

Behind the scenes at the exhibition



6-9 months before the opening date and we're off: "When's the best time to hold it?" "A Bank Holiday!" "Ok. Easter? May - beginning or end? August?" It always comes down to when the venue is available, and we have been very lucky over the past few years to be able to use St Mildred's Church, a beautiful 15th century backdrop to our exhibition.

With venue and date fixed, we put out a call for entrants - all to be checked, collated and typed up by Pat Lock. And what about advertising? Where? When? How much? Over the years, John Hamilton has ploughed a fine furrow through the intricacies of expense versus expediency; and together with Glyn Roberts, our go-to design expert, has produced some exciting posters. John's piece de resistance, however, is bunting - designing it, ordering it and climbing some very high ladders to hang it. And no WOKAS exhibition would be the same without Kate Rundell's "dustbin" outside.

John is also the master of ceremonies with his group of board

shifters who lug the huge & heavy display boards from their storage space onto a van and into the Church, and, of course, back again at the end.

All done by volunteers - you the members - who also steward (thanks to John & Jenny Robson's organisation and support) and take in and hang work, with the finishing touches put by chairman Clive Dand.

It's definitely a team job - with all of the Committee running around until the last minute - judging the Chairman's prize winner; delivering drinks & nibbles for the Preview; checking there's cash in the money box & crossing fingers that the card reader works; and finally has anyone seen the box for storing the voting slips for "favourite" piece? And where are the voting slips?

When it's all over and every last exhibit is handed to its new owner or returned to its creator, our Treasurer, Fani Azikri, transfers hard-earned cash to the deserving artists. And she's already suggesting we should start thinking about the next one!



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE OUTDOORS!



On a beautiful sunny day 15 members spent most enjoyable day painting overlooking the Old Windmill in Woodchurch, in the garden of our host Dannie Roberts. Some excellent paintings and drawings were produced and Dannie kindly supplied tea and allowed us the use of her facilities.

If you're nervous about embarking on plein air painting or just not happy with results so far, you could try looking at some of the many free articles on outdoor-painter.com. There are some really useful ideas here. My attention as drawn to A Painting Exercise That's Almost Like Therapy using 30-minute painting sessions to loosen up your style - something we all need!

RAINY DAYS WITH THE GRAND/ CHILDREN

I wonder if you've had a look at the Tate website's children's activities on <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids> The section of Games and Quizzes has plenty to keep bored children interested on a rainy day.

SUNNY DAYS WITH THE GRAND/ CHILDREN

How about challenging the children to make a picture out of natural materials – maybe using branches, leaves, twigs and stones in woodland or carving out a picture on a sandy beach. Take a photo of the finished result for them to keep afterwards!



A MATTER OF TASTE

Opinion was very much divided over Jonathan Yeo's portrait of King Charles. The face was clearly Charles, but was that butterfly just a bit twee? And did the use of so much red add to or diminish the portrait? The Guardian review gave it 1 star, saying it was "technically superficial and unfelt" with "no insight into the king's personality." However, the public seem more forgiving and there have been queues waiting to view it at Philip Mould's gallery in Pall Mall. It's all a matter of taste.

Congratulations go to...



Philippa Futrell
who was
awarded the
Chairman's prize
(see left)
and **Wayne
Robertson**
whose painting
of Wells
Cathedral won
the public vote.

The next generation

Actress Linda Basset presented the prizes awarded by WOKAS to students selected by the teachers of Homewood and Cranbrook Schools.

First prize of £50 for a student of Homewood School went to Ryan Nelson for his ceramics. Runner up prizes of £25 were awarded to Maia Macgregor for her glass cloche sculpture graphics and Bethany Mitchell for her colourful

textiles of coral reefs. runner up prizes went to Vika Gerasimenya for her painting of an Alpine view, Lyra Hinvess for her Poker Face painting and Esme' McLean for her drawing interpreting people with schizophrenia. Our society is giving prizes to students of local schools to encourage them in their interest in art and future career development.

Art UK website: 5★ or nul points?

I recently stumbled across a great piece about the artist Eric Slater entitled Eric Slater: the Sussex Hokusai. It had been published on the Art UK website and I wanted to pass it on to others like yourselves. That proved very difficult as it is a very clunky website, but what I did find was treasure trove of brilliant articles, which are well worth browsing. So go to Artuk.org and you will definitely find yourself following some fascinating threads under Stories, but if you do want to search for a particular artist on there, it's probably quicker and easier to google Art UK plus your artist name than use their own search. There's some great stuff in there, if only you can find it!



Heading for Norfolk this Summer?



A recent visit to Houghton Hall, the grand stately home built by Robert Walpole, was much enhanced by a spectacular large-scale installation of Antony Gormley's work. 100 life size figures have been erected across the hall's extensive grounds to exactly the same height above sea level. As a result, some figures are buried up to the head, while others stand tall on a plinth! In addition to this, there are a number of pieces of other outdoor sculptures by such renowned artists as Rachel Whiteread, Richard Long, Sean Scully and co. The grounds are so large that it's hard to get to see everything but it's great to try.

Extra summer dates

Please don't forget to come to the 3 extra indoor sessions that we have added to the Summer Programme. This is a trial to see if there is a demand and if the weather doesn't improve in time for our remaining outdoor sessions, I think there will be!

The three extra sessions take place in Highbury Hall, Tenterden on:

Thursday 11th July - Meet and Create 7-9.30 pm

Thursday 15th August - Portrait demonstration by Michelle Constable 7-9pm

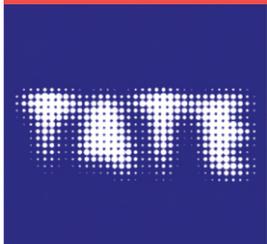
Thursday 29th August - Meet and Create 7-9.30 pm.

Our online challenges will continue next winter

and please note, suggestions are always welcome! In the meantime, if you aren't keen on plein air painting or are trapped at home, you might like to try some of those you've missed in the past.

Just have a look at our WOKAS website gallery for inspiration.

Now you see us: Women Artists in Britain 1520 -1920



The newfound interest in those women artists who have largely been overlooked for centuries continues. Tate Britain's current exhibition Now You See Us: Women Artists in Britain 1520 -1920 "dismantles stereotypes surrounding women artists in history, who were often thought of as amateurs. Determined to succeed and refusing to be boxed in, they daringly

Painted what were usually thought to be subjects for male artists: history pieces, battle scenes and the nude."

This exhibition continues until October 13th.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

We are proud to report that WOKAS member Wendy Sabine has been accepted as a full member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers. Wendy specialises in painting intricately detailed birds on a stone base and her work can now be viewed on the RMS website. Well done, Wendy!



REUSE AND RECYCLE

The latest exhibition at Hastings Contemporary features work by Elias Sime, an Ethiopian artist who transforms everyday materials into fascinating abstract compositions. It is not until you come close that you realise how much of his work is created from keyboards, circuit boards and intricately braided wires.