



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all our members!

The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

Number 77 • December 2019

Bird Paintings

Our featured artist in October was **Lor Bird** from Derbyshire, who brought a slide show containing a selection of her offbeat images, with their rich colours and moody atmosphere. She described her progress and processes, and then entertained us with a demonstration of how she built up her work with large brushmarks and a good dose of imagination. She based it on a photograph of Rugby School, supplied in advance, and proceeded to extract a very individual, semi-abstract vision from an ordinary view. Thought-provoking indeed, and a different approach to landscape.



A typical Lor Bird abstraction



A Laura Boswell linocut

Wood and Lino

Japanese trained **Laura Boswell** brought a cornucopia of woodcut and linocut prints to our November meeting. She fascinated us with her superb images and a description of her career and visits to Japan, before describing in detail the intricacies of both mediums. Finally she kept the audience spellbound with a live demonstration of woodcut preparation and printing in the Japanese style. We had a full house, and all were unanimous in her praise. An exceptional evening.

Open News

This year's **Rugby Open** exhibition coincided with our own Floor One show – in the same building – and a good number of our members have works in both (so why not visit and compare?). It is very satisfying that we have such a good representation in the Open, which has become a prestigious exhibition for regional artists. Congratulations to all those chosen.

The Society is again offering one of the Open prizes, to include membership of R&DAS, and we are pleased to announce that it will be awarded to Sarah Parr for her ceramic sculpture *Mr Toad*. The presentation of all the Open prizes will be held in the main Rugby Art Gallery on Friday 6th December from 6pm to 8pm and all support will be welcome.

Our venerable Vice-President **John Lines** was the winner of the Houlton Prize at last year's Rugby Open exhibition, and was rewarded with a show in the Barn gallery at this new development (which also coincided with our exhibition!). He put on a splendid display and is probably still recovering. Hopefully we will get more details later.

The Society also has an all-members' show planned for the **Houlton Barn** later in the Spring.



Laura explains 'how she did that'

Costume Life Evenings

The next batch of Thursday evening meetings is in the **Bilton Methodist Church Hall** CV22 7ND from 7.30pm on 6th, 13th & 20th February 2020.
£15 per 3 sessions. Contact **Leslie Read** on **01788 810697**.

Floor Show

Once again the Society's **Awards Exhibition** took over the Floor One gallery and put on a fine show of talent. Many thanks to all those who helped organise, hang and man the show, especially **David Newell**, our exhibitions officer, who went above and beyond the call of duty to implement various new procedures. These innovations have proved most successful and should form a helpful blueprint for future shows.

Contrary to rumour (!), most of our award-winners are chosen by an invited independent panel, who this year consisted of **Sarah Holdaway** (Senior Visual Arts Officer RAGM), and artists **Roy Holding** of Towcester and **Sue Langmead** from Knowle.

Many thanks to them for their help.

January Changes - please note!

The annual **Critique Meeting** will take place on the second Wednesday of the month (**8th January**), to avoid New Year's Day. Please bring along any paintings, drawings, sculptures, sketchbooks or other works to be discussed by our experienced panel of experts. Works with problems to solve will be particularly welcome; technique, composition, colour, framing etc.

The handing-in of pictures for the **Arnold Restaurant** exhibition will therefore take place on Thursday 9th January between 10.30 and 11am. It was most gratifying to see such a large number of keen exhibitors at the last changeover in November – any leftovers will be included next time.



**Any Other
Medium Award:
Audrey Endall for
*Take the Ferry to
Southwold***



**Ivor Cox Watercolour
Award:
David Judd for
*Reflections***



**Oil Award:
Colin Bywater for
*The Tide Mill***



**Acrylic Award:
Jennie Fletcher for
*Down Among the
Buttercups***



**Vice-President's Award:
Gillian Dakin for
*A Floral Mix***



**Alan Sime Award for
an English Landscape:
Roger Griffiths for
*House in the Trees***



**Pastel Award:
Barbara Harvey for
*Evening in Paris***



**Abbeycraft Artworld
Award:
Roseann Marshall for
*Lion of Juda***



**President's Award:
Edward Gautrey for
*High & Dry***

The Visitors' Choice award will be announced at our January 2020 meeting

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