

The **Maclaurin** Winter 2024
Entry to the gallery is free



The Maclaurin Gallery Magazine
Published by Friends of the Maclaurin

EDITOR'S NOTE

The recent death of Celia Stevenson Judge, Trustee and Vice Chair of the Maclaurin Trust, has left a huge gap in both the operation of the Gallery and the activities of The Friends. Celia acted as a conduit between the two. She was tireless, full of energy, ideas for exhibitions and events. There really was no one quite like her! You will find a warm tribute in this magazine from our Chairman, John Walker.

It is an honour, if somewhat nerve wracking, to be entrusted with overseeing the publication of the Winter edition of The Maclaurin Magazine, an award winning publication which Celia edited so skillfully over many years. A new permanent editor will be appointed in due course.

Over the last few years we have been pleased to see so many prestigious groups and individuals approaching the Gallery with a view to exhibiting. James Fullarton and Charlie Jamieson to name but two. Celia would have loved the recent SSA exhibition with its many diverse entries including new graduate work, indeed, as a member of the programme Committee she helped to set this on course.

For the first time the SSA elected to come to Ayr to hold its annual open entry exhibition. This was a somewhat daring break with tradition as it is usually in the RSA building in Edinburgh. The work has been very well received by the local community, both artists and non artists. There have been many visitors from outwith the area. In future years it is the intention of the Society to attempt to spread its influence throughout Scotland and to have less of an Edinburgh focus. Thanks are due to the SSA President, Vasile Toch, for taking the time to give two free guided tours of the Exhibition.

The months of September and October were busy in Ayrshire. The site saw three very popular exhibitions. In the Gallery the annual Save the Children Exhibition took place. This very worthy charity event was supported by artists from all over Ayrshire, The Maclaurin Trust and South Ayrshire Council. Ayr Photographic Society held its annual exhibition in Gallery1, not its usual time of year, but an exhibition of outstanding quality enjoyed by everyone.

Visitors to South Ayrshire Council's Rozelle House also enjoyed a wonderful show from the Glasgow Print Studio. Rozelle house is hosting their current exhibition, 'Converge, Diverge', which celebrates the work of Ronnie Rae and Gordon Cockburn until January 28th. Both of these artists have a long connection with the site and with Ayrshire.

We begin the New Year at the Maclaurin with the very popular annual Ayr Sketch Club Exhibition, which is always a treat on the dark winter days. We have many exciting exhibitions to look forward to as the year unfolds.

Enjoy the Magazine.

Dianne Gardner



Who's who at Maclaurin

Patron

Peter Howson OBE

Trustees

John Walker

Chair The Maclaurin Trust

Nicholas Kilpatrick

Michael Clark

Dianne Gardner

Curators

Dianne Gardner

Head of Programming

Michael Clark

Alan Moir

Fiona Robertson

Friends of the Maclaurin Committee

Alan Moir

Chairman

Douglas Gulland

Treasurer

David Reader

Membership Secretary

Lorna Roseweir

Fiona Robertson

Dorothy Fisher

Sandra Ratcliffe

Eleanor Robertson

Pat Coli

South Ayrshire Council at The Maclaurin Art Gallery

Keir Murray

Fraser MacDonald

Erin Crossan

SAC Holder for Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs

Clr Alec Clark

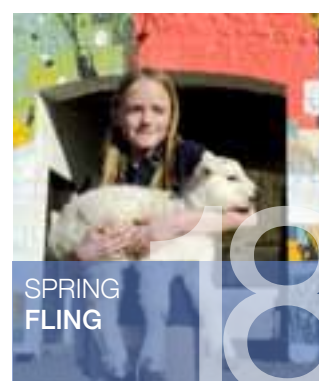
The Maclaurin Trust is a Scottish Charity No:- 12798



Front Cover "Still Life with Flowers" by Jannette Coughtrie

Magazine design by John MacDonald

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MACLAURIN HISTORY

The trust was founded as a bequest from the late Mrs Mary Ellen Maclaurin, who, in her will, provided that curators appointed within the Will should, within five years of her death, build an art gallery and/or museum in Ayr to be called The Maclaurin Art Gallery in memory of her husband.



OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND

Monday to Saturday
10am - 5pm
Sunday 12 noon - 5pm

CONTACT US

The Maclaurin Art Gallery
Rozelle Estate,
Monument Road,
Ayr, KA7 4NQ
t: 01292 443708

Celia Stevenson Judge



You may have first encountered Celia on television or radio. Her show, "What's your problem?" sought to resolve difficult questions of the day and to provide a solution.

She may have been much better known to you as a friend, or family member or as a loving Mum looking out for you at every turn of life or as a doting Grandma.

Her commitment to family and the wider community as a colleague or friend was certainly one of her many hallmarks.

At her funeral celebration much was said as we shared stories of a life well lived and a lady well thought of, a star of stage and screen as they say.

