



Newsletter - May 2010

It takes two...

The exhibition finished on Saturday 22 May and the gallery cleared for the next exhibitors in good time. The show looked really good and comments from visitors were positive.

The concept of collaboration had been left to members to interpret in any way they wished and the 42 members who participated showed considerable imagination in the way they achieved this. It was disappointing, therefore, that despite a good turnout at the private view and the end of show party the daily attendance was considerably down on previous shows and as a result the level of sales was badly affected. As a result we have made a financial loss but, for the foreseeable future, previous financially successful shows will enable us to maintain our high standard of presentation of member's work.

In recent times a Twenty Group Show would be nothing without a John Broadbent review. You are not to be disappointed. So....

John Broadbent's Review

It takes two — but I thought tango was in short supply. This lack of stun effect blocked me from writing about the show. I didn't want, either, to sink into metaphysics: what is collaboration? did any of us achieve it?.

I now see there were other kinds of effect. I didn't need to be hit on the head. Jane Mackintosh's long abstract dream haunts with its calm elegant complicated beauty.

The most successful collaboration was by Mary Spicer and Jane Sanger. They had not just collaborated, but worked together, teaching each other perhaps, or dancing, to generate more dark vigour than either alone might reach.

That was a collaboration of images and touch. Another important nexus for collaboration was materials. Anni Stevens' hangings of indigo woven cloth are an exhilarating foil to pictures just because they are of so different a material yet in their flat rectangularity and colour exactly like paintings.

Another benefit was, of course, Chedgy. Wit, parody, the surreal illuminate and humanise the work they share space with and laugh at.

In some cases the collaboration amounted merely to adjacency — sulky siblings dragooned into having their photograph taken. In others, the two works would actually fight and hurt each other. Why no troilism?

It was, it turns out, an exhibition for and about women. The co-presence of Joanna Reynolds' baby, imagined in her womb, with Barbara Leaney's mother curled on her deathbed, was extraordinary — perhaps a coincidence but even so it stands, touchingly, for the experience of each of us. But, like Jane's entirely different dream, it could only be achieved by women artists. We have the 20 Group itself to thank for this and the show's other enriched opportunities.

John Broadbent.

New Members

At the Special Meeting on 4 May we elected the following new members:

Martin Laurance, Keith Pomeroy, Julia Sorrell and Rob Woods.

One of our Licentiatees, Vicky Scott has also joined our number and Maz Jackson has re-joined. We welcome them all.

Annual General Meeting

Please take this as the notice of the meeting which will take place at 11.00am for 11.30am on 19 June at the home of our Chairman, Rory McShane at 2 Stone Cottages, Wymondham Road, Wramplingham and, for those of you with sat-nav, NR18 0RZ. For those technophobes amongst us there are directions at the bottom of this letter.

If you wish to make a proposal for a change in the Constitution would you please send the precise wording for this together with the name of the seconder to Derek Rae, 63 Helena Road, Norwich NR2 3BY or derek.rae@gmail.com by 5 June. If you wish to raise a matter for discussion under Any Other Business, would you please let Derek know by the same dates so that it can be included on the agenda to be sent to all members before the meeting

As we have already had the election of new members we should be able to complete our deliberations in time for lunch at 1.30pm as with previous such events you are invited to bring your partner, a bottle of drink, alcoholic or otherwise, together with a plate of food and a chair . This year we are delighted, by this letter, to invite our Friends and their partners to join us for lunch. In view of the increased numbers we would ask them also to bring food, drink and chair as outlined above.

Website

The site is up and running and looks really good. To see it you should put in the complete address www.norwich20group.co.uk. For the time being you will not get a result if you 'Google' it as the search engines will not have had time to include it.

Some members have paid their fee but have yet to let Louise Bird have the necessary images and words. It is not too late to remedy this, but these entries will be added when she updates the site.

Summer Show

This will be at the John Innes Centre from Thursday 26th August to Wednesday 15th September. Further information will be sent to you in a future newsletter and it is intended to further discuss it at the open meeting on 6th July. In the meantime, can you come up with a suitable title?

Rory McShane

Directions to Rory's

On the A11 heading south take the first exit for Wymondham.

This takes you under the A11 to a roundabout where you turn right – then turn right at the roundabout by the Police station.

Go straight over at the next roundabout (by Waitrose) onto 'Tuttles Lane'. After ½ mile take the first right hand turn, signposted to 'Great Melton and Barford'

After ½ mile turn left where the road forks, by a post-box. The signpost indicates 'Wramplingham' .

The road veers sharply to the right. Carry on for a further mile. There are farms and houses on the left but our house is the first house you come to on the right, after you have passed the sign which says 'Wramplingham. We are the left hand house of a pair of semi-detached cottages. Park in the field just beyond our house.