

THE RAINBOW

Box Art Group Newsletter - Monday 30th September 2024

Written by and for the members of Box Art Group (No. 102)

Contents

- **AGM**
- **Evolution of an Image**
- **Abstract Art**
- **Autumn Competition**
- **Nearby Events in October**
- **Exhibition**

AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 26th September, and it turned out to be a useful if slightly rowdy event, mainly due to the lack of control from the chair. However, the same 'old' crew were re-elected, but with a couple of new sidekicks, Jo and Graham, and we welcome and thank them whole heartedly.

After the chairs' opening remarks, our treasurer, Michael, summarised the group's financial position as reasonable, with 35 fully paid-up members, and is similar to the position at the same time last year. This year, we are committed to 47 sessions, so we'll be running throughout the summer months again, though the summer sessions will again be tutorless*.

The need for additional members led to a discussion about publicity, and it was generally agreed that all members should take advantage of any opportunity to encourage friends and neighbours to come along for a taster session. Similarly, the use of all types of social media to publicise the group, including the website, was also encouraged.

The discussion about the exhibition also created a goodly number of useful suggestions and ideas:

- Unsold paintings to be hung on the walls of the village hall
- Arrange an 'artist in residence' during the exhibition to talk to visitors, explain how and what we try to achieve, and invite them to join the group
- Introduce the hot water urn into the committee room for visitors to help themselves to tea/coffee for a donation on the Friday and Sunday
- Invite the visitors to sit for a portrait, and arrange a time and date – (best let Michael be involved in this)
- Arrange a raffle for a donated painting (or for the flowers)
- Inform the stewards of the sales procedures before they arrive – see later in the newsletter.

The possibility of a Christmas social was raised, but lack of information about possible venues, prices and dates prevented a useful discussion. This will be investigated by the committee.

The Long Table was agreed as our charity for the year.

*Rosemary is in the process of applying for a grant to cover the cost of a tutor to run 4 workshops during the summer months.

Evolution of an Image

I thought I'd try to do something more interesting with the two horses picture, whilst preserving the leaden-hoofed hesitant attitude of the animals. A desert scene seemed appropriate, and I tried to liven it up with a cloud formation I saw on the BBC website listing photographs of the week. This one was taken in Staithes, but I'm afraid I don't know who the photographer was. I tried to combine it with a generic desert photo off the 'net.



By the way, I mentioned the Staithes group of artists in Rainbow number 2.

Anyway, here's the result. I clearly haven't done the cloud justice, though the good news is that the grand children were impressed with the volcano and camels...

Pete



Abstract Art

Recently I've been exploring Abstract Art and have been enjoying the process of experimentation. I masked off some small rectangles of just a few centimetres on some watercolour paper, at least 300gsm. I then scribbled all over with a candle or grease stick, then dribbled acrylic ink spraying with water to move the colour to where I wanted. When this was dry I worked on each piece with any mixed media like oil pastels, acrylic/watercolour paints, collage, stencils etc. anything I felt would produce pleasing effects. When this was dry, I peeled off the tape carefully and decided if more work was needed, or if I was satisfied, cut out the pieces and made them into small greeting cards which many of you have seen.



Sometimes I just make a super, chaotic MESS, but other times something magic happens and I think, " Gosh did I do that? "

I'd like to finish with something interesting I found on Facebook recently. Which sums up how I feel.

Mary Davis Smith

"Of all the arts," said Wassily Kandinsky, "abstract painting is the most difficult. It demands that you know how to draw well, that you have a heightened sensitivity for composition and for color, and that you be a true poet. This last is essential." In other words, the painting must have the fundamental components of good design. "All painting, no matter what you are painting, is abstract in that it's got to be organized," said David Hockney. Balance, vibration, weighting, form and eye control, mastery of colour, areas of visual excitement and areas of paucity, grey to rest the eye and gradations: These design elements, when intuitively understood, can create a stand-alone magic. In abstraction, this intuition gets your work into the "best" pile. Feel it, and your judges will, too. And just as we're required to get right the horse's proportions, abstraction demands that we describe its truth.

