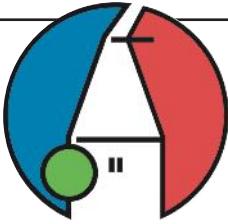


BRUSHSTROKES

'The Newsletter of the Weald of Kent Art Society'



NUMBER 4 JULY 2021



Our online Exhibition showcased many talents

Our online Spring art exhibition ran for one month and finished on 31st of May. Considering the unusual circumstances of the past year due to the covid lockdown, our members submitted 80 excellent and exciting works of art of a very high standard.

Rowena McWilliams of the Smallhythe Gallery kindly judged all of the work. She selected 3 highly commended pieces of art: "Honister Pass" by Gunda Cannon for originality, "St. Mildred's Church" by Clive Dand for sensitivity and "Umbrian Hills" by John Hamilton for composition. She also commended "Late Summer Sunflower" by Leelee Kock for use of materials and "Filtered Autumn Light" by Jason Smith for originality.

Of all the work submitted, a very atmospheric interior watercolour painting by David Aspinall was voted the most liked painting by the public

and our members. This was followed by paintings by Gunda Cannon and John Hamilton.

As a very active art society it was particularly interesting to see such a wide range of subject matter and use of materials. All members regardless of experience are encouraged to submit work. Online sales as expected were low. However we do expect that our next exhibition planned at St. Mildred's Church, Tenterden in the autumn will be far more successful. It will be great to have a physical exhibition again open to guests and the public.

I would like to thank Kate and Tim Rundell for all their work and technical skills in making the online exhibition a success and John hamilton for organising the leaflets and publicity and Glyn Roberts for his skilled design.

Clive Dand
Chairman

ART UNLOCKED II

21 Artists Exhibited in this Online Exhibition
Visitors Voted for their favoured pieces
Total of 836 votes cast
Pieces with Most Votes
38 Period House in Benenden - David Aspinall
28 Wimereux Beach near Boulogne - David Aspinall
28 Whistable Harbour - David Aspinall
27 Headcorn Church - David Aspinall
26 Andalsnes Norway - Gunda Cannon
25 Umbrian Fields - John Hamilton
22 Dawlish Warren - Alison Chandler
21 Lochside Crofts on Harris - John Hamilton
21 Pett Beach towards Rye - Clive Dand
21 Cuckoo Flower - Kate Rundell

Artists with most votes
David Aspinall - 121
John Hamilton - 76
Gunda Cannon - 75
Clive Dand - 71
Kate Rundall - 67
Alison Chandler - 56
Angela Musil - 51
Leelee Kock - 45
Bernard Winchester - 37
David Dixon - 34
Guiseppe Bertoli - 31

80 Pieces Exhibited
5 Pieces Sold
Honister Pass - Gunda Cannon
Bath Rising from Morning Mist - John Hamilton
Umbrian fields - John Hamilton
Reflected Grapes - Leelee Kock
Cuckoo Flower - Kate Rundell

FOLKESTONE ART TRAIL

Good news for artlovers, the cancelled 2020 Folkestone Triennial is now going ahead in 2021. Many of you will already be familiar with the works of previous Triennials: the strikingly colourful miniature houses, the 2 Antony Gormley figures loaned for several years to the town and the numerous other outdoor works of art free to see 24/7 on any day of the year in Folkestone. From July 22nd to November 2nd, visitors will be able to enjoy 27 newly-commissioned works of art across the town. The artists exhibiting in this year's triennial, entitled The Plot, were asked to take inspiration from three Folkestone-based narratives: the St Eanswythe's water-course, the discovery of the circulation of the blood by William Harvey and Folkestone's industrial road 'The Milky Way'. To find out more about the artists, their work and it's location, just Google Folkestone Triennial The Plot or follow on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter #ThePlot #Triennial 2021. The website at <https://www.creativefolkestone.org.uk/folkestoneartworks/> which already has suggested walking routes round existing artworks will presumably update its maps and routes to include the new works once they are in place. So make a note in your diary for a trip to Folkestone combining sun, sea and art!

EXPERIMENTING

For the past couple of years I have been experimenting with acrylics. If you keep changing, art remains new and challenging and gives you an exciting life. Working fast with the fast-drying medium of acrylics you leave a lot of areas unresolved and that adds interest for the viewers who have to look at the picture closely and do some mental work themselves. I am now going for big, bigger canvas, bigger brushes. I have found that this gives me energy and releases my natural creativity.



