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# *art*matters

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Ombra - Toscana

*Graham Portlock*

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a n e w s l e t t e r o f  
***art*works**  
a group of 30 leading East Anglian artists

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## chairperson's thoughts

Artworks has just launched its 5th annual exhibition. In the year that has passed, a number of changes have taken place. In October 2003, Graham Portlock, our then chairperson stepped down and I was elected. I knew his would be a hard act to follow but almost one year on, the group is flourishing and I would like to thank all members of Artworks for their continued support and commitment to the group's expanding programme.

An exciting development has been the placement of Julia Sorrell, one of our artists, as artist-in-residence at the offices of our sponsor Becketts with follow-up workshops for the staff. Comments received from Becketts prove the value of this type of link-up. We have this year also extended our range of activities with two local schools by sending three artists to conduct workshops with students.

Both these initiatives serve to show the hugely positive impact we can have as artists working in the community and I hope such Artworks' activities will continue to expand.

A new and inspired addition to our exhibition this year is the MINI ARTWORKS PRIZE DRAW. This will hopefully add a bit of fun. The chance of winning a small but original work of art by an Artworks' artist is surely an attractive proposition. Also, we have teamed up with Ravenwood Hall in Rougham who are generously offering a bottle of wine with a pre-booked meal on presentation of our exhibition catalogue.

Back in January, it was a great pleasure to welcome to Artworks new members, Charlotte Ardizzone, Verena Daniels, Katie Millard and Colin Slee.

I would like to thank our sponsor The Beckett Group and Arts and Business for their continued support.

**Penny Bhadresa**



Bob Beckett, *howling wolf* and Iina Hunter at Becketts' private view

## the birth of venus

Artworks' members Maz Jackson and Rebecca Merry recently took part in the filming of the latest series of the popular BBC Arts show 'Rolf on Art'. As part of the series, they spent five days with Rolf Harris and two other members of the Society of Tempera Painters recreating the ambitious full size version of 'The Birth of Venus' by Sandro Botticelli in egg tempera.



It was the first time Rolf had worked in egg tempera, which uses raw pigments and egg yolk to produce a fast drying but durable paint used extensively during the Renaissance. The programme shows members of the team grinding pigments, making up the paint using egg yolk, glazing and gilding. In particular look out for Maz's tranquil sea strewn with roses and Rebecca's floral drapery!

The series is due to be screened over five Sunday evenings at 7pm from 26 September. For more information visit [www.bbc.co.uk/rolfonart](http://www.bbc.co.uk/rolfonart).

**Rebecca Merry**

## sponsorship

We have continued to enjoy Becketts' support. Their private view far exceeded their expectations and was a great success with staff and clients alike.

This year we also saw the first artist-in-residency and workshops at Becketts' offices. The resident artist, Julia Sorrell, said that these remarkable experiences were crucial in helping to break down barriers.

Miranda Wheatley of The Beckett Group writes, '*The feedback from staff about Julia's residency and workshops was extremely positive. We had fun, the workshops enabling us to get out of our 'comfort zone' and try something new and different. It opened new horizons and possibilities. We enjoyed the experience of using different media, applying them to various types of paper and watching the end results develop.*'

**Charlotte Ardizzone**

Charlotte studied fine art at St Martins and Byam Schools of Art. At fifteen she was the youngest exhibitor at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Her work is now in collections across the world including the National Galleries of Australia and Poland, and Columbia and Dublin Universities. She is a member of the New English Art Club and the Royal West of England Academy.



Strawberries (detail) Charlotte Ardizzone

Charlotte Ardizzone is an established artist, exhibiting worldwide and represented in national and international exhibitions. Her work, mainly in oils, is of her surroundings at home and in France where she spends many months of each year.

**Colin Slee**

Born in Devon, Colin attended the Newton Abbott College of Art from 1961-64. Initially he worked as a graphic designer for advertising agencies. From 1982 he ran his own design studio, and in 1996 moved to Suffolk with his wife to paint full-time. He has exhibited locally and also in the Mall Galleries in London.



Estuary walk Colin Slee

*"I work in pastel, charcoal and acrylic, singly or in combination to suit my subject or intention, but often in a free and exciting way. My aim is to create an expressive response to provide an atmospheric and emotional sense of place. The images are drawn from nature; the sea, estuaries, skies, wide open spaces and forests."* CS

**Katie Millard**

Katie trained at the Central School of Art and Design, doing a BA Hons in Set and Costume Design. After working for many years in the industry, she turned her back on London and came back to the countryside. She has painted watercolours since 1987 and is now embarking on oil painting. She became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2000. She exhibits widely in the East Anglian region.