Autumn Competition

The subject of the autumn competition is 'BLUE'. I'll have more details next month by which time I hope to have copied the notes into the newsletter.

Nearby Events in October

Lansdown Gallery:

Stroud Life Drawing exhibition 2nd – 5th October, organised by Keith Symonds

Ruskin Mill:

Landscape Paintings, John Rodgers, now to 6th Oct

Three Storeys:

Coast and Commons, Richard Erskine, from 1st – 6th October

Autumn Arts Trail, Taster exhibition, from 8th – 20th October

Gathered, Jaqueline Hammond, from 22nd – 27th October

Sustainable Sadness, Dave Swinburne, from 29th Oct – 3rd Nov

Museum in the Park:

This Neck of the Woods, Nadine James & Deborah Roberts, from 5th Oct – 3rd Nov

Stroud Valleys Project:

Apple Day, Sarah's Field, Lynch Road, Berkeley GL13 9TR, noon – 3 on 12th Oct

Sub Rooms:

Paint & Paper Exhibition, Tony & Jessica, now to 6th Oct

Stroud Arts Festival: 19th – 27th Oct, <https://stroudartsfestival.org/>

Exhibition

Some notes about the exhibition:

Brief Guide to Exhibiting

Hopefully, everyone in the group will be exhibiting at the Box Art Group Exhibition in October, but some members of the group may be considering other ways of showing their work. This is a short guide to exhibiting.

Presentation of your work

Your work needs to be in a frame that compliments it. The mount needs to be the right colour and size.

It is better if your frames are neutral. This usually means natural wood, black or white.

If you are repurposing second hand frames, make sure they fit with current fashion. At the moment, there is little appetite for frames with gold on them. Upcycle by cleaning them, giving them a light sanding and paint them black or white with acrylic or household paint. If you use household paint, you can give them a rub with furniture wax for a soft sheen.

Old mounts can look really tired so replace these if possible.

Browser work

This should be backed with card and wrapped in cellophane, with all details on the back, including the price. If it is presented badly it is unlikely to sell, however good the work.

Framing

I looked at framing an A4 piece of work and got some prices comparisons from online suppliers of real wood frames, see below.

If you are looking for cheap and cheerful, then The Range and Hobbycraft have the cheapest options.

Online framers will do much the same job as local picture framers. They use acrylic instead of glass. If you are re using the frames, the acrylic can get scratched over time. If so, take the frame along to Roman glass and they will replace with glass for a few pounds.

Online framers come into their own if you are buying more than 10 frames, as the discounts are good. It might be worth getting together with a few people and putting in a bulk order.

Making Opportunities

If you are new to exhibiting you might want to apply to the annual group shows of places like Three Storeys in Nailsworth or Sixteen Gallery in Cheltenham. Some galleries charge a fee for this which is non refundable if you are not accepted.

You might consider getting together with others and booking a gallery for a week. The costs range from £215 at The Lansdown Gallery, Stroud to over £320 per week at the Gardens Gallery in Cheltenham.

You will have to invigilate the gallery for the entire time so it is a big time commitment.

Other places to show your work can be cafes, surgeries, businesses and so on. Woodruffs and Star Anise in Stroud are popular venues and possibly Hobbs house café and the Olive Tree in Nailsworth. You don't normally expect to pay a fee to exhibit but you may have to pay commission on sales.

Commission

Commission can be anything from 10% to 50% plus Vat, depending on where you are exhibiting. Most local commercial galleries are around 30 to 35%, often plus vat. This goes on to the frame cost as well so make sure you price to accommodate this.

Online Exhibiting

There are a lot of platforms for this, Artfinder is one of the best known, as well as Etsy. Costs can be high but you don't have to frame or market your work yourself. There are many free online resources for advice. (We now have a group website, so this option is readily available).

Advertising

An online presence like Instagram is good, and you can post on Facebook sites in Stroud like Discover the Artists and Stroud Artistic Community as well. Plus friends and friends of friends.

Framing Price comparisons for a wood frame to accommodate an A4 piece of work, including mount.

