



BRUTON ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.brutonartsociety.co.uk

Lectures * Workshops * Exhibitions * Coach Trips * Painting Days

Chair's Report

The Bruton Art Society has had another strong year, with a wide-ranging programme. We have had many fascinating workshops, visits and lectures. One particular highlight was the talk by James Russell on Eric Ravilious, a favourite artist for many members. James curated the major Ravilious exhibition at Dulwich in 2015 and has published several studies on different aspects of the artist's work, so we were able to benefit from his considerable expertise.

We are now coming up to the main event of our year, the Annual Exhibition. This year we are once again in the Memorial Hall at King's School Bruton. We are most grateful to the Headmaster and Governors of Kings for allowing us to use their premises.

Fletcher Robinson is masterminding the event, together with committee members Sue Hardy and Marissa Weatherhead.

Sending in day for the exhibition is Saturday 11 August, and the Private View is on Friday 17 August.

This year we are able to offer 10 Awards with a total value of £1,150, thanks to generous sponsorship. A full list of these can be found below.

With this Newsletter we have sent out submission forms and labels to all our members who have required them. If any of you require additional forms and labels, please do contact our membership secretary, Maggie Knight.

Will Vaughan



Mary Rolfe - Sculpture Award.
Last year's Exhibition

Bruton Art Society 65th Annual Exhibition Awards list 2018 & sponsors

Joy Barnes Award	<i>BAS</i>	£250
Vittorio Zanetti Award for Drawing	<i>NEW G. Zanetti</i>	£100
Award to Kings Bruton Student	<i>BAS</i>	£100
Landscape Award	<i>CPRE Somerset</i>	£100
Portrait/Figure Award	<i>Cockhill Press</i>	£100
Abstract Award	<i>BAS</i>	£100
Still Life Award	<i>Orchard Park</i>	£100
Sculpture Award	<i>BAS</i>	£100
Original Print Award	<i>NEW Old Barn Framing Gallery</i>	£100
Most Popular Work 2018	<i>Craigie Woodworks Ltd</i>	£100



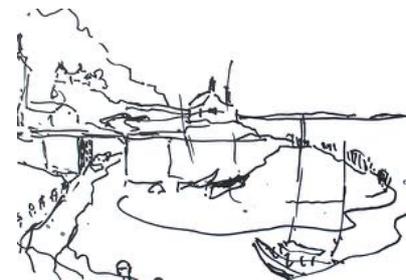
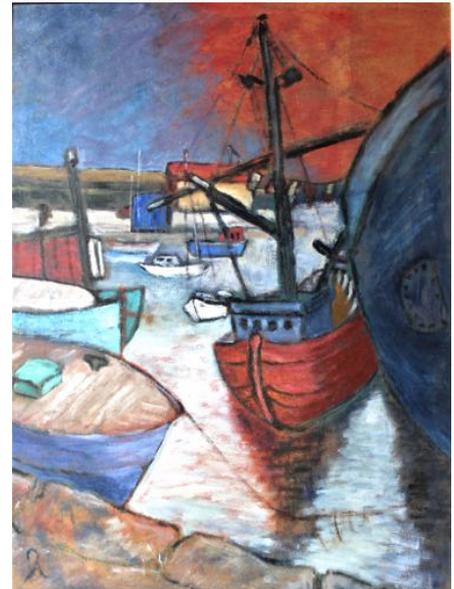
Swan Lennard Payne

As one of our longest serving, and much admired members, it was entirely fitting that in 2017 Swan was awarded the Joy Barnes Trophy Award for her painting of a coastal landscape. This award is for an outstanding work in our annual exhibition.

Swan came to painting in her early thirties when she and her husband Patrick settled in their home in Evercreech some sixty years ago. They have never moved and it was there that they brought up three daughters and she was able to develop her interest in art and in painting. This had first been triggered by a teacher at her school in Kensington, but she really got going when she joined the art classes run locally by Reg Gammon whose teaching inspired her and whose work she greatly admired.

Visiting Swan at home is to be brought into her combined kitchen, living-room and studio which stretches right across the house, its walls displaying an intriguing selection of paintings done by friends and local artists, together with stacks of her own work and sketchbooks. Prominently set up by the window, her easel and paints show what a central part Swan's art plays in her life. She served on the BAS committee for many years, organising trips and activities and making many long-lasting friendships.

The subject matter of Swan's work is landscape, which she approaches in a very distinctive way. Considering herself "useless with a camera" she sallies forth locally or on holiday in Italy or Cornwall with small sketchbooks and a black, felt-tip pen. With these she produces bold and simple line drawings, sometimes with watercolour added. Back in her studio she works in oil on canvas using strong lines and rich colour. The resulting works are both evocative of place and atmosphere and with a strong personal mood to them.



Together with Bruton Art Society, Swan has for some time been a member of Artists 303 and in addition to their other exhibitions, took part in their Cork Street exhibition. She has also had a solo exhibition in Bridgwater and her work has been hung in many places, including being selected for the Royal West of England Academy Exhibitions, the Bath Society of Artists and to be shown at the Guggleton Gallery in Stalbridge.

John Baxter

A BAS Member Visits Art Galleries in Los Angeles

Art galleries are not the first thing you associate with Los Angeles, but it has a fine selection. On my visit in April we began with the Norton Simon in Pasadena. Both it and its charming collection are people-sized; paintings by all one's favourites, and most of the kind you would like to take home with you.

