

ART EXHIBITION

AS PART OF THE OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS
THE OXON ART MAKERS ARE PROUD TO
DISPLAY A NEW EXHIBITION AT THE

ABBEY CINEMA
Abingdon on Thames

FREE TO ENTER

18th-27th MAY 2024
10AM-9PM

Oxon Artmakers

Inspired artists creating diverse art

Oxon Artmakers is a new group of artists expressing our feelings onto paper, canvas and in other media, making inspiring art. Most of us met while attending painting and drawing classes at Abingdon and Witney College. Having concentrated on our careers we are now finding time to fulfil different creative ambitions. We have different backgrounds in different economic sectors some science-based others in business and health sectors..... Some of us are now retired; others of us are finding time as children have flown the nest, others of us are preparing for careers in the creative sector. While some of us are embracing activities very different from our day jobs, for others it complements our work. What brings us together is the exploration of our creative talents and learning and taking inspiration from each other as we go along. Sometimes to our surprise, we have all discovered an innate ability to create interesting and inspiring art works. We all have different styles, some realistic and detailed, others more imaginative and free flowing.

Our Exhibition

Our exhibition is an eclectic mix of our recent paintings and other works which reflect our variety of styles and interests. This includes landscapes inspired by different settings in Oxfordshire, still-life's, abstracts and a number of our works are inspired by artefacts exhibited in the Ashmolean Museum. Our works reflect our varied interests: We are inspired by traveling and nature, by patterns and bold colours. Joining art classes allowed experimentation while being guided and so revive our inner creativity. Once flowing it is addictive and hard to stop!

Our Artists

In this catalogue we have presented a profile of each artist and the work they are exhibiting. Our artists are:

Lin Dewsnap
Melanie Gros
Glenn Larder
Mark Batchelor
Mark Bryant
Jayne Green
Tony Evans
Jonathan Perks
Tony Bellis
Dan Preston
John Coughlan
Kunmi Fasanade
Anna Avdejeva
Victoria Whitehead
Marion Turberfield

If you want to purchase some of their work, please contact the artist directly or oxon.artmakers@gmail.com who will put you in touch with the artist. They will arrange payment and delivery.

Lin Dewsnap

Multi-disciplinary community Artist.

Artist Statement: I am interested in life, death and all the areas in between. I have a multi-disciplinary art practice which relies on everyday events, experience, research, and making. My desire to make art is driven by incessantly questioning humankind.



Psychology and Portraiture: Previous experience working as a psychiatric nurse and as a social worker, where people are central has held a fascination for me that I express throughout my art practice. Connecting with others lies at the heart of my practice. When I paint portraiture, it is the psychology of the person that I am interested in, and this is what I convey with an expressionist style.

Inspiration and encouragement to embark on a career as a professional artist came from the classes run by Tatiana Wise at Abingdon & Witney College. From here I studied first with Oxford City College obtaining the Access Course in Art and Design. Graduating with a Degree in the Fine Arts and a Master's in Fine Art at Oxford Brookes University.

All thanks to Tatiana for seeing my potential and giving me the skills and confidence to achieve and continue to build my academic and practical excellence in Fine Art. Artists that inspire me are Marlene Dumas, Egon Schiele, Alice Neel, Nan Goldin, Roger Ballen, and John Singer Sargent.

Instagram@lindewsnap.

Commissions available: lindewsnap@live.co.uk.



LD1: "The Fortune Teller." Oil on Paper. 2024. 16.5 x 23.4 cm



LD2: "The Mothership." Watercolour on card. 2024. 23.4 x 33.1cm



LD3: "Women in a yellow hat." Oil on paper. 2024. 16.5 x 23.4 cm

Mélanie Gros (Melou)

