



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In line with other FBA societies, the length of this year's exhibition was reduced to 11 days. Although the time frame did not include Easter, as in past years, it did coincide, unhappily, with the London Marathon and a Car Rally in The Mall. This necessarily reduced the number of visitors. Nevertheless, attendances were encouraging, and were reflected in the total of picture sales reaching £73,000, up on last year's sales.

The display of small paintings by members in the North Gallery was especially successful.

Over the years Peter Folkes has worked with me as Vice President and more recently as a member of the Council. Peter has announced his retirement from the administration, and we all wish to thank him for his dedication and support over the years.

Ronald Maddox
RI President.

198th Annual Exhibition at the Mall Galleries



RI Website

As you know the website has been running competitions in a bid to encourage visitors to come to the website and to join the RI Emailing List. If you have published a book or DVD or have anything else that could be given as a prize (in return for a little internet based promotion) please get in touch with Andy Wood the Hon. Secretary at:

Rafters, Old Brickyard, Rye East Sussex TN31 7EE

Email: honsec@RIwatercolours.org

or use the contact form on the website.

Coming Exhibitions

Mid Cornwall Galleries

The RI have been invited to show at this excellent, spacious gallery set in a former Victorian School at St Blazey Gate near St Austell, Cornwall. The exhibition will run from 17 to 31 July. The gallery have asked for two paintings from each member.

Gallery LeFort

Gallery LeFort in Bath is set to hold the next RI exhibition. The Pastel Society have recently shown there. Our exhibition will run from early December through the New Year, full details of submission dates etc. will be sent to members as soon as arrangements have been formalized.

The Sunday Times Watercolour Competition

(formerly Singer and Friedlander sponsored) will return to the Mall Galleries for an exhibition in November. To encourage young painters 16 to 20 a new RI Turner Watercolour Award for Young Artists has been donated. Ronald Maddox will represent the RI on the 2010 judging panel.

Archivist's Report

There continues to be a substantial flow of queries to the archivist. Inquiries come from institutions as well as individuals from all over the world. Recent requests have been from the British Museum, Vancouver Art Museum and an Australian university. Although requests have been made for public access to the records, this is discouraged as some of the archive is very fragile.

At the April Council meeting it was decided that since the RI is short of funds, the archivist should request a donation of £20, payable to the RI, before making a search.

Ian Bliss
Archivist

Awards 2010

Every year various organisations and individuals sponsor prizes to be awarded for what they judge to be the best paintings in several categories at the annual exhibition of the RI (and in one case at the annual exhibition of the RWS). These are this years winners.

Turner Watercolour Award - RI

Bob Rudd RI



Winsor and Newton/RI Award

Naomi Tydeman RI



Turner Watercolour Award - RWS

James Rushton RWS



Stoke Roberts Bursary Award

Elizabeth Nast



W&N Young Artists Award

Alice Hall



The Matt Bruce RI Memorial Award

Jonathon Taylor



The Debra Manifold Memorial Award

Penelope Lee



The Ranelagh Press Award

Gillian Marklew



The Roland Hilder Award

Jonathon Taylor



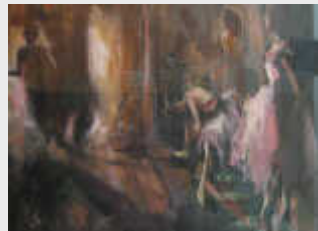
The Arts Club Award

Terry
McKivragan RI



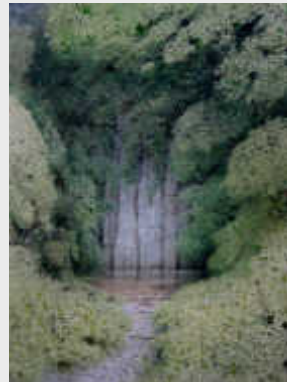
The Donald Blake Award

Penelope Lee



The Buzzacot Award

Kevin Hughes RI



St Cuthbert's Paper Mill Award

Lillias
August RI



The Anthony J Lester Critics Award

Chris
Myers RI RBA



The Frank Herring Award

David Williams



RI Annual Exhibition Awards 2010

A NEW AWARD

Inveterate sketcher Neil Meacher has donated a new prize to be awarded at the Annual Exhibition. The title of the prize is yet to be decided but it will be presented for the best sketchbook in the show.



Member's News

PAUL BANNING, in addition to his duties as our present AGBI steward, has been enjoying 2 weeks painting in Italy, and has accumulated an amazing 50 images for future use!

