

Wokingham Art Society

Newsletter – November 2009

www.wokinghamartsociety.org.uk

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who were not there – you missed a good one! We managed to keep the a fantastic demonstration of a watercolour portrait by Freda Anderson. Subscriptions for 2010/2011 will remain at the current level of £12 for Associate and £15 for Full. The committee remains unchanged – with the exception of Liz Botten who has called it a day after many, many years of support in numerous roles. Thank so much, Liz, for all you have done – we will miss you at our Committee meetings but, of course, will still be seeing plenty of you at Society events.

We have an enthusiastic and hardworking Committee but are always looking for more help to generate new ideas and spread the load. If you would like to be more involved with running the group please let us know – not necessarily as a full committee member. Now is the time to get your design hats out, as we would like a logo for the Society and would like to give members the opportunity to have a go at producing one.

The deadline is December 15th (which is the date of our Christmas Demo) so

We will display all entries at the demo and canvas members' opinions.

The Committee have decided to get together and mount an exhibition at the Artsbar from December 4th until mid January – see posters at the demos and on the website.

We are calling it 'Off the Wall, do come along and visit it and perhaps consider grouping together yourselves for similar exhibitions in the future. At the time of going to print there were a handful of spaces left on the coach trip to Oxford on November 21st so contact Liz Manley as soon as possible if you'd like a seat.

Look out for **Alison Messias'** 'Best in Show' painting which is soon to be published in Leisure Painter – and if you belong to the SAA you may have seen an article by **Madeline Hawes** in the latest issue of Paint. Congratulations both.

This is the last newsletter until the New Year – so although it is still several weeks away – and a Robin Mackervoy demo to look forward to before then – may I wish you all

Happy Christmas! **Sue**

Diary Dates

17th November

Paul Howard ..
Inktense Pencils

Christmas Demo

15th December

Robin Mackervoy
Oils

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again the clocks have changed and the fireworks are exploding in the sky it is obvious that another summer has gone. I will miss the outdoor painting – I don't do cold and wet! – but there is something special about sifting through all my sketches and photos with a view to turning some of them into paintings. A few things to say about the AGM for

Roger Dellar

Gouache

“The Rising Sun”

Smithfield

The last time Roger came to Wokingham, he had forgotten his brushes! So he painted with the washing-up brush from the church kitchen and produced a wonderful picture! This time, he had all his materials to hand and talked as he began to paint a scene from a photo taken inside “The Rising Sun” pub in Smithfield.

Since starting to paint in oils, acrylic and gouache, Roger has been accepted as a member of the Royal Institute (RI) and the Royal Watercolour Society (RWS). He found that watercolour was too restrictive for his loose style. As he said this, he scumbled with a bristle brush, various earth colours, from yellow ochre to burnt umber, across a piece of watercolour paper, leaving gaps where the lightest lights would be.

The paper had already been prepared with acrylic gesso. All Roger’s paints for this demonstration were gouache, except a watercolour ultramarine blue. Because of the chalk binder, the gouache blues looked too matt. It’s

possible to mix any and all of the water-based paint media together.

Roger used a very limited palette of complementary colours – yellows and browns with pale blues and small splashes of red. Where any particular colour dominated in one area, he echoed the colour around appropriate points within the picture to give it more cohesion. Gouache dries very quickly, but it can be moved around at any time with a wet brush to give half tones and soft edges.

The picture itself was of a dark interior, with several people standing at the pub bar and within the area. Light was coming from a big window at the far end of the room, as well as from several ceiling lights. Roger dealt with the window light with pale blue and the ceiling lights with lemon yellow and white, both of which cast many shadows in the floor and from pillars and panels around the walls. The angles of the room’s fittings gave a great sense of space within the room and these were highlighted with the blues and yellows against the dark browns. Every colour was reflected in the floor.

Once the content of the painting had been placed, Roger swapped to a small brush to draw more detail on the figures and the bar area, just dabbing colour here and

there, so that nothing was precise and so that many ‘lost & found’ areas remained. By darkening the foreground – the pub floor – the eye was taken to the light window and the figures standing in front of it. As he painted, many figures emerged from the scumbling, a ‘bruiser’ propping up the bar, a couple of talking ‘suits’ with pints, a man in the near corner sitting at a table. By just defining an ear, a complete body would come together!