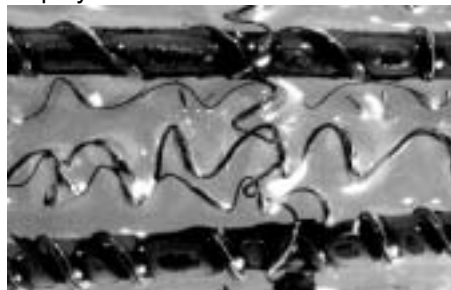


Holkham Bay Katie Millard

*"My interest in watercolour began in the late 80's when I first visited North Norfolk. I was struck by unspoilt nature, the huge skies and beaches. Watching the sand being lifted and swirling in the sky was pure fascination; the way rain affects the sea and the landscape, awe-inspiring. Hot summer days, the peace and quiet and utter stillness keep me there. On returning home, I distil the images and paint. Wonderful!"* KM

**Verena Daniels**

After completing an Art & Design degree at Colchester Institute in 2001 Verena set up a workshop with a fellow artist in Felixstowe where she developed the work produced on the degree programme. She now exhibits her work in local galleries. In 2002, with a colleague, she opened the Reunion gallery next to the workshop where alongside other artists she displays and sells her work.



Untitled Verena Daniels

*"I work mainly in ceramics and glass and my aim is to communicate the love I have for natural pattern and form. The techniques I use are relatively simple, such as slip casting and press moulds in ceramics, and lamination and slumping in glass. Recently, my glass work has become more spontaneous."* VD

## suffolk cathedral project

In 1999 I was invited to become 'project artist' on the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Millennium project. Symbolically taking place at the start of the third millennium, the Project includes the completion of the central tower, the north transept, two new chapels and part of the cloisters. This will complete the last unfinished Anglican cathedral in the country and will give the region a magnificent new landmark.

My involvement with the project over the ensuing years has been most absorbing. I have been far more attracted to the ordinary, everyday details. To me scaffold boards, cables and piles of flint convey beauty and symbolism through their essential but modest role and their simple but dramatic shapes. Visiting quarries and stonemasons was like seeing where the building was born. Since one is forced to be close to the subject whose forms and lines are strong and direct, my compositions are confrontational. My site drawings are *not* quick sketches – I enjoy the concentration, the play of light and the contrasting textures. Back in my studio, my memories help me to distil lasting pictures in my mind.



Into the tower  
August

Lillias

I shall not be lost when the project is finished – I will have found another way of *seeing* and experienced something that I have felt privileged to be part of. Elated, I have often observed massive stones lowered into place, melting into the rest of the building. It is also exhilarating to sit 300 feet up on *swaying* scaffolding in the midst of din and dust, and fluttering plastic sheeting!

As part of the opening celebrations in 2005, there will be a final exhibition with an accompanying catalogue. For further information ring the Cathedral Office on 01284 754933.

**Lillias August**

## the *mean* mosquitoes of finland

Having lived in England since 1991 but being Finnish (and spending many a summer in my cottage in the woods) I have always longed for an exhibition of my work in Finland. In February of this year I applied to the Cultural Centre of Turku, where I come from, sending them my portfolio and cv. To my utter amazement, I had been selected out of 36 applicants to put on a solo exhibition at their large Brinkala Gallery in October. I was thrilled but also it meant I had six months to get it together.

I had to get moving and quickly! In earnest, I started collecting metal pieces from North Norfolk beaches which I use for mounting my ceramic pieces onto before firing. In the beginning, I made my animal sculptures in England. Then I decided simply to go to my cottage in the woods in Finland and work there. And so from May to July, that's just what I did, firing my rugged structures out in the open.



Me and my moose

In one room I have planned to have an installation devoted completely to the *mean* mosquitoes of Finland. In another, running wolves and in the last, bears, moose and lynx. Eagerly, I am looking forward to the exhibition. Needless to say, I hope the vibrant excitement that I have felt for this project will also be evident in my sculptures in this year's Artworks' exhibition.

### **Lina Hunter**

*Lina's main influences for creativity stem from the untouched wilderness of northern Finland. Other influences have come from her extensive travels in South America, Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. Her sculptures are built spontaneously and energetically on supporting metal. She uses the Raku glazing technique and to create the smoked effect, a sawdust kiln. Ed.*

## community links

### Schools' Projects

Following from our success last year with Ixworth School, and by receiving further sponsorship from The Beckett Group and Arts and Business East, Artworks enrolled South Lee School to take part this year. Lesley Bermingham and Jenny Goater ran workshops at the school in the summer. Maz Jackson ran two sessions at Ixworth. The results of these interactions have been simply amazing. The work of the students will be displayed at our exhibition this year. Here, students have written articles of their involvement

### The Ixworth File

For two days in the summer term a group of year eights have been lucky enough to have a visit from Maz Jackson, an Artworks' artist. She brought some of her beautiful work in and showed us how she paints her lovely pictures. She showed us what kinds of paint she uses, like natural powders and egg to make a paste, which could last for at least 500 years. She also uses special kinds of woods to paint on. Once she had told us all about it we had a go. We all sketched our views from a window and drew them on to a piece of cardboard. We then began to apply paint on the background. The paint was made out of egg yolks and coloured powder – a method known as egg tempera.



