

12
November
2024

Tarporley Art Appreciation Group

Hello to all fellow art appreciators,

It was great to welcome three new members to our group this month – Sue, who produces the monthly local u3a newsletter, Penny and Sue. And it was also good to see a few members who haven't been able to come along as much as they would like.

Ceramics was the subject of our meeting in November. The time and range of ceramic work is simply amazing. This 4 min video gives an interesting introduction to such a huge subject area. Director of the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts Paul Greenhalgh invites us to connect with the emotional resonance of ceramic, exploring the beauty and mystery of an art that belongs everywhere and to all people.

https://youtu.be/t5lXnjNcwXA?si=jegOWY8kj0bi_EJD

This 24-minute video was not shown at the meeting (I was having my usual difficulty in getting videos to show on the projector screen, but we did find a way in the end). It's a montage of different ceramic techniques by different Singapore based artists.

https://youtu.be/GYS5Q3qgkw8?si=LqZMkNWSmz_4U2o



This Sleeping Lady was chosen by Jan. This work pre-dates Stonehenge and the Pyramids! It is called the **Sleeping Goddess of Malta** and was discovered in 1902 during an excavation of a subterranean burial chamber used between 4000 – 2500BC. They have never found anything like this object before. It is about 8 inches long, has a slight reddish colour and it looks like she is wearing a pleated skirt.

The ceramic art of local ceramicist Louise Condon was chosen by Jill who couldn't come along to the meeting today. The business is called **The Ceramic Botanist** and is based in Chester.

'The pieces I create are tactile and capture the life, structure and form of the plant at that particular point in its life span.'





I researched American ceramic artist **Jennifer McCurdy** maybe 10 years ago, but I still love her delicate and swirling style. Her work is so skilled especially as I now know how changeable and unpredictable clay can be.

She uses fine white porcelain and curves it into incredibly slender works.

This link takes you to her website.

<https://www.jennifermccurdy.com/currentwork.shtml>

This next link takes you to a 4 min video showing how she makes this type of vase.

<https://youtu.be/VN75zhvEr38?feature=shared>

Audrey choose **Bernard Leach** and has researched quite a bit about him. He was a British Potter and art teacher regarded as the father of British Studio Pottery. He was born in Hong Kong but lived his first ten years in Japan, studied under a Japanese potter and set up his pottery in Britain with his Japanese friend and business partner. He began producing tiles for the tourist trade to help his finances and taught student apprentices from all over the world. The picture on the right is from when Audrey visited the pottery when the lead potter was Jack Doherty. Apparently Sea Salt sell modern Leach pottery.



This is a 3 minute black and white clip of Leach in his studio.

<https://youtu.be/lxpcUnquXJI?si=SNiSOvaLsYaEn3j8>

Elizabeth shared an image of a favourite ceramic that she has, on the right, purchased from the Bernard Leach pottery. She loves the simple lines and sparse decoration of the jug.



Marie brought this delicate piece of Dresden ceramic work in. It was a present for her mum bought in France on Marie's first holiday abroad. The lace is amazingly intricate – we thought that it was probably lace covered in plaster or clay..?

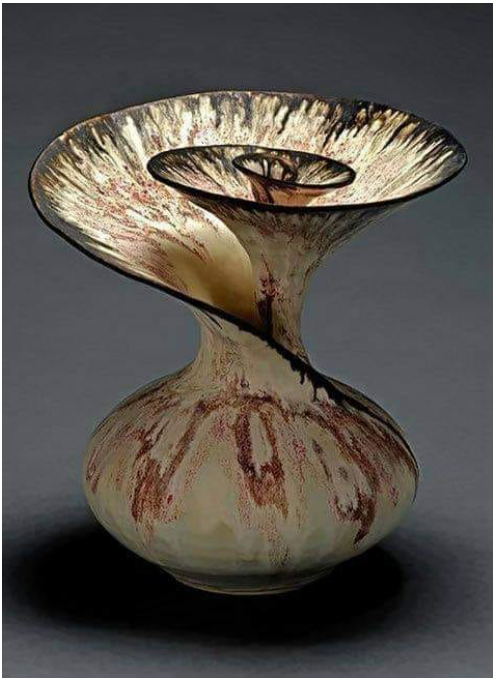
Catherine couldn't make it today but she sent in an interesting piece below made by a ceramacist based in Stoke on Trent. Philip Hardaker.



Louise found a couple of ceramic artists that she liked – Christopher David White and his fantastic clay creations! Above and to the left. We didn't show this one on the left but it is quite fantastical and Louise's favourite I think.

Have a look at his work.

[Christopher David White and His Fantastical Clay Creations | Designs & Ideas on Dornob](#)



Louise was also so impressed with these gorgeous organic forms. Quite stunning aren't they? Link to Susan Anderson.