MOIRA HUNTLY has recently shown her work at the Affordable Art Fairs in London and Bristol, and is currently showing with nine other members of the Pastel Society at Gallery LeFort in Bath. From July to September she will be one of the academicians taking part in "Far and Near" at the Royal West of England Academy in Bristol. It is a busy year for Moira who will also be exhibiting in July with the Royal Society of Marine Artists at the Wykeham Gallery in Stockbridge, and is working on a major exhibition at the Alresford Gallery.

RONALD MADDOX - Stamp of Approval - In this year of the London Festival of Stamps in the series of lectures at the British Postal Museum and Archive. Ronald Maddox has been invited to talk on '*Illustrating Britain and Stamp Design*'.

TERRY McKIVRAGAN, ANNE McCORMACK, PETER WEAVER and **ANDY WOOD** are all showing their work in an exhibition titled - *Landscapes, Seascapes and Cityscapes* at K D Fine Art, The Old Pottery, Compton nr. Guildford through July.

NEIL MEACHER and **ANDY WOOD** are exhibiting at a new gallery in Rye Harbour, Avocet Gallery, during the months of July and August.

MICHAEL MORGAN's book, called simply 'Michael Morgan RI', has just gone into its second edition.

JEAN NOBLE exhibited her work at the Alresford Gallery in May. She was also recently elected an associate member of the SWA.

DAVID POXON has been given full-page coverage in "Art-to-Art Palette Newswire", an Ohio-based electronic and print publication.

ROSA SEPPLE has two exhibitions planned for August. The first is at Fine Art UK, Ledbury from August 6th to 31st. The second is at the Dart Gallery, Dartmouth, from August 14th to 31st.

ROBERT TILLING - two of Bob's monoprints have been included in a new book of poems by Ron Tamplin. The collection includes a group of poems inspired by the legend Tristan and Isolde. The exhibition has toured extensively at several venues including the Barbican Center.

THE ARTIST MAGAZINE - RI members seem always to be in Leisure Painter and/or The Artist Magazine. During May it was the turn of **Lillias August** and **Andy Wood** and the June issue of The Artist magazine featured an RI invasion by **Ian Sidaway, Mike Bernard, and Shirley Trevena**. If you have been interviewed by or have written for a publication due out in the future please let Sandra Walker or Andy Wood know about it.

OBITUARIES

JOHN UHT RI (1924-2010)

American-born painter and sculptor, John was best known for his sympathetic watercolour studies of circus people. He was born in Ohio and studied art at the University of Illinois. He was elected a member in 1976.

RI members fully agree with his daughter Emma, who said, "Everyone who met him was touched by his warmth and personality."

MICHAEL CADMAN RI (1920-2010)

Michael was mainly a landscape painter and a valued member of the RI since 1970. The artist Trevor Heath likened him to Gulley Jimson in *The Horse's Mouth*. Michael died after a long illness in Swanage, Dorset.

JIM IRELAND

Jim was the Owner/Director of the Shell House Gallery in Ledbury. Jim, along with his wife Pat, was a great friend and supporter of the RI.

Guest Column

A View from Greece

by *George Politis RI*

Making a living as an artist in Greece could always be described as difficult (but then this is the case with most artists all over the world...). Things obviously get even worse during the financial crisis that is spreading in Europe.

There are many excellent artists in Greece (or Greeks who either live or exhibit abroad) but not that many top level galleries. So, finding a place to exhibit is not an easy task, as many artists would like to exhibit in the same galleries. The galleries often seem like private clubs, that are very difficult for an artist to reach. On the other hand exhibition and publicity opportunities are given through artists societies and their group exhibitions.

One of the problems I face using watercolour (or watermedia in general) is that it is not respected equally to oils. Greece has no particular tradition in watercolours and this sometimes makes me feel like Don Quixote, fighting the gallery windmills.

Thus, I have tried to pursue my watercolour love and dreams in countries that have a great tradition in watercolours and give due respect to the media. Being a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours and the American Watercolor Society are things that have not changed the way I paint very much, but ... have somehow changed the way people in Greece regard my work.

Having been elected President of SKETBE, the Northern Greece Visual Artists Association (www.sketbe.gr), I try to give more space to watercolour and watermedia artists, and our major annual show in November will feature a full watercolour exhibition in one of the City Galleries in Thessaloniki.

The RI and England have always been focal points in my career. I learnt a lot studying English masters of previous centuries and have visited a lot of watercolour exhibitions in London. Before submitting paintings to the RI for the first time I visited the annual shows twice. No need to say that every time that I visit an RI exhibition, the very moment that I leave the Mall Galleries I want to grasp a brush and a block and paint right away. The RI shows are full of inspiration!