Celia was a problem solver. Her tenacity and commitment to the Maclaurin Trust sometimes stretched her skills and indeed patience to the limit but never going over the edge. 'What's your problem?' in the nicest of senses was her watchword here at the Maclaurin. If we had one she would solve it

I know I speak for many when I say we will miss Celia very much. Not only for her industry but her friendship and support. As Editor of this award-winning magazine or as Vice Chair of the Trust and supporter of the Gallery her work will not easily be forgotten and quite rightly we will turn round and say "I wonder what Celia would think of that".

John Walker



THE MACLAURIN COLLECTION RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Ken Currie

The well known Scottish Artist Ken Currie has generously donated three pieces to our permanent collection. *Cries and Whispers* are three monotypes based on a film

still from Ingmar Bergman's *Cries and Whispers*. They are portraits of Liv Ullmann in her role in that film. They were recently shown in The Glasgow Print Studio and An Lanntair in Stornoway



"Cries and Whispers" by Ken Currie

Robert Hilton Eeles

Robert Hilton Eeles attended Glasgow School of Art. He was a main prizewinner at his graduation show in 1973 at which one of his works was purchased by Richard Demarco and another by Celia Stevenson Judge who has donated it to the gallery. Robert also won a main prize at the last Maclaurin Open Exhibition.



"Listening" by Robert Hilton Eeles

JOHN BYRNE

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of the Scottish painter and playwright, John Byrne. A long and illustrious career began at Glasgow School of Art in the 1950s. This was followed by a spell in Italy and work in television followed by a post in a Paisley Carpet factory as a designer. He had briefly been an apprentice in the colour mixing room of the same factory before Art School.

John Byrne was made an RSA in 2007. The Maclaurin Gallery holds one of his works in the Permanent Collection.

"Twa Dugs" by John Byrne

The first solo show of his paintings was held in The Third Eye Centre on Sauchiehall Street in 1975. It was not a great success and it was sixteen years before he exhibited again. Throughout the whole of his career he continued to work away in his studio and gradually became a well established artist. His involvement with the theatre and with theatre design led him to write his own material.

Byrne's writing soon became well known. Candy Kisses was broadcast on television as was The Slab Boys. His explosively funny Tutti Frutti was a six part series in 1987. In 1992 he wrote a play about the sad case of the two Kilmarnock painters, Colquhoun and McBride, who shot to fame in London in the 1930s but were soon forgotten and died in poverty in the 1950s.



SAVE THE CHILDREN ART EXHIBITION 2023

The annual Save the Children Art Exhibition held in the Autumn was a great success. 80 works were sold raising a gross total of just over £27,000. The raffle for Helen Turner's work, *The Yellow Pepper*, was enthusiastically supported raising a total of just under £2,000.

The winner of The Grant People's Choice Award was John Macdonald for his impressive work, *Ness Glen*. The Children's Competition, sponsored by The Friends of the Maclaurin, was won by Ellie and Oliver Graham.



Ellie and Oliver Graham



John Macdonald with The Grant People's Choice Award

MACLAURIN ART GALLERY PROGRAMME WINTER INTO SPRING



"Furry Animals" by Anne Hay, Ayr Sketch Club

Ayr Sketch Club

Ayr Sketch Club will hold its Annual Exhibition from **Saturday January 28th - to Thursday March 7th**. This is always a very well attended exhibition and you will find a feature on this historic club within this issue of the magazine.

Peter Howson and Frank McFadden

Our Patron, Peter Howson, is mounting a major exhibition with his colleague Frank McFadden across four galleries. This will run from **Saturday 30 March - Sunday 2 June**. It follows on from his recent major exhibition in the City Art Gallery in Edinburgh. As always we will see some exciting work and a few surprises- who can forget that amazing print of David Bowie at the last exhibition.



Painting by Frank McFadden



AYR SKETCH CLUB

Sunday 28th January to Thursday 7th March 2024

Ayr Sketch Club was one of the first groups to exhibit in the newly created Maclaurin Galleries in the 1970s. The Annual Exhibition continues to this day and is one of the most popular events in the gallery calendar.

The Club was founded in 1901 by James MacMaster, a professional artist living in St Leonards Road in Ayr. He invited eight individuals to form the club and they drew up a constitution which included the words, *"open to gentlemen who are artists or amateur artists, resident in the County of Ayrshire."* It was agreed that such gentlemen should be required to submit two original sketches in colour in order to be accepted as members.

There is no record as to how the name Ayr Sketch Club was adopted, but the group referred to themselves by that name from the beginning. The first meeting was held in the Studio of James Thompson in Academy Street. The President was James Macmaster and James Thompson was the Vice-President.

At the Club's AGM in 1907, held in premises above Fleury Meng which was a bakers and

confectioners in Newmarket Street, it was proposed and agreed to allow lady members to be admitted. The club set up a ladies section, the first women to be elected were Mrs I Rose and Mrs Laura Loudon, nee Bennie, both from Ayr. In 1909 the ladies were fully incorporated into the club. Barbara Borland became the first female President, but not until 1981!

The club went from strength to strength, regular meetings with critical appreciation, lectures and expeditions. The decorative arts and crafts featured in the club's early exhibitions. During the two World Wars meetings were suspended and the membership shrank. After World War II the membership rose and annual summer exhibitions were held in the Carnegie Library.

