



# The Basel

Newsletter of Rugby & District Art Society

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## Mountain mastery

The October meeting was billed as 'big and bold painting', complete with a demonstration, so this was something to look forward to! Anticipation of a great evening brought the crowds in, demonstrator **Roy Holding** was all set up and ready to go, huge glass palette, colours all laid out – this looked good.

Unfortunately, even with the attention of all the Society's top sound system experts the microphone refused to work. However, Roy's voice rose to the occasion and he went on to reveal that until six years ago he had been a watercolour painter and never touched oils. This with a four foot square canvas on his easel and splodges of oil paint ready to go!

And off he went, attacking the huge area with a four inch brush – wow! This was followed by layers of cling film pressed on to the wet surface, then carefully pulled away to leave a pattern effect. More wows! Next came turpentine sprayed on and allowed to run in riverlets down the canvas, with surprising and beautiful effects.

This now had to be left to dry so, in classic 'here's one I prepared earlier', Roy produced a dried canvas and set to with a palette knife, spreading on some remarkable snow effects. And there we had it, a snowy mountain peak! A great demo, delivered with humour and feeling.

*John Lines*



*Roy hits the heights!*

## Wiry dancers at the AGM

The AGM in September was the usual mix of reports and comment, with nothing too extraordinary to report, but the bureaucracy was followed by **Paul Joyner** and his fascinating wire sculptures of dancers. Paul's wife is a trained classic dancer, so he knew where the balance and bulges should be, and this was evident in the poise and movement that pervades all his work.

He also showed us his toolkit (basically his fingers and a pair of pliers) and revealed a few secrets about different types of wire, before concluding with a quick demonstration of how he does it. All much more difficult than it looks, I suspect.



*S'now problem!*

## More on Awards

The presentation of Exhibition Awards by the mayor of Rugby will take place at our regular 5th December meeting – bring your friends! This will be followed by a short presentation from a special mystery guest (remember last year?).

We will finish with a buffet (and chat) provided by members, so please can everyone bring some eats for the communal feast – you did a splendid job last year. A selection of drinks will be provided free of charge.

## Welsh Wanderings

The coach trip to Criccieth in North Wales still has a few vacancies (not many!), although those who have been on previous trips will need no extra encouragement. If you have non-member friends who wish to join the trip they will be welcome. Deposits of £40 per person are requested to be paid at the November meeting to secure your place.

## Awards Show details

Our Annual Awards Show will take place 17th – 29th November (closed Mondays) in the Floor One Gallery. All members can enter work, and we have several awards available in different categories. These are chosen by a panel of invited judges who this year include Roy Holding from Towcester, Shenac Rogerson from Fosse House Gallery & Katie Boyce as the Art Gallery's representative, as well as the individual President's and Vice President's choices.

Hand in submission forms with payment on 7th November; hand in work at Floor One gallery on Friday 16th November between 12.30 & 2pm; collect unsold work on Friday 30th November between 10 & 11am.

Works must be well framed, strung & labelled, and please note that all exhibitors must look after the helpdesk for at least two hours.

## Arnold Change

The next changeover at the Arnold Restaurant (at the far end of Elsee Road) will be between 10 & 10.30am on Thursday 8th November. All members are eligible to display work here for two months at a time - just bring it along.

## Ready for Framing

Our January meeting will not only be the annual critique evening where members submit works for discussion by our experts (to be arranged)) but will also include a talk on framing, with particular regard to our own exhibitions. Some unfortunate examples have already been collected to serve as a warning to others – so we could be in for a hilarious evening! If you wish to bring some of your own please feel free to do so!

## From Vancouver to Calgary (Jan and Leslie go wild in Canada)

We began our journey with a water bus trip from Vancouver to Granville Island, where we enjoyed the market, drooling over huge punnets of fruit that looked gorgeous, a fabulous art shop the size of a warehouse, and lots of other lovely shops, plus a wonderful restaurant overlooking the harbour. Vancouver also has 'a hop, on hop off' bus which we took advantage of as it allowed us to see the city and learn about it all in a short space of time – very worthwhile.

We then collected a hire car and drove to Whistler, just a couple of hours away. Whistler was the venue for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and tourists queue to have photos taken with the Olympic Rings. A popular ski resort in winter, summer brings out the mountain bikers and walkers.

It was hot when we were there so we went out in the mornings to explore then came back to the hotel for an afternoon dip in the pool before going out in the evening for dinner. There was always something going on, with taste testing in the hotel to various events in the village. We took a bear tour which was great as we had a brilliant guide and we saw lots of black bears, including mothers and cubs. We even managed to get in some sketching!

The next part of our journey was to Jasper, a long drive so we had a stop over in Sun Peaks. Jasper is a nice, small town and our hotel had a restaurant and pool that we made full use of. We also explored a stunning area of lakes, waterfalls and woods where we enjoyed some sketching.

On another organised trip to see wildlife, we were lucky to see a mother grizzly and two cubs. We also saw a moose by one of the lakes and a white tail stag in the hotel grounds. While sketching at one of the lakes we heard the call of a loon and also the call of elk stags, both really haunting sounds, (this has given me a painting with title).

Soon our time in Jasper was up and it was on to Banff. Banff is a much bigger town with a craft and farmers market, music in the park, horse drawn carriages, galleries, cafés and restaurants. It has lots going for it. We decided it wasn't worth going up the mountain in a gondola as smoke was hiding the view. So we did lots of sketching instead before going on to Calgary to catch our flight home.

This is just a quick sketch of our three-week holiday in Canada. Go if you can, the country has something for everyone!

*Leslie Read & Jan Watts*

If you have a holiday story, with an art connection (and photos) we'd love to hear about it!  
Contact Jim Watson, editor of the Easel, at  
[jimartwatson@btinternet.com](mailto:jimartwatson@btinternet.com)

## Models Needed

Our next Costume life evenings start on 15th November, and for this season we would like to recruit some new faces, so if you know anyone (friends, children, grandchildren etc.), particularly if they like dressing-up or flamboyant clothes, then let us know. Male or female, with or without musical instruments or well-behaved pets (no horses, please!). They will be required to sit or stand quietly in easy short poses, and we can offer a small payment. Details from **Leslie Read** on 01788 810697.

