



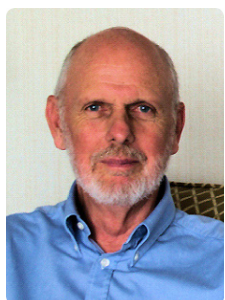
The Sketch

The newsletter of the Cambridge Drawing Society

June 2023

From the President

Paul Rodhouse



Welcome to this 'new look', summer issue of the Sketch, edited by Jackie Duckworth who has now taken over from Colin Barker. Thank you, Colin for facilitating the hand-over and thank you Jackie for the efficient way you have taken up the task!

This year has started well for us with a superb exhibition of artwork at the Pitt Building in the spring, augmented by the new lighting, installed with us in mind by the building's management. We made record sales which, in these difficult economic circumstances, is a source of satisfaction and indeed some relief. But perhaps we shouldn't be surprised, quality is never achieved by accident and it's the hard work and talent of our members that brings such success.

In spite of the closure of the Pitt Building car park and having to receive much of the members' artwork, and return unsold work, at the Cottenham Village Hall the logistical operation went very smoothly.



The sheer joy of helping at Cottenham Village Hall



Loading the white van at Cottenham Village Hall

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A huge success!

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Busy bees



Getting the lighting just right at the Pitt Building

Thank you to Steve Ashman for all the careful planning, to Janice Anderson who took on the work at the Pitt Building at very short notice, to the CDS helpers for their willingness to make it happen and to the Pitt Building staff who went the extra mile to ensure the new arrangements worked for us.



Happy faces at the end of a morning hanging

My best wishes for a happy, creative summer. I very much look forward to seeing the art you produce for our autumn exhibition at the Leys.

Spring Exhibition - A Huge Success!

Steve Ashman



This year's Spring exhibition at the Pitt building during the last week of March proved to be a big hit with our supporters and drop-in visitors. 2,296 people visited the exhibition this year. The exhibition kicked off with the Friday evening Private View, with invited guests enjoying the refreshments and a very buoyant and buzzing atmosphere. There was an outstanding collection of original new works on display from 112 existing members, along with 20 new members.

This was an extraordinarily successful exhibition, with 103 framed works and sculptures sold, representing 27% of all the artworks on display. Total sales receipts for the exhibition, including artwork, greetings cards, book sales and the raffle amounted to £30,664. This is a staggering 75% increase when compared to receipts for 2022, which amounted to £17,542. Analysing all the data available to us, there is no clear explanation for the huge increase in sales. However, we will take it for what it is and hope for a repeat performance next year. Congratulations to all our members who sold work this year, and a big thank you to all of our members who helped with setting up the exhibition, and our invigilators, who had a busy time this year.

Two works tied for the title of Favourite Work as voted for by the visiting public; Winter Crunch, a mixed water media work by Penny Newman, and The Flying Pig, a watercolour by new member Radek Walachnia.

The Friends raffle for a £50 voucher was won by Clive Smith. The public raffle saw £50 vouchers won by Kamila Lembrych-Turek, Laura Bouvet and Sarah Phelan.



The Flying Pig - Radek Walachnia



Winter Crunch - Penny Newman

Autumn Exhibition Dates

The Autumn public exhibition will run from Sunday 22nd October to Saturday 28th October 2023 and will again be hosted by the Leys School in Cambridge. The Private View will be on Saturday afternoon 21st October.



Member Profile - Meet Caroline Forward



I am a self-taught artist living and working in the Cambridgeshire Fens. I draw inspiration from both my local landscape and from my travels especially the rich ecosystems, coastlines and jungle of Costa Rica and Chile. I am fascinated by what has been left behind, preserved or changed through the ages, in both the natural and manmade world, which has born witness to the passage of time and people passing through. It is the weathering, constant change, marks of time and change effected by nature and people that interests me.

Originally a figurative painter, I now use oils and cold wax in a looser, more abstract style, loving the potential for layers, mark making, history and texture.

I joined Cambridge Drawing Society in 2005, Cambridge Open Studios in 2001 and founded OuseLife group of artists in 1997. My work is held in private and corporate collections worldwide, and published in "Portraits for NHS Heroes" and the Cambridge Art Book.



Shorelines III

<https://www.carolineforward.co.uk/>

Rachel Merrick: A Breath of Fresh Air

Fionn O'Beirne



Selfie Mode

We met in a tiny café in Newham, the sun was shining and Rachel was examining her mobile. She looked up and smiled with a rare courtesy: a mix of concern that I'd gone to the wrong place, and a guilt-free reminder I was late. My apology that I'd bumped into friends was accepted as the best of reasons.

Yes, Rachel is American. She's interested and interesting and looking forward to life. She has the blessing of the USA education with Art continuing through to College. The division into either Art, or Science, or at it's worse, either Art or intellect, doesn't apply.

She's settled in Cambridge with her husband and their 18 month old daughter. When she checked out local artists on-line, she found that many were members of the CDS and went to the CDS Exhibition to see what the artists are doing, admiring the aesthetic, appreciating the skill and finding a familiarity in the personal views and places. She joined the CDS.

At the same time, she's establishing herself in Academia having re-located to Cambridge for her Masters at Peterhouse in Gender Studies. She's now completed a PhD in Sociology and her specialism being dating apps. Dating Apps, for the computer-free, is a way of linking up on-line with people looking for 'dates', by checking out their profiles [how they describe themselves] and their photo. If they reply it's because they like how you look and describe yourself. At this point our conversation diverted to the various dating apps from Tinder, Grindr, and others with names like Bumble, or was it Grumble? We talked about the connotations inferred from profiles and photos, and whether they were ironic- dating apps, like the real world, have many nuances.



Shrewsbury Icons

And the obvious question? No, she met her husband in the real world: he's a Cambridge academic too.



Benjamin Studying

You can find more of Rachel's art on Instagram at [@RachelMerrickArt](https://www.instagram.com/RachelMerrickArt), and those who have a purely academic interest can learn more about her dating app research on her website www.drrachelarielkatz.wixsite.com/info

Sunshine and Sandwiches - The Summer Party

Jackie Duckworth



The CDS summer party was a lovely event, with 88 Members, Friends and family attending.

Pamela Barrell's garden was truly beautiful and fortunately very shady! We would like to thank her and her husband again for hosting us.



Tracey Ashman, Steve Ashman and Janice Anderson did a great job organising the delicious food and drink. I am already looking forwards to next year's 'do'!

