

CLEVELAND ART SOCIETY

MARCH, APRIL, MAY NEWSLETTER

2016

President: Ian Lightfoot.

Chairman (currently available).

Vice Chairman: Brian Collins.

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General committee:

Website Manager, Jon Sephton; Denise Thompson; Ann Walton; Maggie Harrison; Gill Bradley; Rob Blenkarn.

Meetings held in the Art Dept. (1st. Floor), Macmillan Academy, Stockton Rd, M'bro, TS5 4AG. 7pm-9pm each Thursday (unless otherwise stated). Prospective members are asked to enter the car park via the electronic gates at the end of the green perimeter fence near the athletic club called GOALS directly underneath the flyover. Ask at Reception for directions to the Art Dept., or drop me (Alan Morley) a text, or ring: 07743773471.

Editor's Report

I need to apologise for getting Margaret Harrison's name mixed up with Margaret Smith's in my report about last summer's Seamer Village Art Competition. It was indeed Margaret Smith who organized that lovely day and invited CAS to participate. Brownie points to Sandra Hill for spotting the mistake! He, he!

We ended 2015 with a "working with clay" session and those members who thought clay was not for them particularly, discovered they really enjoyed experimenting with it. We have had some very productive working sessions with clay and it will be repeated in the future certainly; I have all sorts of ideas personally I want to try out. Two meetings and tours of mima on consecutive Saturdays in December were excellent. The CAS group was small but breakfast at the cafe began things nicely and our members had a good chat with mima staff and took in the successful "Localism" exhibition. I had a lot of explaining to do to Ken Hornby about my two big canvases, "If That's What They Call Art!..." Ken was rightfully pulling my leg and we had a chuckle over a lot of modern art myths, confusion, etc, and we agreed it is important for artists to articulate the meaning behind pieces of work if it's required. The fun of our Christmas party closed the year and I would like to thank Daphne for her art themed game and for everyone's food and drink. contributions!

Mono Printing was stalled in January because Denise Thompson, who was to lead, had injured her back; so we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Our General Secretary, Suzie, is in the grip of illness too and has suffered stoically behind the scenes for months - we miss you both ladies! Brenda Morley and Treasurer Daphne stepped up as costume models in our first month back - I'm keeping my eye on Mike Featherstone's portraits because he's done some of the best in the society consecutively for a number of years, though on the scene now in the group is the exceptional work by relative new-comers, Ivan, Adam and Matthew - we have onboard some amazing talent!

A small rapid reaction force assembled in a Newcastle city centre pub for brunch on a January Saturday morning to catch "The People's Show" - an exhibition of 2 and 3 dimensional work staged at the University Gallery of Northumbria. We had to act fast before it ended and concluded our friend from M'bro - the ace illustrator and tutor, Graham Canwell - was our chosen winner from the exh'. He had painted a superb close-up portrait in profile of CAS member Ivan Woods and possessed not only fine descriptive observation, but a quality which we thought could comfortably sit in any top London gallery. We moved onto the wonderful old Hatton Gallery which had pulled out its permanent collection and we were quite blown away with this hidden treasure trove and I saw some of the best portraits I think I've seen in my life there. And finally, Jon Sephton directed us to an artist's collective in Eldon Sq. It is a gallery, reminiscent of ArtsBank, stuffed with work of all different shapes and sizes and seems to be a cross-section of Tyne and Wear current art names. "North East Art Collective" can be found on the upper floor next to Level 7 Car Park Exit.

Vice-Chairman, Brian Collins opened his first solo exhibition at Kirkleatham's spacious Pavilion, which I regard as their best space, and with the help of his daughter has gained online and printed media coverage. This coverage began when BBC Tees picked up on his painting, "Betrayed" - a phalanx of Spartan warriors and Redcar's blast furnace in a composition symbolizing the collapse of the steel industry. They highlighted it on their social media page and helped start Brian's involvement on Facebook. Please check-out his page and LIKE it. This extraordinary exh' of Brian's work colleagues in their industrial environments runs into April and should be seen by all members. Remember the museum is closed Mondays!

Bringing us close to the end of February, we challenged ourselves with wide brush "drawing", to get us away from being too fine with the pencil for instance, followed by a perspective drawing test organized by Daphne when she brought in what can only be described as a model village of cardboard houses and buildings for members to recreate convincing and accurate studies of angles and receding lines... examples, I feel, of engaging activities we excel at as a friendly art group. Our classroom at Macmillan allows for those who want to be involved in practical exercises and for those who prefer to complete personal work as well.