The Getty Villa with its Roman inspired architecture sits as a great marble fortress in the hills. Its contents are very different to its outward appearance – Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities, my favourite being the seated poet flanked by two bird-legged sirens – Greek, from Southern Italy.

The LA County Museum, known as LACMA, is built round a campus adjoining the La Brea Pits on Wilshire Boulevard and it has a great deal to offer with collections of American, Asian and European art. It is also home to my favourite Matisse.

Painted in 1919, 'Tea' is large – 83x55 inches – and is clearly a family picture, relaxed, sketchy in places. Seated round a table in the garden, Matisse's model Antoinette is in off-duty mode, while his daughter Marguerite has the face of an African mask - and one shoe dangles. A small dog is scratching itself in the foreground. A feeling of enclosure is created by the brighter light beyond the pergola under which they sit. This painting is arresting, and gallery-goers doing their rounds come to an abrupt halt in front of it, take a step back and look up with sudden interest!

The Broad, opened in 2015, is a striking contemporary art museum. As we came up the escalator we were confronted by the astonishing, shimmering hangings by El Anatsui - made from flattened bottle tops, sewn together with copper wire. Next on the menu was the Light Box experience. The paintings are big – and a bit overwhelming.

Living in Bruton, a trip to LA would be incomplete without a visit to Hauser & Wirth. I found it in an old flour mill, cool and spacious, in the Downtown Art District. The current exhibitions were Louise Bourgeois' 'The Red Sky', and work by Mark Bradford. In the courtyard garden large contented hens scratched among the herbs.

Cecily Graham



Henri Matisse "Tea"

What's to come with BAS

- 11 July** Painting Day at Cole Manor Tea Rooms 10-4
A return visit. They are very hospitable (fantastic tea rooms!) Wonderful gardens & views.
- 17 August** Private View of Annual Exhibition, 6-8pm
- 18 - 25 August** Bruton Art Society's 65th Annual Exhibition
- 5 September** Painting Day at Lovington Mill. A very popular venue.
- 8 September** One-day workshop: Nick Andrew. Popular local artist, Nick has agreed to tutor this our 2nd Saturday workshop.
- 20-21 September** Workshop: 'Portraiture with two models' : Anthony Connolly. (Fully booked). We are very lucky to have this renowned artist returning to us for this portraiture workshop
- 10 October** Coach Trip to RWA, Bristol
Our annual trip to the Royal West of England Academy Annual Exhibition.
- 8-9 November** Workshop: 'Experimental Printmaking' : Catherine Pitchford. Popular Poole printer returning to us for a second time.
- 6 December** Christmas Lecture: 'Red Vibrations' : Alexandra Drysdale
- 17 January** 2019 AGM Talk: 'Eight Contemporary British Painters' : Chris Davies

Booking Enquiries: Sarah Hall, bookbruton@gmail.com

Report on Workshops & Demos, 2018

Melanie Degan - Wire Acrylic Resin Sculpture 5-6 April

Using string scrim and other flotsam and jetsam we produced the extraordinary, the witty and the delicate in a menagerie of livestock.

James Budden - Portrait Demo 12 April

James's model, Katya, sat about two metres from his easel with an overhead screen showing his canvas. He worked fast, talking all the time & the image appeared within a very entertaining hour (Image opposite).

Fiona McIntyre - Painting Tree Landscapes 17-18 May

Fiona has been painting trees and landscapes for 30 years and is a member of the contemporary art movement, the Arborealists. We worked in the orchard, on several large drawings, studying elements of a tree or a small section of the landscape. The second day we produced one or two paintings.

Jane Onslow



News Round-up from Members

This is a new feature in our bi-annual BAS newsletters and we encourage you to contact the editor, Fletcher Robinson, on robinson.fletcher@gmail.com with any snippets of interest. The next edition is at year end.

We are delighted to report that **Sue Hardy** has been elected an Associate Member of the Society of Graphic Fine Art, leading to full membership in three years. This is the only national drawing society which celebrates its centenary next year.

Luminara Star has been awarded a Creative Pathways Bursary 2018 by Somerset Art Works. This is a professional development programme for SAW member artists in Somerset to develop their practice. Part of her bursary will be used to develop new work as part of the Open Studios weeks, an event in which Luminara will be taking part for the first time in September.

Camilla Frederick is hosting a three day portraiture workshop 20-22 July in her studio in Batcombe, given by Andrew James RP NEAC. There is room for a maximum nine artists and there will be two models. Camilla saw him demonstrate his skills recently in the Mall Galleries in London and approached him about giving this workshop. Her contact details if you'd like to join her: camilla.frederick01@gmail.com

Bruton resident **Cecily Graham** has had a very exciting trip to Los Angeles to visit museums including the Norton Simon and Getty collections, and of course Hauser and Wirth's west coast gallery, a now obligatory stop on the itinerary of all art-lovers. Her full report is included in this edition.

32 BAS members had a great trip this month to **Southampton City Art Gallery**. Highlights included a series of large woodland and tree studies by George Shaw, who uses model maker's enamel paint to produce his luminous works. It houses one of the best collections of 20th c. British Art outside London, including fine examples of St Ives, Surrealism and above all the Camden Town Group. Their leader Walter Sickert liked to paint scenes of contemporary urban life, sometimes painted in bright colours. Here can be seen his famous mid-life self portrait in rich dark tonality, wearing a bowler hat and glasses. It must be one of the most extraordinary self-portraits ever painted in this country.

Fletcher Robinson