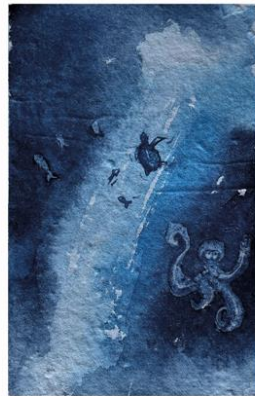
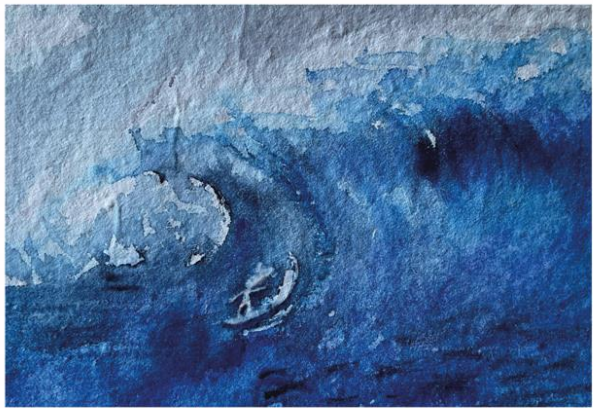
After having studied graphic design and then worked as a sommeliere in France for 9 years, I've got back to my old passion when I've decided to move to UK.

I've enrolled to some classes in the Ashmoleum Museum and have started an illustration degree. I love writing as well as drawing. I think both can be beautiful when they are mixed up together.

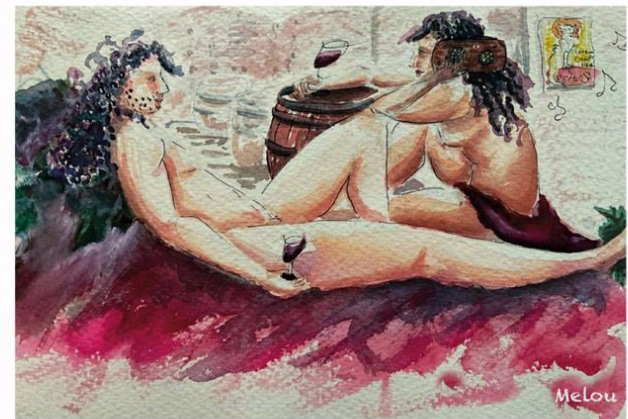
When it comes to drawing, I'm surprised how I can feel alive and relaxed in the same time. I don't judge me in any way (which is quite a first for me), I'm just enjoying the process of how the medium caress the canvas, how I'm feeling free through this. Be able to express feeling through drawing, while listening Leonard Cohen or Lou Reed is just an amazing way for me to feel myself alive, and make the most of my time on earth.



MG1: "Rivers in Oxford and Paris", 55.5 x 170 cm, £49



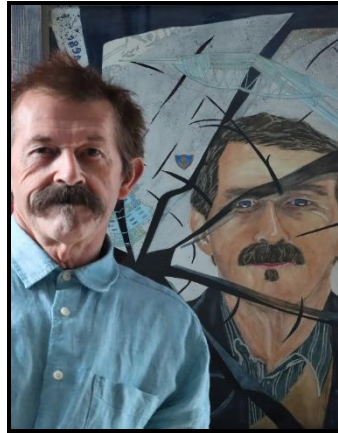
MG2: "Ocean", 55.5 x 170 cm, £49



MG3: "Wine and goddesses", 55.5 x 170 cm, £49

Glenn Larder

I started painting back in the 1970's when living in London. By the end of the decade though my interest in that pursuit had ceased and I didn't paint again for many years. About twelve years ago I started painting once more when I enrolled for classes with Abingdon and Witney College. Since then, I have continued with classes and immersed myself in creating art. I thoroughly enjoy painting, find it extremely satisfying and I've seen my work continually develop and improve. One of my biggest regrets is not having painted in all those years in between.



Watercolour is my favourite medium, though in the last couple of years I have been working mainly in acrylics. During this more recent period I have further developed an interest in industrial architecture as a subject for painting. To me there is a strange beauty in these edifices, at times they can appear quite eerie and haunting. In the process of making such pictures I will try to capture these atmospheric qualities.

If you are interested in seeing more of my artwork, I will be having my own exhibition at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Botley throughout October and November this year. You can also contact me at the details below.

tel. 07712426727
email. glenn2105@larders.plus.com



GL1: Didcot Power Station. Watercolour on paper. 61 x 43 cm unframed. £150.



