

# THE RAINBOW

Box Art Group Newsletter - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August  
2024

Written by and for the members of Box Art Group (No. 101)

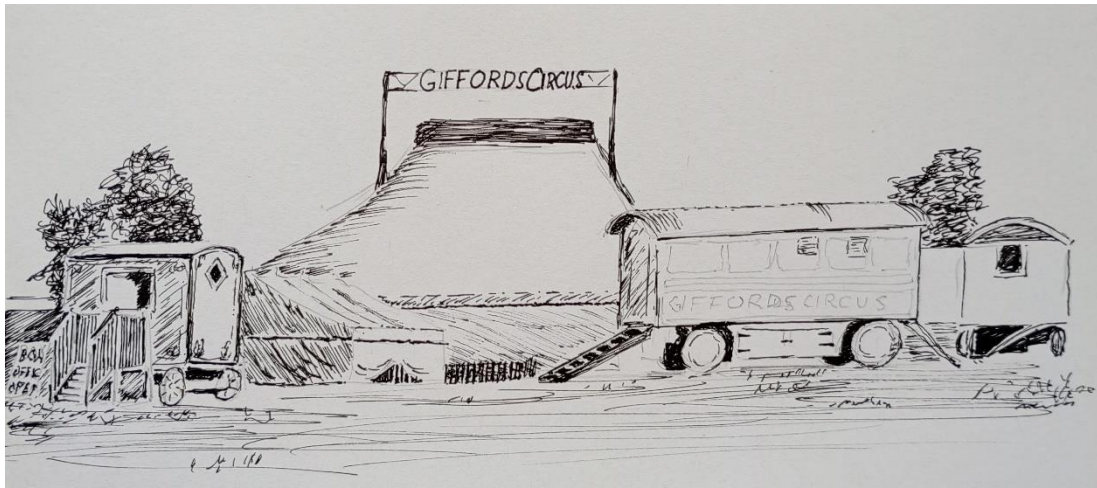
## Contents

- Plein Air
- Static Sitters
- Pegasus Beware
- Nearby Events in September
- Autumn Letter
- Exhibition
- New Leaflet

## Plein Air



Giffords Circus on Minchinhampton Common was the setting for the plein air session on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August. The small hardy group sheltered by a wall under a tree from the rain and the sun, and it was very pleasant and relaxing. Michael's watercolour sketch is above, and my pen sketch is below, to which I've subsequently added some watercolour. *Pete*



Last Monday, 12th August, the weather forecast was good. Peter had suggested some painting en plein air of Gifford's circus on Minchinhampton Common for those who were interested to meet at 10:am I'd wanted to do a painting of the circus on the common for a while, so I packed up some materials and set off to walk the 10 minutes from home. When I got to the market house against expectations it started to rain, so I took shelter in the Undercroft, yet another of my favourite subjects. I sat down, looked at the ancient stone arches and decided to challenge myself there and then. I used oil pastels and ink which seemed appropriate and listened to the wonderful sounds of Minch; Kelvin's jolly laugh and chatter as customers entered the market stores, traffic, people's passing conversation, church bells and the buzz of our lovely community. Several people stopped to say, "Hello" and watched me but on the whole I felt invisible.

I worked on my linen board for about two hours, feeling the history and character of the space, completely at one with the environment. My husband saw me on his way to coffee at the Cotswold club, so I stopped and decided to join him.



The next day I looked at my painting and worked on it for a while. I was happy with the way it was coming together and was pleased with the final result.

On Wednesday I put a photo of my plein air effort on Facebook and Minch Life for those people who had chatted to me whilst I sat in the Undercroft, and who were interested in seeing the finished article. The result astonished me! Over 150 likes. Following one readers suggestion, my picture became the heading for Minch Life and I received many complimentary reports with 2 people offering to buy it!

