



# The Sketch

The newsletter of the Cambridge Drawing Society

June 2024

## From the President

Susan Abbs



Doesn't The Sketch look great? We are so lucky to have Jackie Duckworth as editor.

During the last AGM, a member expressed sadness at the loss of in-person selection at the Pitt Building as it was such a sociable event. I agree, and I do believe CDS should be more than just a society where artists exhibit their work. It should also be a society where we could learn, share and network with other artists and art enthusiasts.

In view of this, I am pleased to say a few of my projects have got off to a good start: There has been much communication on the new CDS WhatsApp group with topics ranging from framing, tools giveaway, sketching and exhibition opportunities. It is

lovely to see some members' artworks too. You can join the WhatsApp group here: <https://shorturl.at/zlr5T> Our new sketch group SketchTogether was launched with a special private view at Heong Gallery where curator Prerona Prasad gave us a special tour of the Issam Kourbaj: *You Are Not You And Home Is Not Home* exhibition. We enjoyed it so much we decided to continue chatting over lunch.



### What's WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is a free messenger app for smartphones. It is great for communicating with groups, it's cheaper than using text messaging, and better for sharing photos. You can also use it on your desktop or tablet once you have a smartphone WhatsApp account.



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Rob Dempsey commented: "I really enjoyed the curator explaining the artwork, she was very insightful and it really added to the experience. Doing some quick sketching was fun, and lovely to chat with other arty folks."



Isabelle Tombs enjoyed it too: *"Painting the paintings! What a wonderful way of spending a Sunday morning in this inspiring exhibition."*



Susan Abbs



Maureen Mace



Rob Dempsey

The sun was out for us at the next SketchTogether at Quayside where we were spoilt for choice in sketch subjects: river, punting, buildings, people, and even paddle boarding. A group of us continued on with lunch followed by a visit to Kettles Yard to see the other Issam Kourbaj exhibition.



Daria Medvedeva



Susan Abbs

I am very pleased that enthusiastic sketcher Maureen Mace has agreed to help me organise more SketchTogethers.

We have some exciting meet-ups coming up: a choir performance at Music in the Park and a Shakespeare Festival rehearsal. Hope to see you there.



Maureen Mace



Maureen Mace



# Spring Exhibition Review

Steve Ashman



The Society's Spring exhibition was held at our usual venue, the Pitt building in central Cambridge, from Thursday 21st March to Wednesday 27th March. This year's exhibition opened in mid-week for the first time I can remember, running for seven days instead of the usual eight. This came about because major refurbishment work was planned for the Pitt building, which restricted the dates that were available to us.

Unfortunately the exhibition did not match the record breaking success for last year, returning to a level more akin to previous years. However, visitor footfall and sales remained buoyant, and once again the Private View on the evening of Wednesday 20th March, had a great atmosphere with 322 guests present. Overall, 2553 people visited the exhibition.

113 members exhibited work in this year's exhibition. Sales receipts (artworks, greeting cards, books and raffle) amounted to £19,981.50.



There was one outright winner from the public vote for favourite work; White Cat, Oil on canvas board, by Monica Alikoviene.

The Friends raffle was won by Robert Tombs (Cambridge). The three winners of the public raffle were Françoise Mouchet-Davis (Saffron Walden), Rosalinde Watson (Whittlesford) and Mr. Collins (Cambridge). All winners received a voucher for £50 to put towards the purchase of a piece of work in one of the next three exhibitions.

## Future Exhibitions - Dates

### Autumn 2024 exhibition - The Leys School

Private View: Saturday 26th October Noon - 3pm

Public exhibition: Sunday 27th October - Saturday 2nd November

### Spring 2025 exhibition - The Pitt Building

Private View: Friday 25th April 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Public exhibition: Saturday 26th April - Saturday 3rd May 2025

## STOP PRESS!

CDS Member Rob Dempsey has a work at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition - do look out for it if you are visiting.

## Views and news - join our private Facebook group!

### Cambridge Drawing Society Members Forum

Private group · 69 members



## SketchTogether

CDS Members and Friends Sketching Group

Sunday 16th June  
3-5.30pm

Music in the Park  
Romsey Rec  
CB1 3DT



See you there!