In 1977 the exhibitions moved to the newly converted Maclaurin Galleries and have remained a feature of the exhibition programme ever since, attracting a large number of visitors to the gallery. The Maclaurin Gallery looks forward to welcoming Ayr Sketch Club once again in 2024.

Janette Coughtrie is the President of Ayr Sketch Club and, like so many members, she has had a wide ranging and interesting career, eventually returning to painting. Janette joined the club in 2001 as an artist member and over the last 22 years she has enjoyed the camaraderie as well as the critical appraisal and the demonstrations at the club by other artists.

After studying at Glasgow School of Art, Janette became a teacher, quickly moving into Art Therapy in Hospitals. She realised that she had an aptitude for working with teenagers and eventually joined the Youth Training Scheme as a tutor teaching Industrial Sewing Skills in an area of mass unemployment. An HND in Garment Technology Design and Management Skills helped her to set up her own design business making and designing formal wear. Joining Ayr Sketch Club gave her the opportunity to reconnect with painting.

This story is typical of many Ayr Sketch Club members whose varied experiences of life and work bring something special to the club.



Ayr Sketch Clubs first exhibition in the Maclaurin in 1977



"Winter Sunrise" by Colin McKay



ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Sunday 28th January to Thursday 7th March 2024

Spread across three galleries this year Ayr Sketch Club aims to show an eclectic mix of original work by established and new members.

Alan Webster, a fairly new member of the club, comments, "Ayr Sketch Club is a great organisation providing the artist with exposure to evaluation, learning, and like minded camaraderie. To fellow painters and drafters I would totally recommend joining."

New artist member, Fiona Ritchie comments, "As a new artist member of Ayr Sketch Club I have really been impressed by the quality and variety of

artists who come along to demonstrate and talk to us. I have learned a great deal already and it is certainly moulding my artistic journey".

Ayr Sketch Club was established in 1901 with the intent to share artistic ideas and to showcase the talent of local artists. The club has never wavered from its original intention, critical appraisal and art education. Its current membership of around 47 artist members and 15 lay members ensures a diverse approach to painting.

You can join the club as an artist or as a lay member. Those applying for Artist Membership can expect a brief appraisal of their work before election. The club is open for any member of the public who has an interest in the arts to join as a Lay member. Meetings are held in Alloway Village Hall on a weekly basis between September and April with occasional events scheduled during the holidays.

If you are interested in joining the club details can be found on the Ayr Sketch Club website www.ayrsketchclub.com.



"Woods at Logie Kirk" by Fiona Acamovic



"End of the Day" by Pat Candlish



"Rampage" by Bobby Johnstone



"Great Mell Fell Ullswater" by Billy McMenemy

PETER HOWSON AND FRANK MCFADDEN

Peter Howson

Peter Howson is one of his generation's leading figurative painters. Much of his familiar work takes inspiration from the streets of Glasgow. He is known for his profound and penetrating insight into the human condition, portraying the mighty and the lowly.

His experience of abuse, whether self-inflicted or otherwise, has moulded his view of the world and given him an affinity with those individuals who are seen as somehow, 'on the edge,' as he describes them. His work speaks for those on the margins of society, reminding us that they exist.

In 1992 he was commissioned by The Imperial War Museum to record the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. He was appointed official British war artist for Bosnia in 1993. Both were harrowing experiences and had a very detrimental effect on his fragile mental health. In 1996 he was awarded Doctor of Letters by The University of Strathclyde.

Whilst in the depths of despair and his life at a very low ebb, Peter reached out to God and this changed his whole perspective on life. He has produced many works tracing his religious journey. He continues to respond to

contemporary events in his own unique way. The Covid 19 Pandemic and the ongoing wars provide a multitude of themes. He is prolific, tireless, needing to communicate his view of the world, to express his feelings.

A new book, 'Peter Howson: A Retrospective' is the first major statement about his work for almost twenty years. It was published to accompany a major retrospective held in Edinburgh last year.

Authors David Patterson, Matthew Flowers and Susan Mansfield



AT THE MACLAURIN ART GALLERY

Saturday 30 March - Sunday 2 June

Frank McFadden

Frank McFadden is now one of Scotland's leading artists, but the road to success has not been an easy one. He was born in Glasgow in 1972 and studied at The Glasgow College of Building and Printing before beginning a career as a graphic artist. His work can be found in many galleries and collections.

During the nineties he struggled with addiction which eventually prevented him from finding work and personal fulfilment. He sold The Big Issue and continued to produce art work.

He describes the time following his addiction as, 'coming back to life'.

Frank McFadden's apprenticeship with the

renowned artist Peter Howson has been a significant part of his artistic journey. He took a chance, approached Howson in a cafe and arranged a viewing of his work. Howson was impressed by McFadden's style and skills and took the younger artist under his wing.

McFadden worked hard to gain success and to overcome his addiction. Encouraged by Howson he has used his difficult experiences to create some of his most thought provoking work.

McFadden and Howson still share a studio and have exhibited their work together a number of times both in Scotland and abroad. We are delighted to welcome both artists back to the Maclaurin Gallery.