GL2: Tulips On A Black Background. Acrylic on canvas. 59 x 42 cm unframed. £120



GL3: When The Wind Blows. Acrylic on canvas. 42 cms x 30 cms unframed. £90

Mark Batchelor

I have had a longstanding interest in art and have enjoyed drawing and painting for many years, having attended evening classes at Abingdon and Witney College to improve my skills and try new techniques. Recently I have started experimenting with dip-pen and ink drawing; a medium that I am finding a fascinating challenge. These pictures are at the start of my journey. I am also a keen amateur photographer and am exhibiting my cyanotype prints based on aspects of modern architecture during Artweeks as part of the Watlington Photographers Collective.



MBa1: Too big for my box. Dip Pen and Ink on Bristol extra smooth 250gsm paper. NFS



MBa2 : Bufo bufo! Dip Pen and Ink on Bristol extra smooth 250gsm paper. NFS



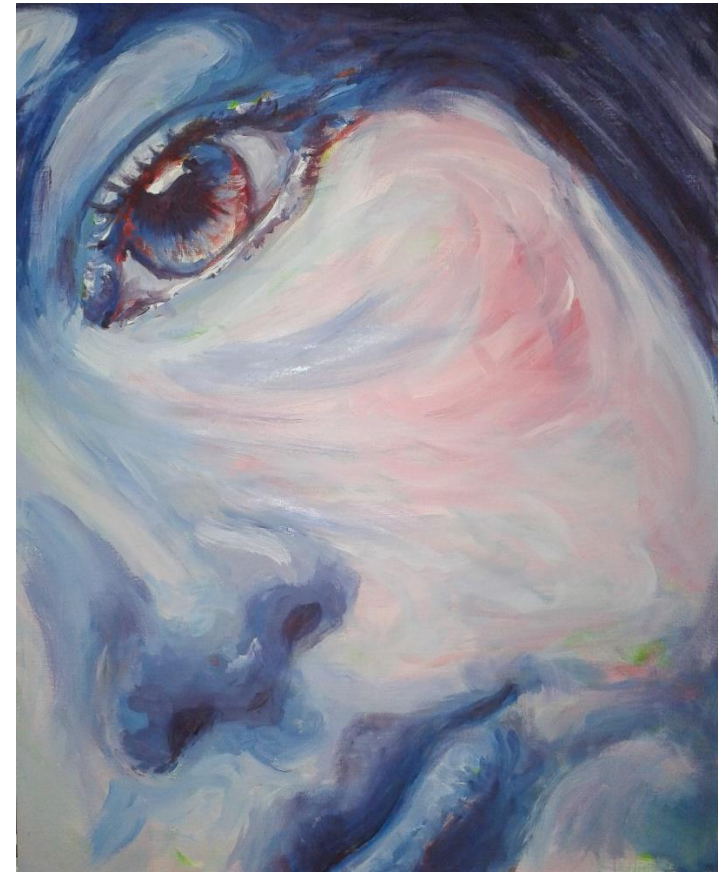
MBa3: Hairy-footed Flower Bee. Dip Pen and Ink on Bristol extra smooth 250gsm paper. NFS