White Cat  
Monica Ailkoviene



*"The White Cat" painting came about as a playful study of soft edges and composition. I had been experimenting for some weeks with the composition and blurriness of the background. For technical inspiration, I looked to the works of Doris Rose, and at my neighbour's cat as a main subject.*

*I work from memory, imagination, and photographs. While photographs help me stay faithful to dimensions and anatomy, I don't copy them directly. Instead, I use them as loose references, which allows me more freedom to enjoy the process and make creative changes as I paint.*

Monica

<https://shop.vanillawind.com>



## Summer Party - 23rd June

**Susan Abbs**

Summer merriment, good food and drinks, a marquee in the garden ... it is nearly that time of the year again - our annual summer party on 23 June. Exceptional Events Organiser Tracey Ashman says, "This year our host is longstanding member Godfrey Curtis whose home and garden many of us have had the pleasure of enjoying on previous occasions. The garden party is a great art community occasion for members and friends, old and new to meet and catch up." It is indeed our social event of the year and such a great way to get to meet the faces behind the artworks and get to know each other better. I'm looking forward to it. Come say hi!



Cambridge Backs - Godfrey Curtis



## Member Profile - Sue Jones



I am a Painter, Printmaker and Tutor living in Ashdon near Saffron Walden.

Landscape, environment, weather, emotion inform my work. In both paintings and prints I look for a balance between chaos and control, creating a visual diary using the manmade, organic, structured line, and unconscious mark making to create abstract emotional landscapes infused with a sense of mystery, drama, colour and space.

My paintings are mixed media on cradled wood worked over an extended period of time layered until a delicate new and ethereal landscape is achieved appearing to be whisked together but in reality worked over quite a long time scale.

I enjoy the use of multiple layers in my Monotype prints as well. Layering multiple techniques to create hybrid and experimental prints. I enjoy working with found and used objects creating new images from discarded materials, giving them a new life and purpose.

Currently I run a printmaking studio called Stoneman Press near Saffron Walden delivering workshops and courses in a wide variety of printmaking techniques; and I teach Printmaking at Stapleford Granary just outside Cambridge; historically teaching at Gainsborough House, Curwen Print Study Centre, Kettles Yard and many more.

My work is exhibited at Cambridge Contemporary Art and Church Street Gallery, Saffron Walden, and held in private collections.

<https://printsuejones.com/>

*The Deep*



# 2024 Workshops

**Tracey Ashman**



Welcome to another year of Cambridge Drawings Society events for the Summer and Autumn. We have some practical and fascinating talks and very creative workshops coming up.

All Evening events are held at St. Johns Evangelist Church, Trumpington Road, Cambridge; workshops are held at Grantchester Village Hall, Grantchester, Cambridge, 10am-4pm.

## Evening Events

'Approaching a Gallery' by Zuza from CCA  
Gallery  
Wednesday 23rd September, 7.30-9.30pm

'An Artist's View of Anthony Trollope' given by  
Alan Barrell on behalf of his wife Pamela  
Wednesday 23rd October, 7.30-9.30pm

## Workshops

Sunday 22nd September 'Marbled Paper' with  
Sonia Villiers (details below)

Sunday 13th October 'Life Drawing' with Harry  
Gray (details below)

Sunday 30th November 'Geli Print Workshop'  
with Sue Jones

Sunday 8 December 'Still Life' with Jill Ogilvy

## Creating a marble-paper collage - Workshop with Sonia Villiers Sunday 22nd September 10am - 4pm

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

Spend a wonderful creative day making sheets of marbled paper which will be used to compose an A3 collage of a scene of your choice.

Sonia will spend the morning instructing you how to make marbled paper, during which she will provide ideas and inspiration to aid you in creating your own personal image. In the afternoon all your marbled paper sheets will be used to create your own personal artwork.

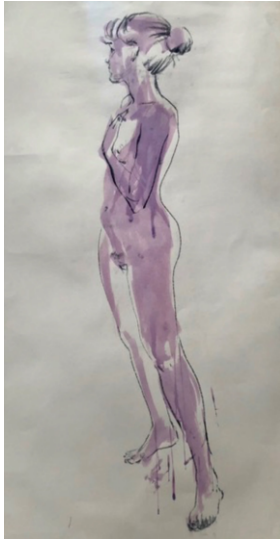


All marbling materials provided but please bring along a piece of A3 cartridge paper stretched on a board to paste your collage.