THE PROGRAMME AT ROZELLE HOUSE

Converge, Diverge

The exhibition 'Converge, Diverge' featuring the work of Cockburn and Rae continues until late January. The exhibition, guest curated by Robert de Mey, has two new publications, a catalogue and a monograph written by the curator. There is also an edition of prints by each artist. The exhibition will tour to **The Gracefield Arts Centre** in Dumfries and **The Baird Institute** in Cumnock.

Sir William Gillies 2 March-13 June

In early March a new exhibition will open at Rozelle featuring the work of the renowned Scottish painter, Sir William Gillies. This is mounted in partnership with The Royal Scottish Academy. Rozelle House is the first leg of a two year Scottish Tour.



*Sir William Gillies RSA,
Two Jugs, Flowers and Conch Shell*

THE LEMOND GALLERY

Ken Lemond will be talking to **The Friends** at The Maclaurin Gallery on

Thursday 22nd February, at 7 pm.

Susan Lemond will also be there to answer any questions on setting up and running an art gallery



From the outside, the substantial sand stone villa in a leafy road of a Glasgow suburb gives no hint of the art treasures which are regularly displayed within. Not a sign, not a banner to be seen but this has not stopped the Lemond Gallery in Bearsden becoming arguably the most successful privately owned gallery in Scotland.

Ken and Susan Lemond started their business almost 24 years ago, starting with very small exhibitions, literally in their front room, and selling art on line. Gradually it has grown to be the thriving business it is today. The whole downstairs space, including a large and light extension into their rear garden is given over to two major shows a year, one in summer and the other pre Christmas, with around 600 paintings by many of Scotland's top artists on show. Throughout the year there are also solo or small group shows. Work can be viewed by appointment if necessary and there are always opening events with Ken and Susan on

hand to discuss the artists and their works. It is all very relaxed.

The impetus to set up a gallery was when Susan was seeking to develop a business which she could combine with bringing up a family. It was successful from the start. *When we started out, some of the paintings were being sold before we even had a chance to put them on line and by 2008 we were building a large extension to the house to accommodate the gallery collection.*

Initially the Lemond Gallery became known by word of mouth. Over the past few years social media and direct advertising have been very important means of promoting the colourful exhibitions. Ken and Susan have witnessed the changing taste in painting styles, with younger buyers now looking for more modern and contemporary works. Ken heads to London when they are less busy in Glasgow to check out the art scene there, including the Royal Academy shows.

Sandra Radcliffe

THE WORLD'S ONLY FESTIVAL OF BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR



Boswell Book Festival 10-12 May 2024

Please save the date and don't miss out on the exceptional programme of talks and events that constitute the Boswell Book Festival.

We had many heart-warming messages of appreciation after the Festival this May and we so look forward to seeing you again next year. We have selected just a couple of these below hoping it will entice those who have yet to enjoy a visit to join us either in person or online next year:

'We had a wonderful day altogether, and the way the whole place and the event itself ran deserve only superlative upon superlative'

"The festival was an amazing find for us, although we had known about it through a relative for some years. We would not be able to get to Scotland so having it online was a total joy for us."

Please consider signing up as a Festival Friend or Patron thereby enjoying early booking at the same time as giving the Festival much needed support. For details on how to become a Friend or Patron please go to the website: <https://www.boswellbookfestival.co.uk/patrons>

And why not keep in touch with Festival news on social media or by joining the mailing list. To join, scroll to the bottom of the page at <https://www.boswellbookfestival.co.uk/>

Speakers will be announced in the new year with the programme being launched in March and as always the Festival will be brimming with a mix of life stories which would have delighted Ayrshire's James Boswell, the inventor of modern biography.

DUNURE ART CLASSES

The Dunure Art Classes, run by Tom Rennie, are enrolling for the new season.

The classes take place every Wednesday, in the Kennedy Hall, right by the beach, in the beautiful South Ayrshire village of Dunure.

There is a morning class and an afternoon class. Come to either, or come for the day.

The ancient Castle of Dunure and the 17th century harbour are right outside the door and with views over the sea towards Arran, the Mull of Kintyre and Ireland, the classes take advantage of an amazing location.

Whether you are an experienced artist or are just starting out, you'll be very welcome and have the opportunity to practise and improve your Drawing and Painting skills in a friendly and inspiring environment. The class now has an Instagram page –