I've only ever tried painting plein air twice before and didnt enjoy either process. I ended up with a dismal result having wasted time and materials. I usually paint from my photos or experiment with various Media in an effort to find new ideas and ways of working. This latest session of plein air has given me a new confidence in my abilities. I believe there needs to be a trigger to strike an interest in the subject and to become attuned, at one with the place. I'd taken photos of the undercroft before and tried copying them in paint, then discarded them. What I didn't get from the photos were the subtle colours, the blues, greens and pinks of the stone which gave it such beauty and interest.

So finally having made some progress with en plein air I think I'll give it another go!

*Mary Davis Smith*



## Static Sitters

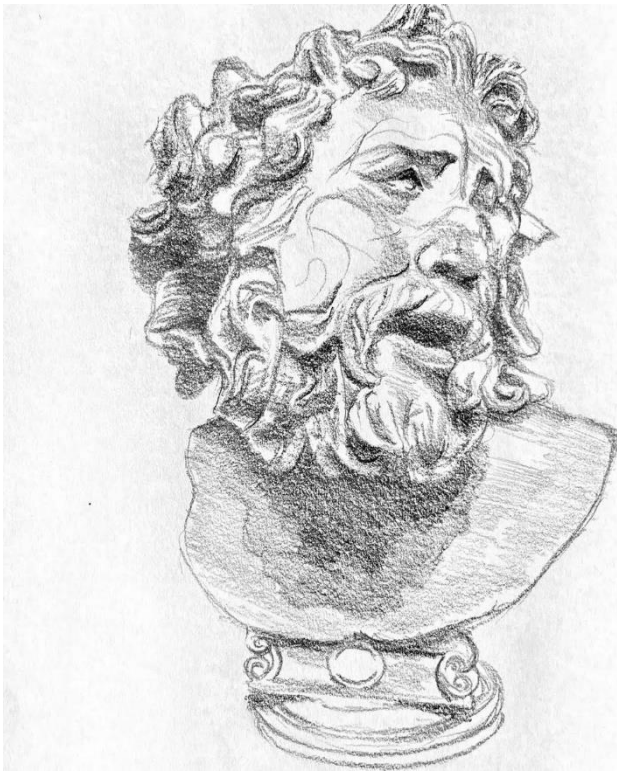
One of the problems of drawing people is that they almost never stay still, so a traditional part of artistic training used to involve drawing statues (preferably classical statues). In fact, students attending one of the Parisian ateliers would not progress to life drawing (with nude models) until they had mastered the art of drawing busts and statues. It is not just the movement: classical statues are pure form - virtually monochrome, so you have to focus entirely on representing the shapes.

I would have like to attempt this kind of drawing on recent visits to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford (and I did a couple of fairly quick sketches in a small notebook) but there were no seats near the statues I really wished to draw, too many other visitors blocking views (and an art student was already occupying the floor space where you could lean your back against a podium). So I took some photos and drew from those. (I later discovered that there are much better photos on the museum's website). Anyway, here below are my attempts to follow the tradition route to artistic competence.

Apologies for making the final sketch look uncannily like Vladimir Putin. It was entirely unintentional.

*Michael*







## **Pegasus Beware**

Are you as economical as this with your expensive art pencils?

(I used a Derwent pencil holder.)

*Michael*



## **Nearby Events in September**

### **Lansdown Gallery:**

***Everyone has a Place*** Wednesday 4th - Saturday 7th September 10am - 5pm and on Sunday 8th, 11am to 4pm Joanna Billingham and Susan Kester

***Visual Symphony*** 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am – 5pm Olivia Meredith, Kirsty Tallon, Alice Hutt, and Diana Tormey

***100 Shades...*** a monochrome exhibition by Stroud Artists Cooperative 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am – 4pm

**Museum in the Park:** Bikes through the Ages Day Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> 11am – 4pm.

**Raw UMBER Studios:** Free portrait drawing session on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept from 2pm – 4pm 16 Nelson St. Stroud [rawumberstudios.com](http://rawumberstudios.com)

**Stroud Valleys Project:** <https://www.stroudvalleysproject.org/events>

Parkland Fungi Foray Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 11am -1pm £3, but need to book, location unknown

Stratford Park Bat Walk Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 8pm -10pm, £3 need to book

Ghost Trees of Rodborough Common Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 10:30am – 12noon. £3 need to book.