A few dabs here and there of white with a spot of lemon yellow produced the final highlights on the bar pumps, the glasses and the people, turning the completed painting into a wonderful, impressionistic work of art.

If you weren’t there, you missed a treat! However, you can see Roger’s work on his website <rogerdellar.com>. He also appears on the Royal Institute of Oil Painters’ website <theroi.co.uk>. Keep a lookout for a forthcoming ROI workshop at the Mall Galleries in October, where the famous Italian chef, Antonio Carlucci, will be modelling for professional and amateur artists. Roger will be amongst them.

Madeline Hawes

Dates for your diary

21 November
Coach trip to
Ashmolean Museum

“Britishness”
Photographic exhibition
South Hill Park
28th Nov – 24th January 2010

Mall galleries
Exhibitions

Royal Institute of Oil
Painters.
28th Oct - Sun 8th Nov

Seclection of Contempory
Art
Thursday 12th – Sun 22 Nov

New English Art Club
Fri 27th Nov – Mon 7th Dec

Art Across the Generations

I belong to the Society for All Artists, the SAA. They publish a magazine called “Paint” every other month. They have been running a feature called “Bridging the Gap”, which tells stories of older people inspiring younger ones to become involved in art. A few months ago, I wrote to the magazine about my great-nieces who live in Northern Cyprus now, and, to my surprise, the article was published in their

September issue. So now Milly is a page 3 girl!

Even when the family lived in Kent, during our regular monthly visits, the 2 girls would mob me at the door and ask to paint something together, before we’d hardly got our feet through the door. We would have great fun drawing and painting, collecting leaves and petals for collage, making pirate maps, etc..



Early last December, my husband and I visited the family in sunny Cyprus. We pretended it was Christmas, exchanged presents, ate a huge dinner and played games all together. A huge tin of Roses’ chocolates appeared, with brightly coloured wrappers. I suggested to Lucy (9) and Milly (6) that they could be saved to make a lovely picture. Milly pounced upon this idea immediately, encouraging us to eat as many chocolates as we could in as short a time as possible. Whilst friends and family sat around,

chatting, drinking, eating and relaxing, Milly was busy cutting and sticking, totally absorbed in her creation. The result was stunning and reminds me of Milly herself - colourful, casual and totally happy in her own skin! I mounted and framed it and she was thrilled to see it looking very important on her bedroom wall.

In the next story, I’ll tell you about Lucy and the colour wheel, but maybe you have a memory of sharing art with your loved ones, which everyone might like to know about. So send it to Chris Parry and Sam Dauncey to get it published in the Newsletter and on the Website respectively.

Madeline Hawes



Thanks Maddy what a great story – and a now published writer!



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due and should be sent to the treasurer, Don Lowey, Full £15, Associate £12

Don Lowey

Freda Anderson

Watercolour portrait

Freda said that much of this evening's advice would apply to other types of painting. But for portraits, where a likeness is essential, she finds that the initial drawing is the absolutely essential foundation.

She starts in pencil on thin layout paper. When she is satisfied with the likeness she traces it to the position she wants on the final support. A light touch is necessary, otherwise you dent the paper. Using the tracing as a guide Freda then redraws on the final support with watercolour pencil, again lightly, but correcting wherever the likeness is

unsatisfactory. The final redraw is with a brush, making further corrections to the pencil drawing. All the time it is invaluable to refer back to the source (model or photo) so that errors are not reinforced. Freda likes to be at about the same level as the sitter.

The pencil drawing had been finished before the demo (Freda's time was limited by the AGM).

Her drawing procedure is to start with a couple of marks to define the height of the head and an oval for the general shape (round? angular? pointed?). Marks for the features are then made as if it were a normal face but adjusted where the subject differs. The essence is repeated measurement and lots of practice.