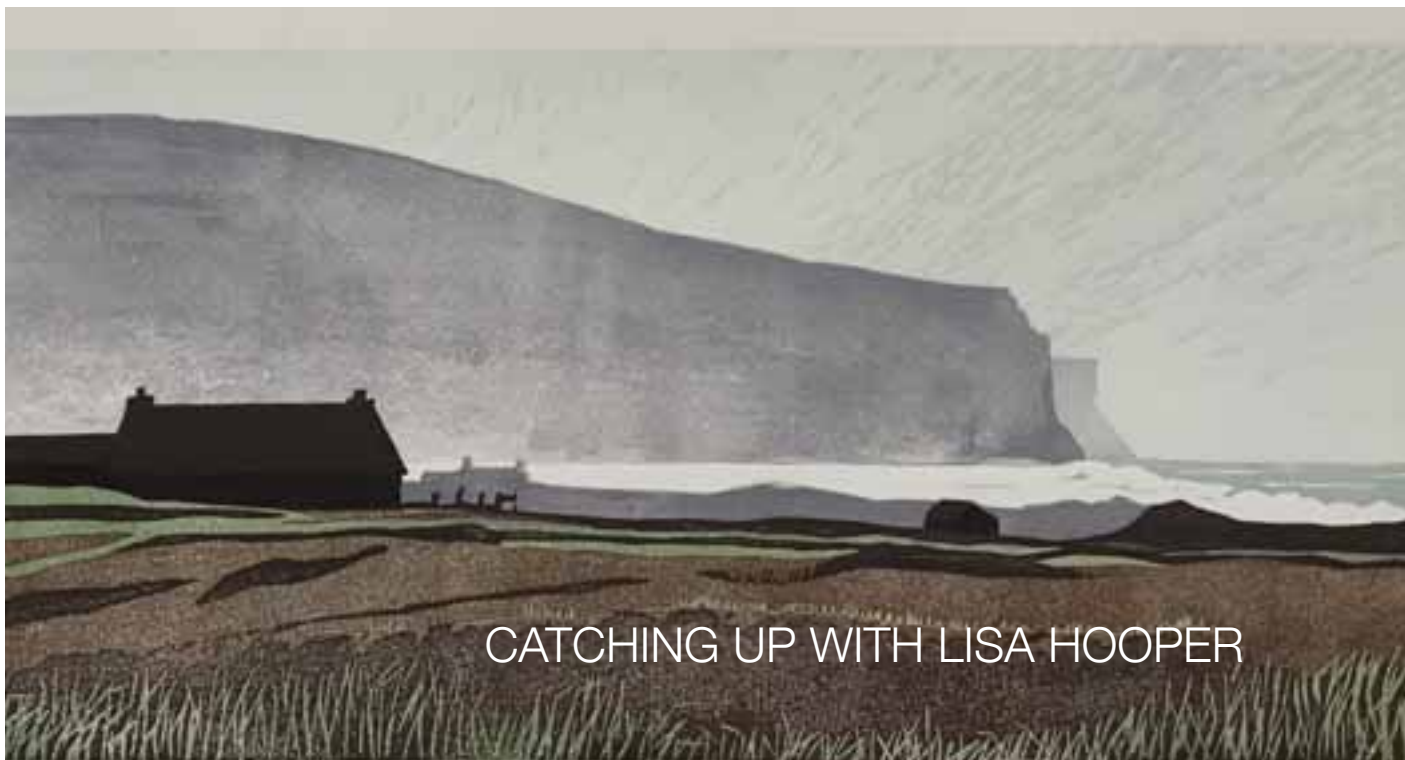
Instagram@dunureartclasses, where you can see a selection of the work produced by the members.

If you can't make it to Dunure, you might like to try **Dunure Art Classes Online**, which is an online version of the Art classes, using WhatsApp & Zoom.

Tom will also be holding a series of 6 One Day Art Workshops over the next few months. The main theme of these workshops will be to encourage artists to experiment with a wide variety of visual elements, materials & techniques.

The workshops will take place in Rozelle House, Rozelle Estate, Ayr.

To join the classes, and/or for more info on the workshops, call Tom on **07833 516 049** or email – **dunureartclasses@btinternet.com**



"Return to Rackwick"

Time flies! It's now more than two years since my exhibition at the Maclaurin Gallery in November 2021. Since then I've continued to pursue my passion for the Northern Isles: visiting Shetland and Orkney in search of birds, landscape and inspiration.

In September 2023 I was invited to show 25 works at the Bonhoga Gallery's Summer Showcase. The Bonhoga is a gallery run by Shetland Arts at Weisdale on Shetland Mainland and until recently it was exclusively used to promote Shetland based artists. last summer it was opened up to artists inspired by, but not living in, Shetland, which felt like a great privilege.

I was also approached by the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust with a view to producing cover illustrations for a new book, *The Birds of Fair Isle*, which will be published to coincide with the re-opening of the Observatory, which was destroyed by fire in 2019. My designs were approved and I've recently been working on the prints.

During the past two years I've tried to keep making representations of insect life, which is very important to me (some of it inspired by my moth trap and new wildlife pond) and to continue to respond to landscapes as well as birdlife.

In 2012 I was elected a full member of the Society of Wildlife Artists and I'm now also a Council Member. In April 2023 I had another solo exhibition, my fourth, at the Scottish Ornithologists' Club's Donald Watson Gallery in Aberlady.

Lisa Hooper SWLA

December 2023

www.hoopoeprints.co.uk



"Small Elephant Hawk Moths"



"Ness Gannets, Shetland"

Little Art School celebrates 10 years of using art to bring joy in our community



The Little Art School began life ten years ago with a small art class for children in Ayr. Fast forward a decade and the growing organisation is thriving, with thousands of children having attended their self-esteem boosting art classes and their unique methodology teaching art to people across the world through their Online Course. In October the team celebrated their 10th anniversary with a special fundraising week for their two charities, the Dementia Arts Trust and the Little Art Stars, held at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway.