## **Autumn Letter**

On behalf of the committee, we hope that you are keeping well and look forward to seeing you again when our tutored sessions start on Thursday 5 September. Please wear your name badge as many of us have not met for some time. If you have not been given a name badge, please see Hilary Turk.

## **Term Dates for 2024/25**

Autumn 5 September – 5 December 2024

Exhibition: 11 – 13 October 2024

AGM: 26 September 2024

Spring 9 January – 10 April 2025

Summer 24 April – 5 June 2025

12 June – 28 August 2025 (untutored sessions)

## **Membership**

PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you do NOT wish to take up your place this year, either by e-mailing or phoning Hilary Turk, Membership Secretary [hilary1950uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary1950uk@yahoo.co.uk) or 01453 vacancies and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join. We have .885591

## **Subscription**

The subscription for 24/25 is £70. Thank you to everyone who voted on the subscription and the summer opening and the majority agreed to option 2 (£70 subs and summer opening). This is still good value at 47 sessions at £1.49 each, including tea and biscuits!

**If possible, please would you make your payment by BACs with your surname as the reference**

- By BACS Account name Box Art Group

Sort code 30-98-29

Account no 03922056

- By cheque Payable to Box Art Group
- Please either bring to the first session on 5 September or
- Post your cheque to **Michael McEllin, Cheverel, 83 Windmill Road, Minchinhampton, GL6**

## **9ED**

It would be helpful if you would pay as soon as possible so we have some idea of numbers returning. Thank you for your help.

## **Exhibition**

This will be held on Friday 11 to Sunday 13 October. Details and an entry form are included with this letter. There will be a coffee/tea and cake available for visitors to purchase on Saturday 14 October. A donation of a cake would be most appreciated, but please attach a label if it includes nuts or is gluten free.

## **AGM**

The AGM will be held on Thursday 26 September. We will conduct the business as swiftly as possible so that a normal painting session can follow, but we don't have a tutor for this session.

## **Committee**

The committee members will be confirmed by yourselves at the AGM. We are very pleased to welcome Graham and Jo as new committee members. If anyone else is interested please let us know, especially if you have publicity skills.

## **Tutors**

We are very pleased that Roxy Jackson and Beth Jenkins have agreed to continue as our tutors for the coming year and we look forward to seeing them back again.

## **Portrait Group**

As far as we know, we are the only local art group with a dedicated portrait group. There is no need to 'belong' to this group – just join in when you want to have a go at a portrait. Currently we have no official coordinator of the group, so if anyone would like to do this, please let a committee member know.

Please would all members help by sitting occasionally for 20 to 30 minutes at a time. A half session can be a bit onerous so we have decided to break this down into smaller sessions of 3 or 4 per afternoon. You can, of course, volunteer for longer if you wish! It would be much appreciated if you could add your name to the rota on the noticeboard.

We would also be very pleased to hear of anyone externally who would like to sit for our portrait group. Do let any member of the committee know if you know of anyone willing to sit. A small remuneration can be offered.

## **Tea rota**

Our tea break at 3.00 offers the opportunity to chat and look at each other's work. Members, working in pairs, take turns to make the tea and wash up. Tracey currently coordinates the rota on the noticeboard and would be pleased if you would add your name. If you've not done it before, we can ensure you are with someone who has!

## **Art supplies**

Pegasus Art shop at Griffin Mill run by Jane Fisher of Box continues giving members 5% discount.

We look forward to meeting up again for the 24/25 year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the contacts below.

