



“An artist can no more talk about his art than a plant can talk about horticulture.”

Jean Cocteau

newsletter april 2016

www.northdevonarts.co.uk

Next members' meeting; Martin Brooks. April 13th. 8pm at Broomhill. Lecturer in Life Drawing and painting at the university of Plymouth. *More details on the next page*

It is rare indeed when I visit a contemporary sculpture exhibition and come away thinking only good thoughts and wanting to return. Thus it was when I saw the latest Hauser & Wirth show in Somerset; Subodh Gupta, “Invisible Reality”. In my experience contemporary sculpture seems to be satisfied with the likes of crumpled metal strewn like wreckage on the gallery floor, or melons and an old bucket on an abandoned mattress, or worse still giant ramshackle assemblies of random pieces of wood, painted haphazardly and now chosen to represent Britain at the 57th Venice International Art Biennale next year, you know who you are Phyllis!

Gupta is an Indian artist, now working in New Delhi, with several exhibitions behind him in recent years. Though this exhibition is part installation it does not hide behind that fact to allow sub-standard, thoughtless work to be displayed, but instead it carefully leads you into the heart of the show, by way of several stand-alone pieces all of which I found to be fascinating. In the first room there is what appears to be a giant gong made of beaten brass, perhaps 12 feet in diameter, suspended from the ceiling, which, when viewed from the other side, turns out to be a massive cooking pot, barbed wire curled within.

The second room has a wonderful, carved, white marble “wardrobe” with a latticed front, through which you can see what appears to be a waterfall, but on closer inspection is a digital projection and in the next



Subodh Gupta,
“Touch, Trace, Taste, Truth” (2015)

room is a series of panels made from compressed old cooking pots, interwoven with scraps of discarded textile.

All this is as a preface to the main room, a large gallery, darkened, at centre an old re-assembled wood and terracotta traditional house from Southern India, over-illuminated from within by fluorescent light and draped across one gable by a length of muslin cloth. On each of the walls are large stainless steel panels set with electric motors which periodically vibrate to produce an overwhelming sound, reminiscent of theatrical thunder. This is the piece after which the whole exhibition takes its title, “Invisible Reality”, and which runs powerfully through

the whole as the noise spills into adjacent rooms.

Finally from this room into another large space filled with used cooking vessels, hung by fine filaments into the shape of one enormous pot. The bullshit leaflet tries very hard to explain all this in words of more than 3 syllables, “*in a way that imbues them with a supernatural power, realising something simultaneously familiar and otherworldly*”! I just took it at face value as a masterly made and very interesting piece.

Outside there is another wonderful sculpture on the lawn, a stainless steel Banyan tree from which stainless steel utensils hang like fruit. This is an excellent exhibition, I was amazed to discover that there was nothing I disliked. H&W Somerset is an interesting gallery, well worth a visit - and the restaurant is good too!

On another topic, I have been writing these articles for almost 4 years now and, as much as I have enjoyed it for the most part, I have decided that someone else should have a chance to make comment; so I would like to ask if anyone out there (is there anyone out there I sometimes wonder) would like to write about “stuff” then please get in touch with me. My general thought is that I will carry on until July then step down from the newsletter at the next AGM.

SF

www.hauserwirthsomerset.com



NDA Talk
Wed. 13th April
Martin Brooks

8p.m. at Broomhill Art Hotel

Martin trained at the Royal College of Art where he was awarded the Royal College Drawing Prize and Madame Tussauds Prize for Figurative Art. Subsequently, he has developed his practice into portraiture, his work is characterised by tonal painting with broad open brush strokes. Martin's most recent subjects have included the singer Laura Mvula and the physicist and broadcaster Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE. His paintings have been selected for the Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Exhibition for both 2014 and 2015.

Martin has been involved in a range of projects including painting a series of frescoes in Tuscany, to restoring a James Turrell sculpture in Cornwall. He previously lectured in life drawing and fine art at North Devon College (1988 - 1991). He currently lectures at the University of Plymouth, teaching both life drawing and painting, and in 2013 was presented with the SSTAR Award Winner for Most Inspirational Teaching and Most Outstanding Support across the Faculty of Arts at the University.