At the heart of the week-long celebration was a charity art exhibition. The show was a sell-out, raising

£7,500 for the two charities. All the work exhibited was donated to the two charities. Most of the artists are students or former students of the Little Art School, with some additional pieces generously donated by local artists and a special set of prints from one of Scotland's leading artists, Catriona Millar, who supports the work of the Dementia Arts Trust. The Little Art School charities hosted free workshops every day. Each morning different dementia groups came to the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum to take part in art classes. All the groups enjoyed their special trip and the wonderful party atmosphere. Memories were shared and the work of the Dementia Arts Trust

was truly joyful. Each afternoon some of the partner schools working with the Little Art School's children's charity, the Little Art Stars, visited the centre to see the exhibition and take part in very special celebration classes. Children visiting from Newton, Forehill, Braehead and Kincaidston Primaries all loved their art parties. The celebration workshops and exhibition were a resounding success, raising funds for both charities to continue reaching out to some of the most vulnerable members of our community, using art to build self-esteem and bring great joy.

Joanne Robertson



Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine Exhibitions

Exhibition

Flow:

An exhibition inspired by
the architecture of Irvine
Affordable Art Exhibition

Thursday 18 January – Saturday 2 March

Harbour Arts Centre, Main Gallery

Free Entry

Glasgow based artist Ally Wallace works across a range of disciplines, including drawing, sculpture and film, to make artworks that reflect his interest in Modernist architecture.

"My exhibition at Harbour Arts Centre features work inspired by trips to Irvine to sketch and film the exterior of the town's indoor shopping centre, Rivergate, which opened in 1975 as part of the construction of Irvine New Town. Originally named the Irvine Centre but always known locally as the Mall, the shopping centre retains much of its original Brutalist exterior and I am particularly interested in the way that the concrete structure forms a bridge over the River Irvine, creating a cavernous, riverine space below. The work in the exhibition is inspired by the time I spent drawing and videoing all around the building but mainly in the strange, quiet space under the bridge". Exhibition supported by The Hope Scott Trust

Arran Open Studios

Thursday 14 March – Saturday 27 April

Harbour Arts Centre, Main Gallery

Free Entry

Arran Open Studios has been running since 2012 and this exhibition will celebrate the first time that they have come together to bring a selection of their work over to the mainland. Harbour Arts will be hosting this wonderfully diverse collection of work which will include jewellery, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, wood-work and paintings from over 25 Arran artists and makers. Arran Open Studios event will be taking place island-wide from 9th - 12th August 2024.

www.arranopenstudios.org

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS



Silver Ring Workshop with Janet Laurie

Saturday 10 February

Harbour Arts Centre

12.30pm – 3.30pm

£55 (all materials provided)

Make an Open Silver Ring with your own personal touch .

This noisy and exciting workshop will be about learning how to make a silver ring. Learn how to shape, form, texture, stamp with letter punches and turn up a silver ring Once polished you will have a beautiful, personalised silver ring to take home.

All materials provided. Ages 16 +

To book a space contact Janet by email

jlauriedesign18@gmail.com

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Magpie Journals:

Journal Making Workshop

Saturday 17 February, Saturday 24 February,

Saturday 2 March and Saturday 9 March

Harbour Arts Centre

12.30pm – 4pm

£45 for each workshop or all 4 for £160

Join Karen Borland of Magpie Journals and learn how to make beautiful hand bound journals, decorative pockets, envelopes, notebooks and lots more, all created from recycled and vintage materials.

There are 4 different workshops available, each one covers a specific variety of skills and techniques. Everything produced will be rich with creativity, reflecting your own ideas and experimentation.

These workshops are designed to inspire, bringing together a blend of traditional techniques with experimental mixed media and collage. They are packed full of fun ideas, practical sessions, and instructions.

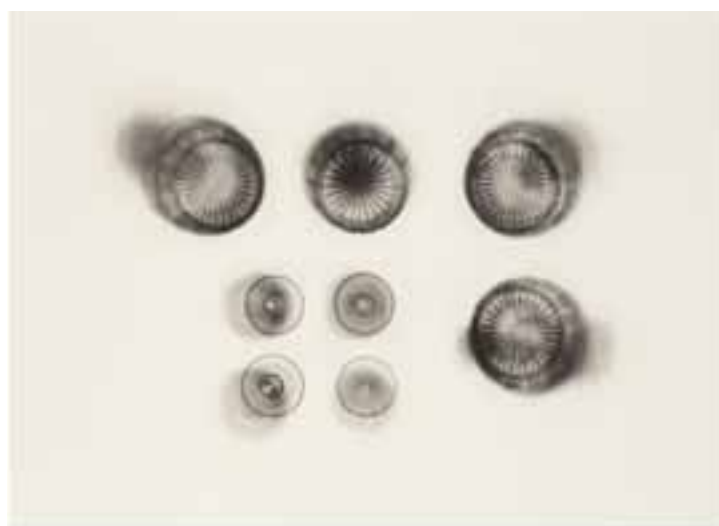
All equipment and materials are provided, no previous experience is necessary. These workshops are best suited to adults.