As a postscript to my report, I would like to mention, Jean Carmichael organised a very moving meeting with four relatives of ex-member Ronnie Durrans; Treasurer Daphne and I were in attendance. Ronnie had been a loyal member in what I term, the black'n'white days of the society. His membership stretched from, I think, the mid-'50s up to around the end of the 1990s; he was 95 when he died last August! Further information about Ronnie and the "old" society will be revealed on another occasion, but our meeting rewarded us with a collection of his drawings and paintings, some of which I am going to frame and include in forthcoming CAS exhibitions. Information we are learning from his family will help furnish our eventual art society improved history book publication.

March Programme

3rd. Recreating a famous image from art history – continued.

See February Programme. Cezanne's "The Card Players" is our subject. Myself and someone else to model.

10th. Pastels (oil or soft pastels).

Maggie Harrison and hopefully Lorraine Brown to lead. Try and bring your own materials, but we can help those who do not have such pastels.

17th. Continued.

24th. DVD. Anna Jasinek's 2015 Polish Exhibition and English Landscapes (supplied by Daphne Wattis).

A chance to see how well Anna did in her home village where she sold half of her artwork on display and was almost the toast of the town. The 2nd DVD of the evening focuses on that traditional painting category of landscape and how different artists have helped shape our rural art look.

31st. Costume model. Maggie Harrison at her easel.

She will paint, while we paint or draw her. These studies of our members are building a portfolio of figure and portrait work which will one day form an exhibition and reveal quite a remarkable side to CAS.

April Programme

7th. AGM.

Indications presently are we have officers who are happy in their roles. We will publish the agenda online in March. An excellent opportunity for you as members to offer your suggestions and ideas on all aspects of the art society and expressions for change or continuity.

14th. Local Regional Buildings – 2 dimensional work in any media.

This is designed to bring work up to speed ahead of the May exhibition at the Heritage Gallery (see Exhibition Schedule with this Newsletter). We will be exhibiting our past and recent studies of buildings from N.Yorkshire to Co.Durham. We are avoiding industrial structures and steel bridges in this particular exhibition however!

21st. Continued plus Committee Meeting.

None Committee Members are encouraged to continue with their local regional buildings artwork while, we on the bridge, plot a course for the summer programme.

28th. Costume model. Jity.

The return of one of our members to the hot seat to be portrayed. Jity was our General Secretary briefly in 2014 and co-Newsletter Editor. I know she will make a superb model.

May Programme.

5th. Heritage Gallery Preview – BEFORE the PROGRAMME EVENING below.

4.00pm-6.00pm. Our first show of the year! Please show your support at our exhibitions even if you are not participating. Occasions like these are not frequent and are ideal times to socialize with members of your society. If you are not a Thursday regular, here is your chance to touch-base! Please bring friends and family.

5th. Watercolour and ink.

A classic combination and one we sometimes overlook. Along with w/c and pencil, this medium is one of the quintessential British painting partnerships and one the French recognised as our unique strength in the 18th. and 19th. centuries. We will look at how colour washes work perfectly with emphasised line.

12th. None-toxic, none-odour solvents for oils.

One for those who would like to use oil paint but are put off by the smell of turpentine, linseed oil, white spirit, etc. We will look at which solvents are best to use as thinning or binding mediums for such painting. A number of our members will bring these solvents.

19th. Continued.

26th. Life model. Josh or other male model.

A session strictly for paid-up members. At other meetings we allow prospective members or guests to meet us or join in with our activities, but life model studies we reserve as closed membership dates on our calendar.

Future Events and Museum/Gallery Trips

Seaton Hall, near Staithes.

Friend of the society, William Kidd and son of our famous historical Winifred Kidd, has

Member's Services

Personal and group art tuition / painting demo's / workshops / lectures.

President, Ian Lightfoot.

Giclee fine art printing. Maximum print size approx' A3. Your artwork for scanning though can be A2 in size.

Website Manager, Jon Sephton.

Tutored art holiday groups.

Sue Ford.

Personal and group art tuition / painting demo's / workshops / picture framing.

Exhibition Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Alan Morley.

Fine art printing / picture framing.

Gallery Owner, Andy Hawkins – Hawkins Gallery, Milton St, Saltburn.

Pet portraits.

Paul Taylor.

Future Newsletter notices & inclusions

Please inform me of your exhibitions, services, news, etc. Find my contact details in the officers section on this Newsletter heading.

Are you on our website?

Follow the site links to be included, or contact Jon Sephton for assistance. Find him on Facebook.

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