<https://www.susanandersonceramics.com/our-story>

Sue brought in a small coffee cup but unfortunately I didn't take a photo of it. She was wondering about the differences, similarity and cross over between artists and designers. For example Bernard Leach, Clarice Cliffe or Susie Cooper didn't make all the work sold in their name and their studios.

Thank you very much to everyone but particularly those who sent in or brought in ceramic art and shared their interest.

Next Meeting 10 December 2024 at 10 – 11.30

For our next meeting we are having a calming pre-Christmas

Slow Looking Exhibition. I am looking forward to this very much and hope that you can join us.

Please bring £10 to the December meeting or arrange for me to receive it so that we can cover the room fees for the 10 meetings that we will have next year. There are a few people who owe £5 for the latter half of this year and I will contact you separately.

January meeting – I will be booking The Coast in Tarporley for 12.00 – 14.00 on the 14th January 2025. There will be a quiz mostly based on our meetings and newsletters from this last year.

Exhibitions update from Jan

Castle Parks Art Centre – Frodsham

Annual Open Exhibition Until 21 December

Grosvenor Museum – Chester

The Romance of Ruins – the Etchings of George Cuitt Until 12

January 2025

Discover the picturesque etchings of Chester's greatest Regency artist. This exhibition draws extensively from the Grosvenor Museum's art collection.

Object of the Month Talk – 5 December 1pm – 1:30pm

This month's talk will focus on a couple of winter-themed linocuts from our collection by the artist Thelma Sykes, a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists



Art School 2024 – Chalk Pastel Drawing 21 November @ 7.15pm - 8.15pm £6

From August to January, enjoy Art School sessions inspired by "The Romance of Ruins – the Etchings of George Cuitt" exhibition. Join us once a month to explore our collections through a different lens and learn some technical artistic skills along the way. Every month, check for dates.

Gorstella Gallery

November 2024 Exhibition 16 & 17 November 11am – 5 pm

Featuring work by; Anne-Marie Butlin, Kate Evans, Andrew Hood, Anita Klein, Viki Metzler, Clare Shaughnessy, Malcolm Taylor, Matthew Wood, Annie Williams
Their website says - *More information coming soon!*

Warrington Museum & Art Gallery

19 October 2024 - 19 January 2025;

The Worst Records Covers In The World

A hilarious collection of over 650 dreadful record sleeves Steve Goldman has collected.

Ian Irvine: Visual Cocktails

Ian is an experienced artist, born in Liverpool in 1958. The majority of his work consists of screen prints and collages. In fact, the screen prints are essentially collages transferred into another medium. They are influenced by some of the Pop artists of the 1960s and 70s such as Robert Rauschenberg and Richard Hamilton.

Lady Lever Art Gallery

Bedazzled Until 26 January 2025

This exhibition shines a spotlight on the lasting appeal of beaded and sequinned dresses and their place in fashion history.

Williamson Art Gallery - Birkenhead

Until 21 December 2024;

Into The Wyld

A festival of contemporary art exploring the continuing legacy of the medieval poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and its unique connection to the Wirral.

Pete Hoida

An exhibition of work by Birkenhead-born artist Pete Hoida (1944-2023).

The paintings of Birkenhead-born Hoida are known for strong colour relationships alongside tonal subtlety and a unique approach to textures.

Tabitha Jussa: Match Day



To continue the legacy of Going To The Match On Tour, we are delighted to exhibit a selection of works from the photographic series Match Day, by Tabitha Jussa. Match Day documents the journeys of fans around the home fixtures of Liverpool FC, Everton FC and Tranmere Rovers.

Walker Art Gallery & All Liverpool Museums

Metamorphosis: Johnny Vegas and Emma Rodgers at the Walker Until 31 Mar 2025

Comedian Johnny Vegas rediscovers his artistic talent in this new collaboration with internationally recognised sculptor Emma Rodgers.

Stitching Souls: Threads of Silence Until 2 March 2025

The display explores Liverpool's colonial legacies, exploring the city's role as a major UK port during the 19th century

Conversations Until 9 March 2025

This ambitious exhibition brings together work by nearly 40 leading Black women and non-binary artists who are transforming contemporary British art today.

The Whitworth Art Gallery – University of Manchester

The 'Death' of the Life Room until 12 January 2025

Set against the backdrop of the 1950s this collection display highlights the challenges faced by the life room tradition from the mid-20th century.

Alison Wilding: Sculptor's Drawings Until 12 January 2025

Shirley Craven Until 11 May 2025

An exhibition of vivid, colour-filled textiles by post-war designer Shirley Craven

Barbara Walker Being Here Until 26 January 2025

The first major survey exhibition by British artist Barbara Walker (b.1964, Birmingham, UK), charts her compelling figurative practice from 1990s to today.

Being Here presents over 70 extraordinary artworks, including rarely seen paintings, her Turner Prize nominated drawing series *Burden of Proof* (2022-23), and a newly commissioned printed wallpaper *Soft Power* (2024).