Mark Bryant

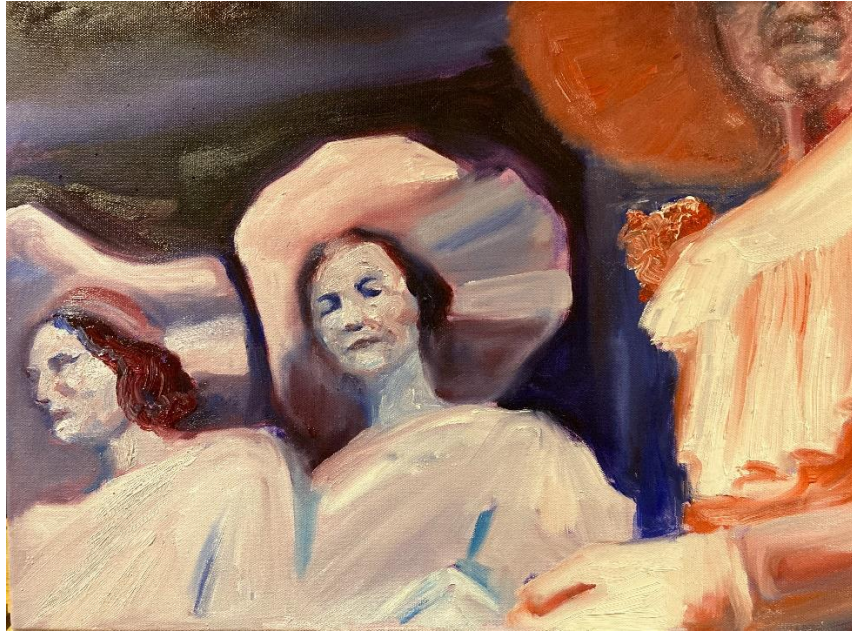
Having spent many years in life drawing classes and groups I finally took the opportunity and gained a distinction in an Art Foundation Diploma at Abingdon and Witney College in 2012 upon entering the heady world of partial retirement. My main preoccupation over the years has been in two dimensions with portraiture and life work – but I love to explore a range of different materials, enjoying serendipity through the plasticity and texture of paint, the flexibility of pastel and the precision and commitment of the pen.



Recently, I have used the Museum Drawing course at the Ashmoleum and the support of Tatiana Wise to improve my discipline and focus and to challenge my skills with more complex and demanding compositions. Drawing from an object is always a process of interpretation which forces you to focus on a single work in a way you never do as a casual visitor to a gallery or museum. You start to understand the meaning and history of that object and build up an understanding of the skill and purpose of its' creator.



MBr1: Big Sister is Watching You. Oils Framed, 58 x47cm. £100



MBr2: Mother of the Groom - a Wedding Nightmare. Oils Unframed, 42 x 59cm. £85



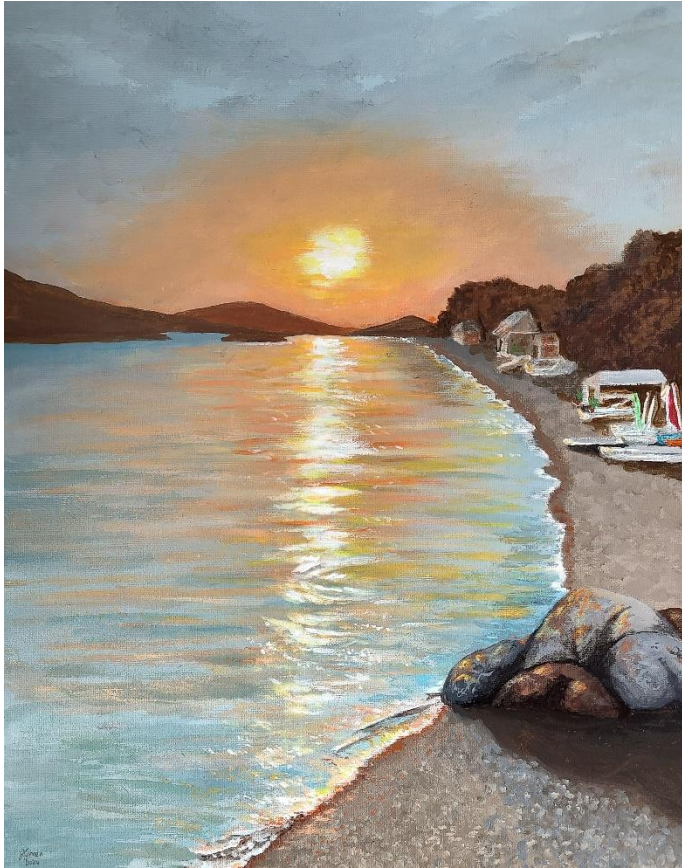
MBr3: Hampshire Scene after Constable. Pastel Framed. 48 x 57cm. £100

Jayne Green

I originally started art when I was a child and my grandfather showed me how to compose and paint, I followed this up with A Level art and then stopped... Many years later I am in full time employment within the epigenetic biomarker industry but decided to enrol at Abingdon and Witney College on an adult evening Mixed Ability Art Course. I am enjoying it so much that I am now in my third year. The course is varied allowing students to work in different media such as oil, watercolour, gouache and pastels. We paint a range of different subjects from still life to plein air. I find the classes so different and relaxing that time flies by! I hope you enjoy viewing my art as much as I did creating it.