Books Do Furnish A Room

Eric Gill

by **Fiona McCarthy** (Faber & Faber)

A wonderfully detailed and vivid, no holds barred, exploration of the genius of the great English typographer, sculptor and wood engraver Eric Gill. The problems and contrasts of Gill the man and the artist are examined, and his typefaces are an art in itself.

Patrick Procktor Art and Life by **Ian Massey**
(Unicorn Press)

This handsome, copiously illustrated book explores the life

and career of Patrick Procktor RA (1936-2003), the enfant terrible of the 60s art world. The book expands beyond Procktor himself into the world of the 60s and the decades following, dealing specifically with the murder of his friend Ossie Clark, and his own sad death while far gone into alcoholism.

• • • • •

Over the years of Procktor's final decline he became a master of the watercolour medium, which he defended although it was regarded by many of his peers as unacceptably retro. He said it suited his anarchic temperament, being "a gamble, a throw of the dice...".

AGBI

We would like to thank last year's AGBI Steward, Paul Banning, for doing an excellent job. Paul earmarked a percentage of his own picture sales as a donation to the AGBI. Total donations this year came to £7,250. A generous anonymous donor contributed £5,000, leaving a £2,250 contribution by RI members. This figure reflects a response from only one third of our members. While this can of course be laid partly at the feet of the current economic situation, members should reflect on the often life-saving help given to fellow artists by the AGBI.

The present AGBI Steward is Lillias August, please send your donations to her at:

Lillias August RI
AGBI Steward
West Barn
Golden Lane
Lawshall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP29 4PS

REMEMBERING JOHN UHT (1924-2010)

"On the one hand he was just my dad and I loved him; on the other he was so much more than that...", so said his daughter Emma. Her tribute contains only a hint of the true essence of John Uht, an artist of outstanding personal and professional qualities. John's career spanned many important events of the 20th and 21st centuries. He grew up in the American mid-west during the Great Depression, hitchhiked to New York, lived on a houseboat on the Harlem River, sculpting and painting with the few materials he could afford. After moving to England he settled in Weymouth near the sea which he loved.

John's favorite subject matter was circus people and characters from the street. Perhaps he should be best remembered by the words of another artist, Georgia O'Keefe, who said "Time is a circus, always packing up and moving away."

REMEMBERING MICHAEL CADMAN (1920-2010)

Born in Epsom in 1920, Michael Cadman experienced, in his own words, an idyllic childhood. He grew up exploring the countryside and realized at an early age that he wanted to be an artist. With encouragement from his family he subsequently attended the Wimbledon School of Art and the Royal College of Art. From 1947-1969 he was a lecturer and later Head of the Department of Fine Arts at the Epsom School of Art.

Originally working in oils, Michael moved into watercolour from about 1969, painting mostly seascapes and rural landscapes mixed with architectural features and plant forms. He was elected a member of the RI in 1970.

The opening words of the eulogy given at his memorial service were "Michael had a tremendous life. He lived for his art. He was full of knowledge and common sense." Michael said of his own work, "Camouflage, design, colour and structure are all aspects of my compulsive interest and inspiration." These are the values Michael Cadman's paintings reflect, and for which he will be remembered.

RI Historic Letters

The Hon Secretary, Andy Wood, working on behalf of the RI has purchased a collection of 160 letters dating from 1831 that record the beginning of the Society as we know it today. They include the resignation letter(s) of the first secretary W. B. S. Taylor and may shed some new light on what went on when Thomas Maisey succeeded Joseph Powell in the first years of the New Society (eventually to become the Royal Institute) of Painters in Water Colours.

Speaking about the letters, Andy said, "They are far more interesting and important than I had at first realised. There are letters written to four of our past Presidents, letters from the Palace and even one or two Victorian insurance policies - all essential to the archive."

Can You Help?

We are searching for photographs, paintings, engravings and memorabilia relating to our illustrious past Presidents. 2012 is a bicentenary year for the RI. It will be our 200th exhibition and to celebrate we want to mount a small exhibition within the annual show at the Mall Galleries depicting the past Presidents. If you have anything of interest please contact Andy Wood, Tony Hunt or Sandra Walker.

RI Review - Contact Details

Thank you to all those who have sent in their news, reports and comments. - without you this newsletter would not have been possible.

We aim to publish anything that would be of interest to RI members - news, reviews, information, advice, etc.

Publication of the next RI Review will be in the winter of 2011. But please do not wait until then to send in your contribution - do so while it is fresh in your mind. It will be kept on file until the appropriate time.

The Editor
Sandra Walker RI
39 Stewkley Road
Wing
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 0NJ

Phone: 01296 681 009
e-mail: s.walkerhay@googlemail.com

