Newsletter October 2010
Issue 5

CWSA Newsletter

COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

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CENTENARY EXHIBITION 2012

Herbert
Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

At our recent Social Art Group meeting in October our President, Jane Powell gave an overview to the forthcoming CWSA Centenary Exhibition which is going to be held at the Herbert Art Gallery in 2012.

Jane started by explaining that the Centenary Exhibition will be a very important one for this Society and while it may seem early to start planning for 2012, everything needs to be in place well beforehand as she wants it to be seen as the best exhibition that this Society has ever presented. To this end the Committee visited the Herbert recently to look at paintings by past and present members stored in the Gallery archives. A small number of these works could be displayed alongside contemporary pieces in the Exhibition. We have not been advised of the actual dates yet, but we are hopeful of having Gallery 4 - it all looks very promising.

Whilst visiting the Consortium exhibition which was held in Gallery 4, Jane explained how she felt that whilst it was a well hung exhibition and the work looked good on the walls, there was a large space in the middle and only 80-90 smallish paintings could be hung. For the Centenary, Jane felt that she wanted to give our members the opportunity, if they wished, to produce large items. For instance if certain members decide to do some large paintings, with the current set up, the Gallery would be full! So the way round this problem would be to use a central installation on and in which, work could be displayed.

Jane went on, "The entrance to Gallery 4 is to one side, so therefore we want to create impact as people walk in – that's very important and I want to feel that when visitors walk through the entrance they're going to think 'that's brill' ". She showed us a simple illustration of her idea that would enable the viewer to wander through the installation whilst at the same time engaging with the wall display. Luckily we have members who know professional people who are able to carry out this type of work and once we have been informed which gallery is available and the dates, we will proceed with getting quotations.

Consideration should be given to how we relate historical items with contemporary pieces. A number of artists have been members of the Society for a good many years. For these members it could be interesting to display one of their earlier works alongside a contemporary piece. Perhaps some of you work in a wide variety of media ----let's see it. Would two or three of you want to work together on a piece perhaps?

Our current historical document compiled by our late President, Ralph Brassett, finished in 2007. This needs updating, possibly into a more sophisticated format and produced for our members, and maybe the general public, to buy. We are in a position, if we want to, and if the Gallery approves, of having copies of this book displayed in the shop in the Gallery entrance. We should have an example of the type of book available at November's meeting.

Jane is quite happy if people would like to contact her or email her with ideas or thoughts or simply to have a chat but is hoping that the ideas have fired you with enthusiasm and you will all come up with something that is going to be really inspirational.
Jane Powell email - jane@jpartstudio

SOCIAL ART GROUP MEETING - November

Our next meeting will be held at **Leek Wootton Village Hall** on **Wednesday 24th November from 10.30 until 1pm** - this month it is artwork in Felt Making – see the information in the next article. Janet Chattaway will run the session and provide all the materials – items to bring; small sheet of bubble wrap, towel, plastic bag, plastic apron (not essential but it can be a little bit wet.....) There will be an entrance fee of £6.00 (including tea and coffee) for members and £7.00 for non members. All are welcome.

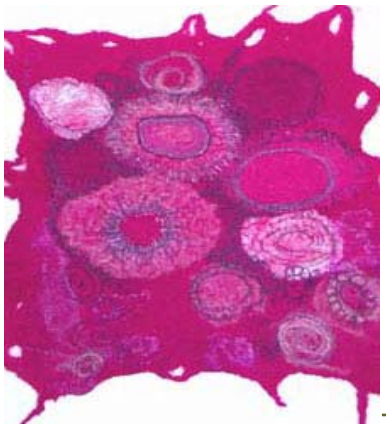
FELT MAKING

"Felting fashion"

Felt making is a very ancient craft and dates back to the beginnings of civilisation. Wool fibres are felted using moisture, friction and heat causing the scaly fibres to shrink and interlock, producing felt, a natural, tactile, friendly fabric. Many people will have found felting by accident. If a wool sweater is washed too hot in a washing machine that agitates vigorously, it will shrink and felt.

The stories go that a man was walking across a desert in the dim and distant past and as his footwear was rubbing he grabbed a handful of sheep wool or camel hair, depending on what livestock he had with him, to put into his sandals for adding comfort. The constant friction from walking and the moist and warm atmosphere in his shoe together with the sweat all went to turning the wool into a piece of felt.

Felt has been used for many cultural reasons throughout the centuries and is very prevalent in Central Asia where it is used for everything from carpets to hats. Felt is produced in many places in the world for such diverse items as shoes, tents, carpet, fine clothing, art objects, hats and jewellery.



In Britain, UK feltmakers often used felt to make hats, whilst clothes were woven and then felted (to make them warmer and more waterproof) by trampling in troughs, or by use of water-powered mills. The nap of the fabric was then raised by brushing with a teasle (the head of a type of thistle).

Creating felt craft objects is fun and surprising because wool shrinks as it "felts" making it difficult to determine what the final outcome will be. This makes the creative process unpredictable and organic. The colours of the wool will also work in their own magic way, blending with each other to create surprising effects.