As usual Broomhill will serve a specially priced buffet from 7 p.m. for our members and any guests, please remember to book in advance on 01271 850262.

www.martinbrooksart.com



SOUNDMARKS
Sound/art and the significance of place
Hoxton Hall,
London 20 March 2016

Reviewed by NDA member
Paula Newbery

This event explored the significance of place in music and in our collective and individual lives. Over 30 composers, musicians, artists, poets and dancers were involved in what turned out to be a very exciting event.

There was some challenging contemporary classical music, some beautiful Indian music, interesting choral pieces, tabla playing, tap dancing; twenty-three performances in all concluding with an audience participation piece.

The piece I was involved in 'Coasts' set out to explore the meanings of coasts as brinks, margins, borderlands. Three of us - a composer, a poet and myself - walked our beautiful coastline and subsequently, the bleak mudflats of the Thames Estuary. We then responded to each others' ideas over two years resulting in poetry spoken to the composer's music and my piece - a large mixed media textile piece - hanging to the side of the stage.

Paula Newbery

www.hoxtonhall.co.uk



White Moose New Exhibition:
Young Shoots
16th April - 4th June

Part of a three year project, Soil Culture, instigated by Centre of Contemporary Art in the Natural World to promote awareness of soil and to coincide with the 2015 Year of Soil. Artist residences took place across the South West region at various galleries and venues, White Moose being one of these. Now the work from these residences will be on show at White Moose. There will be many artist talks and discussions throughout the show, for more info about these go to the website;

01271 379872

info@whitemoose.co.uk

www.whitemoose.co.uk

Membership renewal 2016

Please note that membership was due for renewal as of 1st January. We have kept the cost to £25 if you pay by cheque, with a 10% discount if you pay via BACS, i.e. £22.50. Any members who had not renewed at the end of March have been taken off our database. For further information please contact our membership secretary Fiona Matthews;
memberships@northdevonarts.co.uk

NDArt Trek Website

The new website has gone live, and it is now possible to make applications on-line. We have had a good few artists apply, but bear in mind that the deadline for entries is 1st May. So please visit the website for more information.

<http://ndartrek.com>



**“Tea and Togs”
Art and Craft Cafe
at The Periwinkle,
45 Fore Street,
Ilfracombe**

Yarn Shop Day

Sat 30th April

This is the third annual Yarn Shop Day which will take place in knitting and craft stores across the country, Tea and Togs @ The Periwinkle is just one of the many stores delighted to be involved.

Ilfracombe Art Trail

7th and 8th May

During the weekend the special guest star will be Sarah Woolfenden, whose beautiful pen and ink drawings of trees are universally popular.

For more details;
01271 855945

www.theperiwinkle.co.uk

**Westward Ho!
Fish Festival
2nd - 5th June**

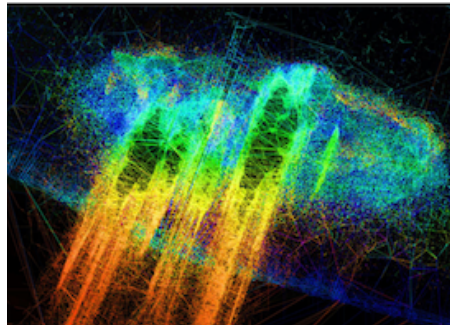
Any NDA members who would like to exhibit at the Holy Trinity Church, Westward Ho! for the Fish Festival 2nd - 5th June, can get further details from Jane Elliot at

Jane@seize-the-moment.net

**Helen Lee
Watercolours
Queens Theatre, Barnstaple
Until 11th April**

Last chance to see an exhibition of watercolours by NDA member Helen Lee.

www.helenlee.co.uk



**Ryoichi Kurokawa
unfold
FACT Liverpool
Until June 12, 2016
Tues–Sun 11am–6pm**

unfold is a major new commission by acclaimed Japanese artist Ryoichi Kurokawa, exploring the birth and evolution of stars in a ground-breaking, immersive audio-visual installation. This unique sensory experience will be part of the artist's first ever solo exhibition in the UK, premiering at FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology), Liverpool.