Jakkai Siributr There's no Place 15 November 2024 – 16 March 2025

This autumn, the Whitworth presents *There's no Place* a significant new exhibition by acclaimed Thai artist Jakkai Siributr. Building on the Whitworth's long history of radical global textile exhibitions, this show will offer visitors an intimate and breathtaking look at one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary artists on his first UK exhibition.

Manchester Art Fair at Manchester Central 15-17 November

Factory International

David Hockney: Bigger & Closer (Not smaller & further away) 10 December 2024 – 25 January 2025

Tickets now on sale

The Lowry

Local / National / International 23 November 2024 – 16 February 2025

Aliyah Hussain, Paloma Proudfoot, Renee So

A trio of solo exhibitions from three artists who work in ceramics.

These exhibitions champion ambitious work being made in the North of England as well as bringing exceptional artists to Salford for the first time, revealing the similarities and overlaps in their practices. For each artist, ceramics are used as a vehicle for imaginative storytelling, constructing contemporary narratives through objects, tableaux and immersive environments. Feminist ideas recur throughout, with the artists challenging gender norms and representation in engaging, seductive and sometimes humorous ways.

Aliyah Hussain / She was waiting for her roots

Hussain works across ceramics, sound and collage, drawing on themes found in feminist science fiction and speculative storytelling. She makes expressive sculptural objects that can be reconfigured and remixed for different spaces. Inspired by Anne Richter's 1967 science fiction short story *The Sleep of Plants*, Hussain will create an immersive environment exploring plant horror, transformation and feminist refusal. Drawing on connections to the rural landscape of Todmorden and her interest in botany and plant folklore, creeping ceramic vines, fronds, roots and curious receptacles will test and penetrate the boundaries of the gallery. An ambient soundtrack will fill and reverberate throughout the space, made by placing contact microphones directly onto clay sculptures.

Paloma Proudfoot / Lay Figure

Proudfoot applies her knowledge of clothes patternmaking to inform new and unique ways of constructing her complex ceramic friezes and sculpture. For *Lay Figure*, Proudfoot draws on research into the gendered history of medicine, specifically the treatment of female patients at the Salpêtrière Hospital in 19th century Paris. This was the epicentre for the study of hysteria, using artistic mediums such as plaster casting, photography and sound to diagnose, demonstrate and treat symptoms. Questioning the perceived reliability of these materials, Proudfoot will present an expansive ceramic and mixed media sculptural relief and wearable sculptures. Two performances will bookend the exhibition, made in collaboration with artist and choreographer Aniela Piasecka and composer Ailie Ormston.

Renee So / The Essence

So engages with traditional craft forms such as ceramics, tiled wall works, stained glass and hand-woven textiles, weaving historic influences through a contemporary feminist lens to create playful and timeless sculptures. In this exhibition, So presents a series of oversized perfume bottles, drawing on the design cues that modern perfume bottles take from their predecessor, snuff bottles, which originated in Qing dynasty China and today can be found in the collections of many Western museums. In a new body of work, So responds to an image of women playing cuju, an ancient Chinese ball game which predates football; the image is recreated by So in a new tiled mosaic and a 'magic mirror' - an optical phenomena that was a popular item in China during the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 24 AD), the same period as the earliest documentation of cuju.

Ty Pawb – Wrexham

The Ty Pawb Open 2024 16 November 2024 – 8 February 2025

Oriel Glasfryn

Gaia: female artists and their connection to mother earth Until 23 February 2025

Winter Exhibition 2024 13 November – 15 December 2024

Based in Glasfryn Hall will showcase a variety of work from Andrew McCutcheon, Angharad Taris, Anwen Roberts, Gail Jones, Lorna Bates, Rachel Stewart, Rosie Farey, The Whittlings and Louise Schrempft.

Ruthin Craft Centre

Until 12 January 2025

Basketry: Rescuing, Reviving, Retaining

Traditional Baskets in the British Isles

Eleanor Glover Hidden in there somewhere – a retrospective

Wood is artist/maker Eleanor Glover primary material, but others are used to reinforce ideas expressed.

Narrative elements and metaphor develop through the process of making, and influences are drawn from her own experiences, observations of life around her, poetry and literature.

David Nash Wooden Boulder

The *Wooden Boulder* is one of David Nash's most celebrated series of works. It began in ^[1]_{SEP}1978 when he was asked to remove a ^[1]_{SEP}damaged oak near his home in Blaenau Ffestiniog. From the felled tree he carved a spherical shape and decided to take it to his studio using the nearby stream. There began an ongoing relationship, plotting and drawing its journey and disappearances in the river Dwyryd for over 40 years.

Elin Hughes Ceramic Portal

Originally from Dolgellau in Gwynedd, Elin graduated from the BA Ceramics degree at Cardiff Metropolitan University in 2019. In 2023 she was awarded a 'Create' grant from the Arts Council of Wales to undertake an 18 month apprenticeship with wood-firing potter Simon Levin in Illinois, USA. This collection of vessels documents work from her final months in the States.