ART WORKSHOPS

"David Wilcox"
Ballet and Dance

David Wilcox will be conducting our first all day workshop in water colour on **Wednesday 26th January 2011 at Leek Wootton Village Hall**.

David graduated with an Honours degree in Fine Art in 1978 and followed this with a Post Graduate Certificate in Education with Distinction at Birmingham College of Art and Design. After teaching in Devon for three years he became a professional artist in 1983. He says; "*as a watercolourist, I use the English technique of many transparent washes, allowing only the white of the paper to create the highlights. By contrast, in my canvases I use the Baroque technique of pulling the image out of a dark background for dramatic effect*

"Don't miss the next Social Art Group"

Bookings are now being taken for David Wilcox's session in January and places are filling up. Prices are £11 for members and £12 for non members which will need to be paid by 20th January. Please email or phone Tina Watkins to book your place.

OTHER CWSA NEWS

"Swell"
Alison Johnson

CWSA Christmas Exhibition

Our third exhibition for 2010 will be held at Kenilworth Library 8th - 22nd December 2010. We are advertising this event quite strongly in all the local papers and will have banners up around the library. We also hope to have a local celebrity to open the exhibition on **11 am on Saturday 11th December**. Mince pies and Bucks Fizz will be available for all who attend the opening.

Those of you who are stewarding are invited to bring your paints and create some works of art whilst members of the public look around the gallery. We intend to have children's colouring sheets available which we hope will bring more families to the exhibition. The society is also running a raffle to raise funds for a local charity which we hope will attract local stores to contribute.

Members may submit 2 pieces of work in any medium plus 2 pieces of 3D work. Members may also submit 3 browser pieces. We are happy to sell cards made by members as long as they are clearly marked with member's name and price.

To enable our Christmas Exhibition to be a success we are asking every member if they would be willing to steward at least one session between December 9th and December 21st. This is now becoming critical and whilst we know it's a busy period for everyone, someone needs to be available every day to help. **Please contact Jacqui Smithson as soon as possible with your stewarding dates.**

October Social Art Group Meeting

In October we held a portrait painting session where Roger Gellion sat for us and all bought their preferred painting medium. We started with a couple of short studies of Roger before we broke for coffee and biscuits. Afterwards we continued creating portraits and many members reported that Roger was a patient and very interesting study. Jane Powell was at hand to assist if anyone requested it. Thank you Jane. At the end of the session all put their work on display and it was quite exciting to see the different styles and outcomes. Well done all!

We learned a great deal from the event and will make sure that when we run this session in future we have further lighting available and possibly a raised dias so all can see the model clearly.

Raffle Prize Donations needed

Donations are needed for our Christmas Raffle – please give a thought to what you might offer to help the Society. These are now urgently needed in time for the exhibition; please contact Jacqui Smithson with your gifts.

Loft Theatre – Exhibitions

For some 35 years, the Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa has hosted artists who wish to exhibit their work in the lounge areas of the theatre. The space offered is in the Coffee Lounge area, the walls on the staircase and the end wall in the Committee Room. Battens have been placed at intervals on the wall to protect the brickwork. Although there is no such thing as an average frame size, the exhibition space tends to accommodate about 20-25 paintings. Sue Bent can be contacted on **07790 618157**. More information can be found at http://www.loft-theatre.co.uk/introduction/artists.php

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BACK PAGE NEWS

December Social Art Group Meeting

There will not be a social group meeting during December due to the Christmas Exhibition and Christmas Party. Do make sure that you book onto the January social group meeting in good time.

Events Diary

"Cut off dates
10th November
20th November
25th November
20th January"

SOCIAL ART GROUP - NOVEMBER

Wednesday 24th November, Leek Wootton Village Hall, 10.30am – 1.00 pm - Textiles for Fun – Felting £6 for members £7.00 for non members. All materials included. **BOOK BEFORE 10TH NOVEMBER 2010**

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

The CWSA Christmas Exhibition will be held at Kenilworth Library 8th - 22nd December. **ENTRIES IN BY 25TH NOVEMBER 2010**

STEWARDING - CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

Contact Jacqui Smithson ASAP

MEMBERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas lunch will be held at 12.30pm on Saturday 4th December at Warwickshire Golf and Country Club at Leek Wootton. **BOOK BEFORE 20TH NOVEMBER 2010**

SOCIAL ART GROUP - JANUARY

Wednesday 26th January, Leek Wootton Village Hall, 10.30am – 4.00 pm –£11.00 members £12.00 for non members

Fish and Chip Lunch

We are holding a Fish and Chip Lunch and Quiz on Saturday 26th February 2011. One of the main items of interest is the forthcoming Centenary Exhibition in 2012 as our plans need to be put in place well ahead of time. It is envisaged that several project groups will be needed and we would like to hear your views on this.

The last Fish and Chip Lunch was well attended and everyone especially enjoyed the quiz and raffle. There will be attendance sheets sent out during January so that you can book your place.

CWSA COMMITTEE 2010

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