For more information or to book a space, please contact Karen at

magpie.journals06@gmail.com



Hayward Gallery Touring presents a new exhibition of prints by Cornelia Parker



Fox Talbot's Articles of Glass (bottoms up), 2016
 Courtesy and © the artist and Alan Cristea Gallery

Cornelia Parker:

One Day This Glass Will Break

Thursday 25 January – Wednesday 27 April 2024

Southbank Centre's Hayward Gallery Touring presents *One Day This Glass Will Break*, an exhibition of twenty large-scale photogravures by Cornelia Parker from three experimental series:

Fox Talbot's *Articles of Glass* (2017);
One Day This Glass Will Break (2015)
 and *Thirty Pieces of Silver (exposed)* (2015).

Opening at the Dick Institute

25 January - 27 April 2024, these three series, which are brought together for the first time in this exhibition, explore the artist's fascination with the physical properties of objects, materials and their histories.

The exhibition includes eight works from the series *One Day This Glass Will Break* (2015) which arose from Parker's investigations into the photogravure, a photomechanical process which produces an image through the exposure of a photographic positive onto

a copper printing plate. Inspired by the 19th century photographic pioneer William Henry Fox Talbot, Parker combined two of his early techniques, solar prints and the photogravure, creating a new hybrid form of print by exposing three-dimensional objects to ultraviolet light. In these works, she uses found objects such as a tower of crystal glasses, a shattered light bulb and melting ice cubes, with the resulting prints capturing their shadows in a spectral still life.

In Fox Talbot's *Articles of Glass* (2017) series of nine prints, Cornelia Parker explores this technique further using the last remaining items of glassware belonging to Fox Talbot, which he famously used in his early photograph, *Articles of Glass* (c. 1844), and are now housed in Oxford's Bodleian Library. The artist arranged these historical objects in various informal compositions on the printing plate, with some with their museum labels still attached. The lead content of this

early glassware produces darker shadows, resulting in prints that are richer and deeper in tone.

Two prints from another series, *Thirty Pieces of Silver (exposed)* (2015), are also included. Here, the artist uses found glass photographic negatives of antique silverware, originally produced for a 1960s Spink auction catalogue. Exposed to the photogravure plate in their original glassine bags, the negatives appear as physical, dimensional objects themselves. This series evokes a major early work by Cornelia Parker, *Thirty Pieces of Silver*, (1988-89), which consisted of over a thousand pieces of silver flattened by a steamroller and suspended on wires hovering above the gallery floor.

For more information about East Ayrshire
 Leisure Exhibitions visit
eastayrshireleisure.com

Spring Fling

By Matthew Shelley

We are all looking forward to the arrival of spring – the time when the weather perks up, the days grow longer and artists and makers across Dumfries and Galloway prepare to throw open their doors to the public. Spring Fling open studios weekend has established itself as one of the most popular events of its kind in the Scottish cultural calendar.

This time round it'll be about the biggest ever with 100 studios across the region welcoming visitors between **25 and 27 May**.

As ever it's running its Neighbours scheme, which invites creatives from adjoining regions (Ayrshire, Scottish Borders, Cumbria and Northern Ireland) to take part.

It's a fabulous opportunity to meet a remarkable array of highly skilled people and see work that includes painting, original prints, glass, jewellery, photography, woodwork, willow weaving, textiles and plenty more besides.

The event also has a growing element of experimental art and pieces by young artists – like the 2023 Lost Landscapes created by 23-year-old Marly Merle. There's also the pleasure of being able to get to visit the country cottages, purpose-built studios, farmhouses, garden sheds and many other places where people create everything from ceramics to fancy ironwork.

And it really does embrace the whole of the region, from Stranraer to Moffat and down to the southernmost tip of Scotland on the Mull of Galloway peninsula.

One of the big attractions that visitors can look forward to is the return of Rural Mural (thanks to a



Anne Butler in her studio

grant from Kilgallioch Community Fund) which was originally run 10 years ago.

Back then it saw a collaboration between street artists based in the UK and overseas and artists from Dumfries and Galloway.

Together they created dynamic and colourful artworks at a farm, a village pub and a centre for rescued animals.

The exact plans for this year are being kept under wraps at the moment – so enjoy the surprise. Spring Fling organisers, Upland CIC, see the event as a chance to highlight the remarkable levels of creativity that exist in a sparsely populated region – and a part of Scotland that faces huge economic challenges and some of the lowest rural incomes.

As most of us are aware, being an artist or maker can involve some of the highest levels of skill and talent, enormous numbers of hours to create the work, and the lowest financial rewards.

This is a weekend that helps boost incomes and raise awareness, an because it's selective visitors can look forward to a high quality of work.

Upland is also dedicated to trying to support young people to develop fulfilling careers in the arts and also to stay in, or return to, Dumfries and Galloway.

Another of the region's challenges is that lack of opportunity means that young people, who would love to stay or come back because they adore the quality of life, feel it can't offer them the future they want.