Please bring a packed lunch and a flask of refreshments. Cost is £40 for Members and Friends; £50 for non members.

To book please contact [tracey.ashman@ntlworld.com](mailto:tracey.ashman@ntlworld.com)





## Life Drawing Workshop with Harry Gray Sunday 13th October 10am - 4pm

Enjoy a full day honing your life drawing skills with Harry Gray, a renowned sculptor in East Anglia. <https://www.harrygray.co.uk>



The day will begin with a warm-up session in which you draw the model in a familiar way, after which there will be a group discussion with Harry about using different approaches. Harry will then demonstrate one of his favourite methods, filling the page with a whole figure and keeping in proportion.

Harry will then demonstrate an advanced technique using a sponge and coloured ink with minimal additional line, as shown by the example to the left.

Please bring your preferred materials, a small sponge and a plastic tray for the ink. Harry will provide latex gloves and ink.

Please bring a packed lunch. Cost is £40 for Members and Friends, £50 for non-members. To book please contact [tracey.ashman@ntlworld.com](mailto:tracey.ashman@ntlworld.com)



## Meta Matters

### Interview with Diane Firth



*It's easy to underestimate how important Social Media is in getting our message across and people to our exhibitions! So we asked our social media secretary Diane Firth to explain.*

*How long have you been running the social media profiles for CDS?*

I took it over in Summer 2021, straight into promoting an exhibition at Addenbrookes and then the Autumn Exhibition, so it got busy really quickly. The previous volunteer was finishing and no-one had taken over, so I thought me learning on the job would be better than risking not having anything. I've been developing my skills and trying to keep up as things change ever since.

### *Why is social media important?*

Social media is a great way to let people know what you're doing and promote any events or activities. Even better, most of the time it's free. It allows you to attract followers who are your biggest fans and add new ones, especially if you use hashtags well on Instagram. However algorithms mean that not all posts go to all of your followers which is why we sometimes advertise to publicise exhibitions. It's still a lot cheaper than traditional marketing though.





### *What kinds of posts get the best response?*

It's amazing how well the behind the scenes posts always do. I add set up posts as part of the build up to exhibitions opening so the artists preparing and framing etc, hanging in day itself, hanging the exhibition etc. A quick reel from a few hanging day images went especially well on facebook this Spring, although apart from the adverts (which were 2 weeks to go and 1 week to go) the public vote winners post got the best result. On instagram the top performer this Spring was the opening day reel featuring Cambridge views and then the 'We're open' reel.

### *How is the job changing?*

It used to all be about posting images, but video is developing rapidly, either from short filmed clips or combined stills. It came first to instagram and I'm sure you will have been seeing a lot more clips. Facebook have their own reels functionality too. I did a short workshop to try and understand it more and then spent the Spring exhibition trying things out, so I'm really pleased that they did well. There is lots more possible though and new functionality comes along all the time.



### *What are the hidden parts of your job?*

I analyse the results after each exhibition in particular, so how each post did for likes, shares, comments, reach etc to see what has worked well, so that can feed into the next show. I also look at the metrics available on meta - so you know that 77% of our followers are women and 23% men, pretty evenly split across the age groups from aged 35. I try to include as many artists as possible in each show's posts though sometimes things just don't fit with the shape or theme that I'm doing.



### *How can we help?!*

There's lots that everyone can do, liking, sharing and commenting on posts as much as possible helps the algorithm to get posts shared more widely, as does how quickly you do it. Also help me provide content, especially in-between exhibitions. My priority is always to promote CDS activities like exhibitions, then what our CDS members are up to. So let myself and Tim Duckworth know of anything you are doing (Tim posts things on the website and I do Social Media posts). Also tag us *#cambridgedrawingsociety* on posts and then I will try to share things whenever I am able (really important with something like Open Studios).

Finally, please let us have Autumn exhibition images for publicity. We don't need them for selection, but I really need them to put posts together, so please send them when asked.