It was the artist Hashim Akib who encouraged me to use big brushes and colourful acrylics. Hash has given demos at WOKAS and I have attended many of his workshops in Robertsbridge. Hash is now restarting these art workshops. He has been busy painting in lockdown and is keen to showcase the new ideas and techniques he has been trying out over the past year and a half! If you would like to join one of his workshops take a look at his website <https://www.hashimakib.co.uk>.

John Hamilton

In the great outdoors

A great part of the benefit – and fun – of belonging to an artists' community like the Weald of Kent Art Society is the meeting and mingling while creating work. And for some of our members, there's nowhere better than the great outdoors for doing just that. While the rule of 'Six outdoors' applied, WOKAS programme organisers had to be creative in finding locations that were suitable for a spot of plein air painting – a task made harder by the fact that in lockdown particular due diligence was

required regarding usable toilets. So over the last months some of our members have painted at Pett Level, Hole Park and in members' gardens. Now, as restrictions are easing and summer has arrived, more than six can gather for a spot of 'en plein air' painting – so gather your painting bits and pieces together and join in. Even if the sky looks a bit threatening to begin with, soon the brush and the breeze are at one and the creative juices flow to create some veritable masterpieces.



ATTENTION ALL WOKAS MEMBERS!

Rolvenden Art Exhibition and Flower Festival is on over the August bank holiday. It's a good place to sell your art and the entry fees are low. If you want to exhibit this year the entry forms are available from Emma Catt (emmacatt71@gmail.com) or speak to Jan Gambier on 07952 414269. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 10th July.

South East Open Studios brings you 'Moving Images'

Visiting artists at work in their studio during the SEOS season always leads to exciting discoveries. One of this year's surprises is WOKAS member Rowena McWilliams' 'Moving Images'. She has always strived to create a sense of movement in her work and now she literally has – with animations of her oil paintings. Watching the ebb and flow of colours is mesmerizing and intriguing, adding to the meaning of the original paintings. The videos are offered on a monitor, powered by a small computer, and will be sold as one-off pieces of art. Rowena does not know of other artists doing anything quite like this yet. If you did not catch her animations in her Smallhythe studio, you can see two of her moving images in the forthcoming exhibition about the environment and climate change *We Are Drowning in Corruption* at Bannatynes Spa Hotel, Hastings TN38 8EA (3-31 July). A talk by Rowena about her art maybe included in the WOKAS Winter 2021 programme. www.rowenas.art/animations.



FANI AZIKRI IS THE NEW WOKAS TREASURER

She is based in Tenterden, having lived in the area for the last 20 years. Fani worked as a graphic designer for many years but on becoming a mother she set up her own bookkeeping and accounting business to be more flexible and able to spend time with her young son. Coming from a family of artists – her mother was a singer and art collector and her father an actor who painted and did sculpture when he was not on stage – she enjoys being in an art related environment. Fani has always been creative in some way, whether that's upholstery, ceramics or sculpture, and enjoys visiting art exhibitions and galleries. Now Fani feels she has reached a stage in her career when she would like to give back and so the timing was perfect when she was asked to join WOKAS as its Treasurer. She is following in the footsteps of retiring Treasurer Pat Lock who has generously given her time to the society for many years – thank you Pat and welcome Fani!

Exhibitions

It is Tuesday 22nd & here I am still chasing my tail to get everything ready for hanging my solo exhibition in Rochester tomorrow morning. Solo exhibitions always start in the same way by booking the gallery. The exhibition I am hanging tomorrow was supposed to happen before Covid-19, so the date has been postponed twice. With regard to the hanging space available, the second stage is producing a volume of work. The last weeks have seen me frantically wielding brushes to complete many paintings & start others; I like to have more than enough. Some good while before the exhibition a visit to the gallery to view the hanging system & to measure exactly the space available is, for me, a necessity. At some stage I like to 'measure out' spaces at home & arrange paintings within them. This allows me to draw up a map of what will hang where in

the gallery, & certainly speeds the process of putting up the exhibition. On the day the exhibition is hung, I try to have a list of everything I need to take along to hang the exhibition. This will include everything from easels to blu-tac, from 'glass' cleaner to pliers. It goes without saying that you need to promote your exhibition & hopefully the gallery will do so as well. For this, I find that young artists are much better at using social media than I am.

Anyway, I have a few more things to do this evening, and then I'll be off tomorrow to do the hanging.

This exhibition is called 'Impressions' and is open seven days a week from 10am to 5pm from Thurs 24th June, until mid-day on Tues 6th July. If you fancy a day in 'Historic Rochester' it is in 'The Halpern Pop Gallery' in the fabulous Old Conservatory Building, 15 High Street, ME11PY.

Graham Lock