Upland's Emerge scheme is an attempt to counter this trend by providing mentoring and a bursary for emerging artists or makers who have a connection to Dumfries and Galloway.

They also have the chance to take part in Spring Fling. So, we very much hope that you will join us this year. Just keep an eye on the website to find out exactly what's taking place and where.

There will also be the usual series of colour coded routes for visitors to follow, plus a map and brochure that allows you to plan the Spring Fling that best suits you.

See <https://www.spring-fling.co.uk>



Amy and Ali from Recoat - Rural Mural



Abby Robertson Meiklewood Farm - Rural Mural

Wigtown Book Festival

By Adrian Turpin

Artistic and Strategic Director

Wigtown Book Festival is as much about nurturing new writing as celebrating the best of what has already been written.

Entries for *The Wigtown Poetry Prizes*, which date back to 2005, are currently open and offer a showcase for work in English, Gaelic and Scots.

It is also significant because it doesn't just have awards for individual poems. The highly successful *Alastair Reid Pamphlet Prize*, named in memory of one of Scotland's foremost literary talents, has been set up to put the spotlight on collections.

At the same time the festival is also running the third *Anne Brown Essay Prize* – offering £1,500 for the best literary essay by a writer in or from Scotland.

Established in honour of Anne Brown, who made a phenomenal contribution to the festival and was a magnificent BBC radio journalist, it promotes fresh, insightful short-form writing.

Even though it's a young award it already attracts a remarkable range of entries on a dizzying range of subjects and by a dazzling range of writers – a fabulous testament to human intellectual curiosity. After being named last year's winner, Rodge Glass, reflected on just how valuable essays are as a way of exploring our world, writing: *"The essay encourages us to look both outwards and inwards at once, with nuance, with doubt. In a world so dominated by sureness and loud voices, that nuance matters. Compassion matters, too. In that context, the essay form is a gift. So is a prize that supports and celebrates it."* You can see his essay *On the Covenant* on our website – and also find details of how to take part in the competition (**entries close 31 March**).

One of the big issues for essay writers is getting them seen by the wider public, so we are pleased that we will once again be partnering with The Herald

newspaper, which will detail the shortlist and publish a lengthy extract from the winner.

Readers can then see the entire essay on the festival website. There's a little longer for preparing entries for the poetry prizes (**closing date 6 May**).

Again we see our mission as being about maximising interest and audiences for poetry. Indeed the competition has become a significant international phenomenon attracting entries from every part of the planet. One of the great joys for the judges is to find themselves presented with superb Gaelic and Scots poetry submitted by people living anywhere from Scotland to China, to South America, Japan and Australia.

Poet and author Hugh McMillan, who led last year's prizegiving summed up the importance that the competition has achieved by saying: *"The Wigtown prizes in English, Scots and Gaelic are among the most eagerly sought after accolades and the list of judges and winners read like a who's who of contemporary poets"*

In addition to prizes, **worth up to £1,500**, the winning entries are also published in *Southlight Magazine* and may be offered the opportunity to read their work at the St Anza 2025 festival.

Backers of the Wigtown Poetry Prizes (including The Gaelic Books Council, The Saltire Society and the Scottish Poetry Library) see it as an invaluable way to draw attention to poetic creativity in Scotland's three indigenous languages.

They are a living, breathing expression of the diversity and depth of contemporary Scottish culture – which is also one of the defining characteristics of Wigtown Book Festival more widely.

If you visited the most recent event – our 25th – you will probably have noticed how we try to interweave

the regional, national and international.

Alongside famous-name guests like Kate Moss, Maggie O'Farrell or Michael Morpurgo there were inspirational figures such as author, climate activist and former Icelandic presidential candidate Andri Snær Magnason.

But just as important were the sessions devoted to authors and poets from Galloway and the range of activities that took visitors into the region's countryside or on explorations of its literary history – including a Dorothy L Sayers guided walk and *Into the Night*, a chance to discover the secrets of nocturnal Galloway.

Planning for this year's festival, from 27 September to 6 October, is now underway and looks set to be a 10-day banquet of delights.

Right now we'd encourage you to spread the word about the poetry and essay prizes to help us build awareness and give as many people as possible the chance to participate.

And we would also urge you get the festival dates in your diary straight away as we'd love to welcome you to enjoy all the Scotland's National Book Town has to offer during Wigtown Book Festival 2024.

In the meantime, there's one other important mention – Wigtown Festival Company is as much about providing for the next generation of readers and writers as the current one.

From **22 to 24 March** we are staging the annual Big DoG Children's Book Festival in Dumfries.

It's always great fun, with authors, illustrators and others who run events that generate a fantastic buzz – sharing the joy of stories and storytelling in many forms.

See www.wigtownpoetryprize.com



Wigtown Book Town 25th Anniversary



Adrian Turpin, Rodge Glass and Gavin Esler.



Celia Stevenson Judge admires a painting by Susan Malcolm



"Wheatear" by Lisa Hooper



"Medusa Beech" by John MacDonald, Ayr Sketch Club



"Florence Evening" by Ian Leyden, Ayr Sketch Club



SSA Annual exhibition at the MacLaurin Art Gallery for the first time.