helpful tips, but of course I really wanted to do

some sketching too. We started with three six-minute sketches, looking at techniques for drawing straight and wavy hair. She said not be overwhelmed by thick hair, but create a dark mass with a soft pencil, working into this using a rubber to lighten areas, and working over with pencil lines for effect. We also did a couple of 10 minutes sketches and then a 20 minute sketch, spending 3 minutes just looking before even starting to put pencil on paper. All the time we were getting tips from a professional artist who was drawing at the same time as us. We only worked from images they put on half of the screen showing men and women with curls, straight hair, braids etc.

I didn't realise until the end of the class that they were going to send us the recorded class, giving us the opportunity to look at it again in our own time. Knowing this, one might feel under less pressure. About a week later we were sent a link and had access to this for a month.

My biggest criticism was the fact that the photographs were quite dark and small, and I found it hard to see the details.

However, I would recommend trying a RA Sketch Club. I am impressed with the sketches that the other students have done and put on the RA Sketch Club Facebook page. Booking onto a class is an opportunity to have the expertise of the RA to encourage us to look and draw. *The next Saturday sketch club is drawing from imagination. Saturday 14th of October at 10:30 to 11:45 am, £10 or £8 concessions. Information on booking can be found at www.royalacademy.org.uk/page/saturday-sketch-club*



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY REOPENS!

The NPG finally reopened in June of this year after a £41 million 3-year revamp. The new entrance on Ross Place greets visitors with three 4-metre-high doors covered in 45 bronze low reliefs of "every woman, throughout time," a commission by Tracey Emin. However, this is not the only change; inside the gallery there has also been a major rehang.

The Times hailed the changes as a "magnificent facelift", the Telegraph praised it as "modernisation at its best." If you would like to judge for yourself, it is wise to book in advance. There have been long queues over the summer, so be warned!

TRUCK NEEDED!

We are urgently seeking transport to move our large display boards to future exhibitions. If you can offer a solution or have a suggestion, please contact: **j.hamilton007@yahoo.com**