After getting the general shape down, her routine is:

- a line for the middle of the face;
- eyes around half way down (above or below as the subject is above or below the artist);
- top of eyebrows, bottom of nose and bottom of chin equally spaced, with bottom of bottom lip half way between;
- width of eyes and space between eyes about equal (wider spaced in Africans);
- width of nose equal to space between eyes, width of mouth equal to space between pupils;
- ears extend from eye-level to nostrils, but drop with age;
- eyebrows are very distinctive, nostril shapes too, defining if the nose is

retrouvée;

- eyelids almost disappear in older people;
- lip shapes differ but are nowhere near as important as the shape of line between the lips;
- finally, shape the hair-line and neck. A little masking fluid for highlights makes the initial washes easier but if you are not too much of a purist you can use white acrylic gouache at the end.

Once the features are accurately placed and the brush is in use Freda starts adding shadow (indigo and a madder brown) and then touches of colour.

Shade and colour were built up in multiple glazes, remembering such things as darkening the whites of the eyes, not overdoing the colour of the lips and checking repeatedly against the subject. The end of the demo, here, will require a little more work: perhaps some splatter into the background and some wet paint, for more runs, to make the (accidental) run look intentional.

Sam Dauncey



Visit Freda at
www.fredaanderson.co.uk

Attention all members

As you all are aware we have changed our name to the Wokingham Art Society and with that must come a new logo and this is where you come in. We are asking everyone to participate by putting pen to paper and creating a design for our new logo. Sometimes the simplest ideas are the best

but it is up to you to go to the drawing board and have a go.

Either hand in your design at the Christmas demo or send it in to the Chairman, Sue Smith.

Do have a go – remember your logo could be the

The Festival of Christmas Trees

Once again we are participating in the decorating of Christmas trees to raise money for various local charities.

This year the snowman is our themed decoration – and we have enclosed a template. Use card for your drawing decorate the back and front of snowman, imaginatively and in your own style and have fun.

Send them either to Sue or Chris and please come along bring the children and grand children on the 11th 12th and 13th of December at Rose Street Methodists



Do your own hat and scarf and face

but this is the size and general shape.

*Remember decorate back+front!

Message Board

Do you have a message for the board?
If so we would love to hear from you.

A big thank you

Recently my friend and my Vice Chairman, Liz Botten resigned from the committee. When I became chairman 7 years ago, the society was weak and in need of a lot of care and attention. Liz was at my side during those formative years – full of energy and ideas, a tower of strength. So this is a big thank you, to you Liz, for your friendship and all that energy and enthusiasm which you gave of so generously. Lots of love Chris x

Remember to put pencils, brushes or pens to paper and create a new logo for our Society – to be judged at our Christmas demo

Cornerstone

Informal painting group;
Just bring your paints and turn up.

**

Every Monday 2.00 until 4.30. £2.50 includes refreshments. For more details call

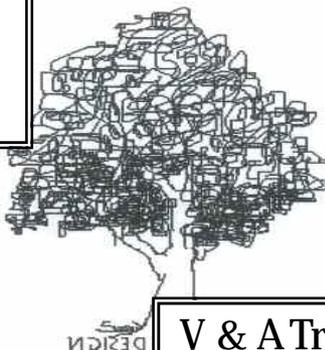


Barbara Thompson
0118 9782993

Alison Messias
0118 9783188

Video Library

There is a selection of art videos and DVD's at the monthly meetings for hire by members of the society. Hire charge is £1 per item. Please return item promptly at the next meeting. For more information, or if you have any suggestions, please contact
Alison Messias
0118 9783188



Bracknell Camera

Club
Presents

“Britishness”

Fifteen photographers from Bracknell Camera Club embarked on a journey to endeavour to define “Britishness”. The culmination of this journey is a photographic exhibition on display from 28th of November until 24th of January, in the Community Gallery at South Hill Park. This exhibition runs concurrently with the Simon Roberts photographic exhibition “We English”, which is also showing at South Hill Park.

Sue Davey

V & A Traynor Fine Arts Picture Framing

8, Victoria Place,
Terrace Road North, Binfield, RG42 5JB
Tel; 01344 425508

Have you any announcements, stories, or thank you notes to give – let me know and send it to

Chris Parry

Please email items to parryhouse@aol.com
or send to

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Wokingham RG41 1JD