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# NORTH DEVON ARTS

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July 2017

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## Members' meeting

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**Wednesday, 12th July, 8.00pm  
NDA Annual General Meeting**

As usual the July date is mainly for the Annual General Meeting, a chance to shape the committee and to discuss the future direction of the group.

As you will be aware, earlier in the year it was beginning to look very bleak for the organisation, as most members of the committee were standing down for a variety of reasons and not enough members were coming forward to take up the vacant posts. Luckily, after the May meeting, Eileen Eland was able to get a group together to take over the positions and this proposed new committee will be voted on at the AGM; the suggested new committee members are as follows;

Eileen Eland; Chair  
Minutes Sec; Susan Brooklyn Harris  
Treasurer; Lesley Woodhouse  
Membership Sec; Jann Wirtz  
Exhibitions; Robin Lewis  
Publicity; Alison Nicholson and  
Liz Goodman  
Events; Zsuzsa Reynolds and  
Paula Newbury  
Web admin; Paul Smith  
Newsletter; Tish Brown  
Member; Gill Jones

All these positions will be voted on by the members who are at the meeting so please come along to make your voice heard and to ensure NDA is the way that you, the members, want it to be.

**The meeting starts at 8pm, but if you want the special £6.95 Broomhill buffet at 7pm, you will need to pre-book with Broomhill on 01271 850262**



## Rodin in Paris 2017

My first day in Paris for a few years proved to be very grey and wet, perhaps not what you might expect in early June. I was there because 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the death of Rodin and the Musee Rodin is commemorating this event with a special exhibition in which Anselm Kiefer has installed works in a room alongside the main exhibition responding to the images from a book that Rodin had made in 1914 titled "Cathedrals of France". For me it is a must see, Rodin was one of my earliest artistic inspirations and Kiefer's exhibition at the RA in 2014 (can it really be 3 years ago) was also very inspirational. I was not disappointed, as always Rodin's work is truly magnificent, especially the monumental "Gates of Hell", begun in 1880 and not completed as a bronze at the time of his death. Embedded within the panels and reaching out imploringly are over 200 figures of which some were used subsequently for his iconic works, including "The

## NDA Summer Show

### A Plastic Ocean The Stables, Broomhill Until 2nd September

After a screening of a rather harrowing film, "A Plastic Ocean", earlier this year the committee agreed to theme this year's summer show on the subject of pollution of the seas.

Over 20 members have submitted work to what is a thought-provoking exhibition and it is hoped that we can reach out to various eco groups in the area so that we can interest a wider audience than normally visits our NDA shows.

The over production of plastic and subsequent pollution of the oceans is a very serious topic, especially with our proximity to the sea here in North Devon, and one that deserves publicity and greater understanding of the consequences. I hope that this exhibition will help to make people more aware of the issue, for more information go to;

[www.plasticoceans.org](http://www.plasticoceans.org)

Get involved, it's time to rethink plastic!



Thinker", "The Shades" and "The Kiss". To stand before these gates is to gain an insight into Rodin's oeuvre, though it is far too complex to absorb in one session and needs to be revisited, even if only for a few minutes at a time during a visit to the museum.

Close by the gates is another powerful piece, "The Burghers of Calais" depicting the story of the six burghers who gave themselves up after the English King Edward III had laid siege to the town in 1364 for 11 months, in order to spare the lives of the rest of the inhabitants. The figures are larger than life-size and to make them more impactful Rodin does not set them on a high plinth, but puts them on a low base so that the observer feels almost as they are passing by on the way to their fate (in fact they were spared execution by Edward's wife who feared their death may bring bad luck to her unborn child). Another casting of this piece can be seen by the Houses of Parliament on the banks of the Thames, part of a donation by Rodin to the UK in gratitude for helping to push back the German army from France in the First World War.

There are many other large pieces in the gardens of the museum, including "The Thinker", "The Three Shades" and a mysterious "Balzac". Inside the museum there is a very large collection of his work, again far too much to absorb in one visit, including plaster studies along with bronze castings and works by Camille Claudel, a very talented pupil of Rodin's who became his lover (at 24 years his junior not a good move for either of them) and undoubtedly influenced much of his work.

Also on display for this centenary are parts of Rodin's personal collection of art, antique Roman and Greek marble heads and paintings by his contemporaries, one of whom, Eugene Carriere, was a particularly brilliant painter who developed a monochrome palette, which apparently influenced Picasso during his Blue Period. Carriere was a close friend of Rodin, they shared an interest in the study of the human form and its enhancement through the use of light and shadow and



## Upstairs @ The Boston Tea Party, Barnstaple

NDA member, Robin Lewis has arranged for a small exhibition of his floral themed paintings to go on display on the first floor of The Boston Tea Party, throughout July.

## The Plough, Torrington

**Exhibition of Paintings by  
Ashley Hanson and Sara Bor  
Fri 07 July to Sat 29 July  
Preview: Fri 07 Jul 2017, 6pm**

Sara Bor's work is an intuitive response to a variety of landscapes, coastal Devon and Cornwall, Scotland and the Derbyshire Peak District. Working in acrylics in situ and finished in oils in the studio, her work evolves through a process of building up layers of paint. Sara is an Associate Member of the South West Academy of Art.

Ashley Hanson, a member of the Newlyn Society of Artists, paints the harbour-towns of Cornwall, with their 'intoxicating mix of the natural and the man-made'. In his intensively coloured canvases, working from drawings and memory, he combines imagery, multi-viewpoints and fluid gestural marks.



traded work from time to time. More of his paintings can be seen at the Musee D'Orsay and I would recommend that you look for him on the internet.

Alongside Rodin's personal collection of his contemporaries' art were several examples of his own paintings from an earlier part of his career, before he was recognised as an exceptional sculptor, landscapes perhaps influenced by early

impressionism; one in particular stood out for me, reminding me of Turner paintings or of Degas' mono prints that I had seen last year at MOMA.