The Range – wood effect - from £3.49

Hobbycraft – wood effect – from £12

Picframes.co.uk – solid oak, unfinished - £41.18 delivered

10 frames work out at £31.56 each, delivered

Eframes.co.uk - Solid oak, £35.66 delivered

10 frames work out at £24.97 each, delivered

Allow 3 weeks time for the orders to be delivered, but they usually arrive within 10 days.

Online mounts

This is often a cost effective way of getting new mounts if you are buying 10 or more.

Best4frames.co.uk 1 x A4 mount £11.54 to include delivery.

10 mounts the same size works out at £4.52 per mount

Galleries for hire

Lansdown Gallery , Stroud, from £215 per week, plus 20% commission on sales

Three Storeys, Nailsworth – call them for details

Sub Rooms, Stroud – from £248 per week

Gardens Gallery Cheltenham, from £320 per week, low season.

Hello Stewards,

Thanks very much for volunteering to help with the exhibition. I've attached a sales procedure for information and timetable as a reminder of when your time slot is.

Sales Procedure

Payment methods

Payment may be made by cash, cheque (payable to Box Art Group)
or BACs - Box Art Group 30-98-29 a/c 03922056 with buyer's surname as a ref

Framed Paintings

1. Put RED spot on label next to sold framed painting.
2. Receipt book – complete details of painting and purchaser with amount paid (full amount or deposit of at least 10%). Give customer the top copy.
3. Sales record book – complete details for all paintings, framed and unframed.
4. Ask the purchaser to collect painting on Sunday at 5pm. If not possible and no alternative collector can be arranged, purchaser may take painting immediately.
5. Unframed prints and paintings may be taken away immediately.
6. Write SOLD on catalogue.
7. Any enquiries about membership, please complete membership enquiry form

Cards

8. Enter sales of cards on separate card sales sheet, under name of artist. Keep the card sales money separate from the rest.
9. For paintings and cards, if money is taken from a float, please ensure that it is replaced as soon as possible. If lack of change prevents this at the end of your shift, make a note for

the next stewards, stating which pot the money has to be made up from, eg card sales, picture sales, so that it can be put back by them.

Other

- 10. Complete Attendance List
- 11. Invite visitors to vote for their favourite painting
- 12. Check that hall is tidy and pictures are straight.
- 13. Check the donations bowl
- 14. Enjoy the exhibition and talking to visitors. Make yourself a drink if you wish.

Any problems, phone

Pete Smith 01453 883611 / 07421219335

Michael McEllin 01453 884390 Jill Harwood 01453 886233 / 0745650472

**Stewards Rota for Art Exhibition
11th to 13th October 2024**

NB: Only 2 stewards per session. Cards will be sold in the main hall alongside the paintings.

Friday, 11th Oct Reserves: Hilary Turk 885591	10.00 – 12.30 1. Peter Smith 883611 2. Lucy Hughes 07452988504	12.30 - 3.00 1. Mary Smith 889302 2. Sarah Rowlatt 07720376839	3.00 – 5.00 1. Tony Hardware 07487585610 2. Sheila Fowler 07986125771
Saturday, 12th Oct Reserves: Graham Spencer 07542931117 Mark Lees 07772934999	10.00 – 12.30 1. Alison King 872743 2. Sheila Allen 07449180117	12.30 - 3.00 1. Jill Harwood 886233 2. Hilary Turk 885591	3.00 – 5.00 1. Jill Farrow 883869 2. Ann Farrow 01285659900
Sunday, 13th Oct Reserves:	10.00 – 12.30 1. Miriam Nicholls 01666577689 2. Mark Lees 07772934999	12.30 – 3.00 1. Jo Gale 07742916044 2. Dave Wordingham 07964294597	3.00 – 5.00 1. Hilary Kemmett 884163 2. Peter Smith 883611

* Please note that, should you be unable to keep to this arrangement, you are responsible for finding someone to take your place.

For the Café on Saturday 12th, we have 3 groups, from 10 – 12:30, Mary, Tracy and Lucy, from 12:30 to 3, Pete and Sheila, and from 3 ‘til closing time, (when there’s no cake left) Jill and Hilary.

There should be at least 6 donated cakes.