## **Committee 2024/25**

<b>Pete Smith</b>	<b>Jill Harwood</b>	<b>Michael McEllin</b>	<b>Hilary Turk</b>
pete@lyonspace.co.uk	jillharwooduk@gmail.com	michael.mcellin@gmail.com	hilary1950uk@yahoo.co.uk
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lynneandrick@hotmail.com	rosemary.bailey@outlook.com	grahamspencer@gmail.com	jomgale@googlemail.com
01453 765373	01453872775	07542931117	07742916044
<b>Programme and Hall Liaison</b>		<b>Fundraising</b>	



## Exhibition

We will be holding our annual art exhibition in October when all members are invited to exhibit and showcase our variety of art work. You may exhibit

- up to **5 framed** art suitable for hanging. Fee £2 per item and 10% commission on sales
- up to **5 unframed**, but mounted art for the browsers. Fee 50p per item and 10% commission on sales
- **cards** for sale. No fee but 10% commission on sales

The commission goes towards the exhibition expenses and group funds. We hope that all paintings will be for sale but if you wish, you can exhibit **ONE** 'not for sale' painting only.

## Submission form

Please complete the submission form for framed and unframed mounted paintings and cards. Return the **submission form** with the **hanging fee** to our treasurer, Michael McEllin

- email form to Michael at michael.mcellin@gmail.com and do a BACs transfer, *Box Art Group 30-98-29 Acc. 03922056* with your name as a ref
- at a meeting, payment by cheque
- post to Michael at Cheveril, 83 Windmill Road, Minchinhampton. GL6 9ED enclosing a cheque

Please would you do this as soon as possible and **26 September** at the very latest. We need to compile a catalogue of artwork and display labels before the exhibition from the information you provide. You might like to keep a copy of the form.

*A few forms will be available at the next few sessions.*

## Exhibiting your paintings

### The following information should be included on your painting labels

- Painting title - Medium - Your name - Price

- on a label which you stick to the back of all your artwork **AND**
- on a luggage type label on a string which can hang over the front of the picture.

This label' helps us to put the correct display label against the painting once hung on the wall. It is tucked behind the painting for the exhibition so it doesn't need to be smart!

### Artwork should have

- 2 D rings (or eyes) with tightly stretched cord or wire between them on the back of your painting
- NO CENTRAL FIXINGS please as these are more difficult to hang.

### Cards

These should be in a protective envelope. Please include **a sticker on EACH card with your initials and price** (round figures ie £1.00, £1.50). This helps the stewards record sales accurately and the treasurer to reconcile the income.

All items should be brought to the Village Hall between **1.30 and 2.00 pm on Thursday 10 October.** (there will be no class on that day). If you are available to erect the display boards, please offer your help.

**Unsold paintings should be collected at 5 pm on Sunday 13 October.**

## Stewarding

If you are exhibiting, please would you be available for stewarding. Hilary Turk will be coordinating the rota which she will circulate at the meeting from 29 August. Alternatively you can email her with your options (please provide at least 2 times) from 29 August onwards.

There are 3 stewarding sessions each day, Fri 11, Sat 12, Sun 13 at 10.00–12.30, 12.30–3.00, 3.00–5.00

If you work or have commitments on any of the days and can only do certain times please let Hilary know at and she will do her best to assist on a first come basis.

Instructions for the stewards are available at the exhibition.

## Coffee and cake morning

This is on Saturday 12 October, both morning and afternoon. We found last year, that extra people were required to serve refreshments, so we are asking for volunteers for this, in addition to the stewards rota. The session times are the same, but on Saturday only. A rota will be coordinated by Tracy and will be on the noticeboard.

*Donations of cakes on the day would also be appreciated, but please label if it contains nuts.*

## Publicity

Please promote the exhibition and encourage your friends and family to come along on one of the exhibition days. Posters will be available for you to print off or collect at a Thursday session.

If you have any questions about exhibiting your work or the exhibition, please don't hesitate to speak to one of the committee. Thanks for your support and we look forward to a successful exhibition.

## New Leaflet

We're having some new leaflets printed.

Check out the new website!

**BOX ART GROUP**

Box Village Hall, Thursdays 1.45-4.15pm <http://boxartgroup.uk>

Informal sessions

Still Life

Discuss work

Expert tutors

Exhibition

- Monthly newsletter
- Informal competitions
- Technique demos
- Portrait group
- Occasional plein air
- Resource cupboard

£70 annual subscription, 47 session, 33 tutored  
Visit us to have a free "try-out" session.