Students trying out egg tempera technique

For our second lesson with Maz we were taught how to give our paintings texture and a 3D effect using dots and dashes. Once we were happy with what we had done, we applied some gold leaf to our pieces for special effect. The group of year eights are very grateful for their sessions with Maz and Mrs. Belson (Art co-ordinator at Ixworth Middle) and everyone produced very individual pieces of good work.

**Grace Fouracre, Year 8 student**

### The South Lee Experience

'Meeting practising artists, looking at their work and learning new techniques really helped the children believe that making art was important, stimulating and achievable,' writes **Sue Feather**, Deputy Head at South Lee. 'Both Jenny (Goater) and Lesley (Birmingham) helped to make the day special. And many thanks to Rosy Ferguson for organising the workshops and to Artworks for their support.'



Pupils get to grips with the chicken wire

This is what the pupils had to say:

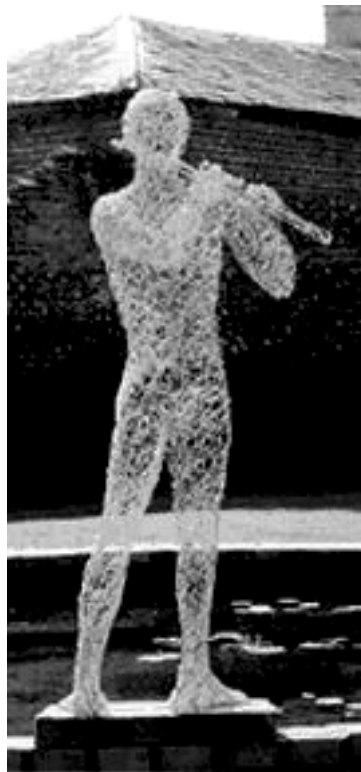
'We had an activity which involved chicken wire. We were all very excited to see Jenny's work and then it was our turn. I chose to make a crab. First I made the body by rolling the wire into an oval shape. Then I started creating the pincers and the legs - it was tricky but my crab looked great when I finished it. I looked around at everyone else's creations and they were also fantastic. The day had flown past which was a disappointment but I know I will remember it well from the pictures and sculptures we got to do ourselves.' Year 7 pupil.

'After assembly, we went up to the Art Room to meet Lesley Bermingham who was going to teach us how to print. When Lesley was showing us different ways to print and different techniques to use, she also showed us some of her work, which I personally thought was excellent. What I really liked was how she had concentrated on one thing on each print, like when she did 'Dance'. When I did my print, I did a pink bubble background and a light blue heart of leaves. I really liked my print. I really enjoyed Art Day and it was a good experience for us all'. Year 6 pupil.

Now in its 5th year, Artworks is a group of contemporary East Anglian artists who have come together to hold joint exhibitions of their work. It comprises 30 artists ranging from printmakers and a photographer to painters and sculptors. Their diverse and inspiring shows have proved to be dynamic and wide reaching. Artworks' annual exhibition in the beginning of September is held at the impressive Blackthorpe Barn, just off the A14 at Rougham, near Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk. In 2004, extra sponsorship enabled Artworks to expand its programme; workshops and competitions were undertaken at local schools, and an artist-in-residency at the offices of its principle sponsor **The Beckett Group**. Further such projects are planned for 2005.

**ARTISTS:** further information on our [WEBSITE](#)

Charlotte Ardizzone (painter)  
Mike Ashley (painter)  
Lillias August (watercolour artist)  
Bernard Baker (painter)  
Lesley Bermingham (painter/printmaker)  
Penny Bhadresa (painter/printmaker)  
Elizabeth Cooke (sculptor)  
Gillian Crossley-Holland (painter)  
Verena Daniels (ceramic/glass artist)  
Helen Dougall (painter/batik artist)  
Hilary Evans (painter/printmaker)  
Jenny Goater (painter/sculptor)  
Ann Hart (painter)  
Iina Hunter (ceramicist)  
Maz Jackson (painter)  
Alison Jones (painter)  
Barry Marshall (sculptor)  
Mac McCaughan (sculptor)  
Christine McKechnie (collage artist)  
Rebecca Merry (painter)  
Katie Millard (painter)  
Elaine Nason (painter)  
Anne Paton (painter)  
Doug Patterson (painter)  
Janette Place (painter)  
Graham Portlock (photographer)  
Colin Slee (painter)  
Julia Sorrell (painter)  
Gabrielle Stoddart (painter)  
Constance Stubbs (painter)



The Flautist Jenny Goater



Reclining nude Anne Paton

**ORGANISING TEAM**

Chairperson	Penny Bhadresa	<b>Artworks Enquiries</b> 01284 701911
Sponsorship	Rosy Ferguson	
Publicity	P Bhadresa/A Paton	
Finance	Rasik Bhadresa	
Secretary	Lesley Bermingham	
Membership/Database	Lorraine Down	
Newsletter editor	R Bhadresa	

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