JG1: Music Mayhem. Acrylic on canvas board, black frame. 26 x 20 in, 66 x 55 cm framed. Unframed 24 x 18 in , 61 x 45.7 cm, £130.00



JG2: Sunset in Foca.
Acrylic on canvas board. 20 x 16 in or 50.8 x 40.6 cm without frame.
£90.00



JG3: Junior, Watercolour, 29.7 cm x 42 cm, £60.00

Tony Evans

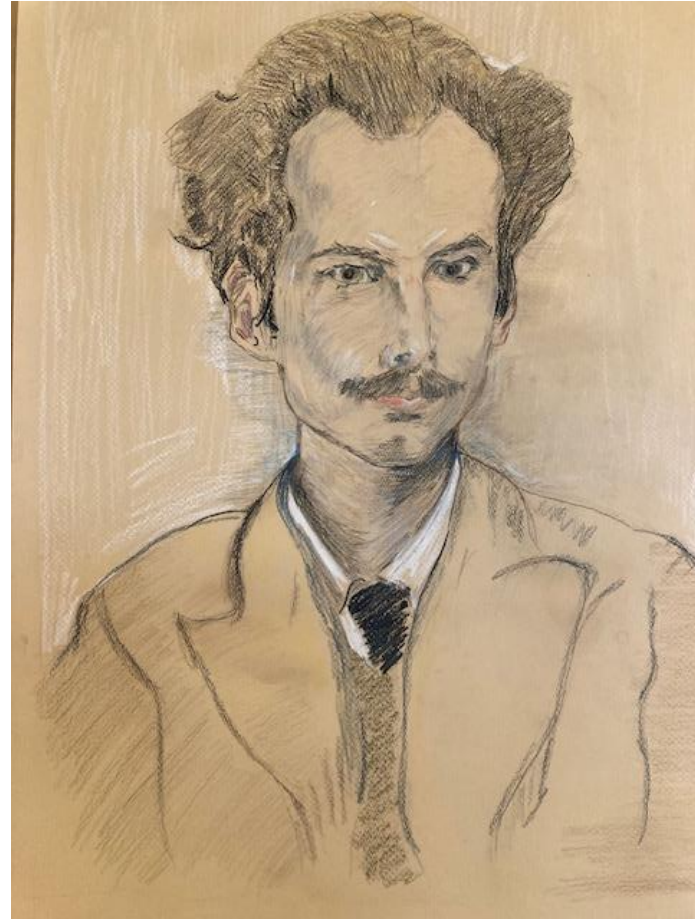
I first enrolled on Abingdon and Witney's Museum Drawing course, after I retired as an academic. I've enjoyed the challenge to look at art carefully in the Ashmolean – to engage with work I've often passed but not really looked at before. The three pieces – a landscape and two portraits – reflect a continuing journey into a challenging but exciting terrain. It's been a real pleasure. And I must thank Tatiana for her expert guidance and the camaraderie in the group. It's been wonderful to reengage with art and start – and I hope to continue – developing my own artistic skills.