Tucked away in a dimly lit corridor between two of the gallery rooms was a glass case of Rodin's erotic drawings, quickly executed in pencil and finished with watercolour later on. These and other drawings clearly demonstrate his skill for capturing movement and form very quickly; it is said that he often had small pieces of clay in his hands and was always making models as he talked.



From the main galleries and gardens I went to the special exhibition where Kiefer had his work installed, including very large scale paintings and drawings layered with cracked paint and his trademark melted lead, the metal of the alchemist, powerfully depicting his version of "The Cathedrals of France". Several vitrines displayed his other theme of large sunflowers and one room contained his oversized "books" made from sheets of lead or plasterboard and covered with layers of paint and drawings, though it has to be said Kiefer's drawing of the female nude is not as good as was Rodin's.

After 3 hours my brain was throbbing, along with my feet, and I reluctantly decided it was time to go. The exhibition is on until October and I am determined to return, this time to also visit Rodin's home at Muedon where much more of his work is on display.

For more on the Rodin centenary celebrations go to;

[www.rodin100.org](http://www.rodin100.org)



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**An Exhibition of Paintings by**  
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## Art Trek Open Studios : 15th September - 1st October

White Moose are delighted to have Hartland based, Grizel Luttman-Johnson as artist in residence during September's Art Trek event. Grizel will be re-creating a part of her home studio in the gallery as well as exhibiting her latest works and the many eclectic mediums she uses to express herself, from drawing, painting, bookmaking, paper-marbling, printmaking and poetry.



Grizel will be holding a journal/bookmaking workshop on Saturday 23rd September, 1.30 - 4.30pm. £25 per person. Numbers limited to ten people max, early booking advisable.

## The Pairadaeza Feast Dyeing & Feast Workshop Day at Broomhill Art Hotel & Sculpture Garden

Broomhill : Saturday 23rd September : 10am - 4.30pm.  
 £60 per person to include all materials.  
 Numbers limited to ten max, early booking advisable.



As part of Art Trek and the White Moose *Pairadaeza* exhibition, Francesca Owen is exhibiting her installation *A Dyer's Kitchen*, she will be holding a natural plant dyeing workshop in the Broomhill Art Hotel's wildflower meadow. Over the summer months, Francesca is cultivating a flower and vegetable mini-garden in their wildflower meadow, using plants known for their dyeing qualities. During the workshop day people will be able to harvest some of these plants and vegetables, learn about natural dyeing processes, create a meal together to eat in the garden and take home their own dyed piece of silk.

### Please contact

[info@whitemoose.co.uk](mailto:info@whitemoose.co.uk) or 01271 379872

**for more details or to book your workshop place.**



## The Brownston Gallery John Hurford - Nature Paintings

**36 Church Street,  
Modbury, PL21 0QR  
7th - 22nd July  
Private View Thursday 6th July**

A glorious exhibition of new work by NDA member **John Hurford**. Full of beautifully drawn flowers, plants, birds and insects, these sumptuous paintings draw you into a world of the magic and wonder of nature.

01548 831338 or email:  
[art@thebrownstongallery.co.uk](mailto:art@thebrownstongallery.co.uk)

[www.thebrownstongallery.co.uk](http://www.thebrownstongallery.co.uk)

## New Venue in Barnstaple

The Plough Art's Centre has started running St. Anne's Chapel in Barnstaple. It's a beautiful, evocative yet intimate space that has a seating capacity of 60 (with movable seats, theatre lights and downstairs workshop space).

They are envisaging temporary exhibitions, masterclasses, talks, day-time workshops as well as live music and entertainment.

Follow the link to a short 10 question survey which will help The Plough with their plans for the venue;

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YX32KCT>



## Jill Rousseau Gallery

**SUMMER SHOWCASE  
3 Cooper Street, Bideford, EX39 2DA  
Until 22nd July**

The summer showcase at "Jill Rousseau Gallery" is proud to present the work of two North Devon makers, Petra Harris, who creates beautiful hand built and smoked ceramic vessels, and limited edition prints in stunning black and white by Emily Garnham-Wright. Evening and Sunday visits to the gallery are available by prior arrangement.

01237 472442  
[www.jillrousseaugallery.co.uk](http://www.jillrousseaugallery.co.uk)  
[jillrousseau@btinternet.com](mailto:jillrousseau@btinternet.com)

## New Artist's Workshop in Heddon Valley

The National Trust have just opened a new artist's workshop in Heddon Valley – the Orchard Workshop – which artists/artisans etc. can hire out for up to two weeks. They have already had some successful residents – a printmaker from Ilfracombe and a green woodworker, and are planning to have a wool worker from Lynton in July. The NT would like to see more artists working there, for more details go to;

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/heddon-valley/features/orchard-workshop](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/heddon-valley/features/orchard-workshop).

## NDA Contacts

**Stuart Fiddes** Chair:

*chair@northdevonarts.co.uk*

**Lesley Woodhouse** Treasurer:

*treasurer@northdevonarts.co.uk*

**Robin Lewis** Exhibitions Organiser:

*exhibitions@northdevonarts.co.uk*

**Vacant post** Publicity Officer:

*publicity@northdevonarts.co.uk*

**Susan Brooklyn Harris** Minutes Secretary:

*minutes@northdevonarts.co.uk*

**Stella Levy** Events Organiser:

*events@northdevonarts.co.uk*

**Stuart Fiddes** Web Admin:

*webmaster@northdevonarts.co.uk*

**Jann Wirtz** Membership Secretary:

*memberships@northdevonarts.co.uk*

**Rinus van de Sande** Broomhill: *info@broomhillart.co.uk*