For the past ten years Kurokawa has excelled in the electronic music and visual arts scenes, mixing video, audio field recordings, graphics and animations to produce stunning audio-visual installations and live performances. His vast time-based pieces create mesmerising environments: spectacular, synchronised experiences where sound and image become a single unit.

Kurokawa's exhibition at FACT will feature the world premiere of *unfold*, which offers visitors an artistic yet scientific representation of how the solar system was born, and how our galaxy might evolve.

This new body of work is the result of a unique cross-disciplinary dialogue between science and art, transforming scientific data surrounding the formation and evolution of stars and galaxies, into sounds, images and vibrations.

www.fact.co.uk



**CALL FOR ENTRIES
Deck the Halls with NDA
The Landmark Theatre
14th Nov 2016 - 9th Jan 2017**

NDA have been offered an exhibition in the Landmark Theatre from 14 November 2016 - 9 January 2017. This is a great opportunity to show your work because this is the first time NDA have exhibited in Ilfracombe. Due to space constraints, it will be a selected show.

If you are interested in submitting work for selection please email up to three images to;

exhibitions@northdevonarts.co.uk

to be received no later than Monday 1 August 2016. The images submitted must be of the work you intend to exhibit. All work must be for sale. Please take into account the Landmark's commission of 25% plus VAT for all works sold.

State clearly within your email the title, medium, size and price of your works, including commission. Delivery will be at 3:30 pm on Monday 14 November, with a preview on Tuesday 15 November. Collection will be at 3:30 pm on Monday 9 January 2017. If your work is selected a form will be emailed to you for return. There will be an entry fee of £10 for selected artists to be made by online transfer to North Devon Arts.



If you would like to submit an image of yours send a jpeg to the editor at the email address below, take into account the elongated format. SF

Jill Rousseau Gallery
3 Cooper Street
Bideford, EX39 2DA

The gallery is located in the centre of Bideford and shows ceramics and paintings by individual artists and makers, all working from studios mainly within the West Country.

We have regular makers of domestic pottery and studio ceramics. We will also show, from time to time, studio pieces by guest makers and artists.

Our paintings are mainly of an abstract or semi-figurative nature; unique designer jewellery is also available.

01237 472442

www.jillrousseaugallery.co.uk
jill@jillrousseaugallery.co.uk

Brook Gallery, Exeter
Norman Ackroyd
North, South, East, West
Until April 24th

Last chance to see the largest exhibition of Ackroyd's printed work outside London and spanning the last 30 years. Elected Senior Fellow of the Royal College of Art in 2000, and in 2007 made CBE for services to Engraving and Printing, Ackroyd is a landscape artist with a deep affinity for the various topographies specific to the British Isles. Weather and water form the basis of his incredibly complex and variable compositions. Depending on the locale, atmospheric conditions and intended mood, his works range from minimalist, nearly abstract impressions, to richly detailed images of specific places and seasons.

www.brookgallery.co.uk

One Day Workshops
at The Phoenix
Gandy St, Exeter, EX4 3LS

Abstracting the Landscape

Thurs 21 Apr 2016

1.30pm - 4pm - £32 (£27.50)

Explore ideas and techniques for making abstract art using colour and composition inspired by your favourite photos, sketches and memories of the landscape. This workshop is suitable for all levels of ability and will also offer an insight into art history and contemporary art. Materials are provided. Tutor Nicci Wonnacott.

For information about these and other courses call;

01392 667080

or go to;

www.exeterphoenix.org.uk

Aesthetica Art Prize 2016
Call for Entries

Attracting thousands of entries from all over the world across a range of media, the Aesthetica Art Prize is a celebration of art from across the globe, and is now open for entries. It offers both emerging and established artists the opportunity to showcase their work to a wider audience, and further their engagement with the international art world. The Judging Panel enhances its position in the industry, bringing together specialists from leading cultural institutions.

The Aesthetica Art Prize is open for entries until 31 August.

To submit, visit;

www.aestheticamagazine.com/artprize

This newsletter is produced by North Devon Arts for information only. NDA does not endorse all of the items listed.

Copy deadline - 20th of the month for the next month's issue.

to email the Editor;

newsletter@northdevonarts.co.uk

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