TE1: The Woman in Red, Rosa Spisani, Gandolfini (Ashmolean) – a copy, pastel and pencil, 46 x 37 cm, £90



TE2: Grey Landscape, An island in the lagoon, Canaletto (Ashmolean) – a copy, pastel and ink, 35 x 51 cm , £100



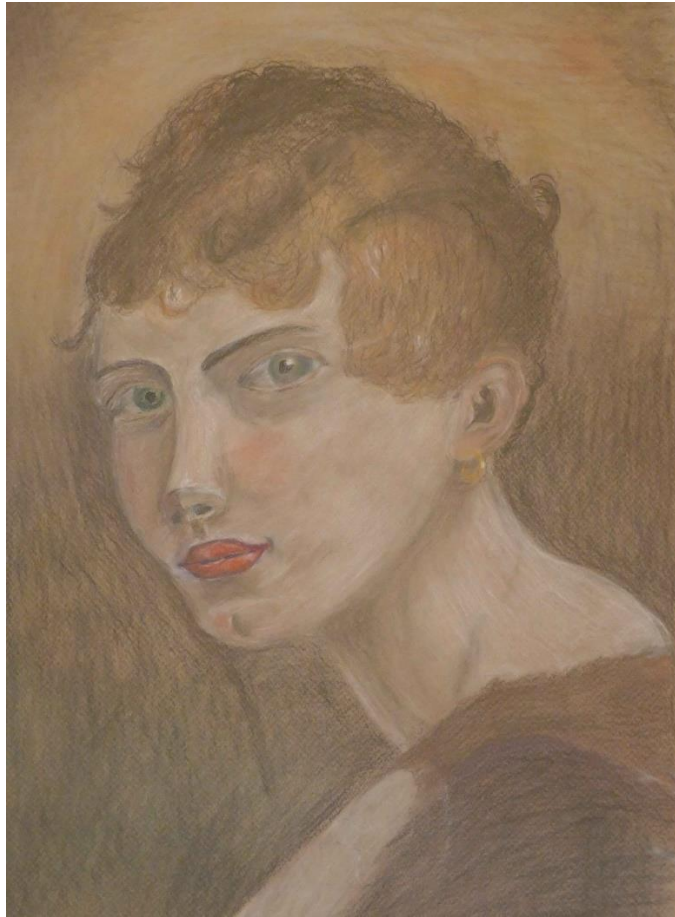
TE3: The Bloke in Brown, Andrei Bely, Bakst (Ashmolean) – a copy pencil and pastel, 56 x 40 cm, £90

Jonathan Perks

After leaving full time employment as a Principal Consultant in an Environmental Company, I wanted to do something completely different. My background is Physics and managing projects, so, I enrolled on art classes at Abingdon and Witney College. With tuition, time and patience I surprised myself in being able to do pleasing still-life drawings and scenic paintings in a variety of media. After Covid lock-downs I enrolled on the course at the Ashmolean Museum and have found it fascinating to really look at and replicate in pencil, pastels and colouring pencils some of the antiquities in the museum. I have found art to be very relaxing and rewarding. I have met new people and it seems I can transfer some of my skills in to organising art exhibitions!



JP1: Floral subtlety (from the Ashmolean), Coloured pencils, 9 x 11 cm, NFS



JP2: Portrait of a Lady (from the Ashmolean), Coloured pencils, 60 x 40 cm, NFS



JP3: Celebration of Coloured Ceramics (from the Ashmolean), Coloured pencils, 60 x 40 cm, NFS

Tony Bellis

It's still there for all I know. My picture of a forsythia bush, that is - on the wall outside classroom 4K at Mountfields Primary School in Loughborough. Miss Keble thought it was so good that she gave it a gold star and put it in pride of place to the left of the door. I was eight.



I really enjoyed art - and that continued with Mrs Cristou in secondary school. She taught me about perspective and the use of light and shade and tone. Sadly, at the age of 14, because of options – or lack of them, I had my last art lesson – until I joined Tatiana's class in Grove over 40 years later....to learn or relearn how to make things look pleasing on paper. And I do mean 'on paper' – because things rarely turn out the way I see them in my minds' eye, but that's half the fun!

I have modest objectives as an artist – I simply want to transfer what's in my mind to something that is an accurate reflection of that on a flat surface. And if not accurate – then at least pleasing to the eye. I am in awe of artists who can do this and for whom this comes naturally. Maybe I will get there one day – but in the meantime, I am content to learn, to experiment, to make a mess with no real concern over the outcome. I enjoy playing with media, techniques, texture, shape and colours.

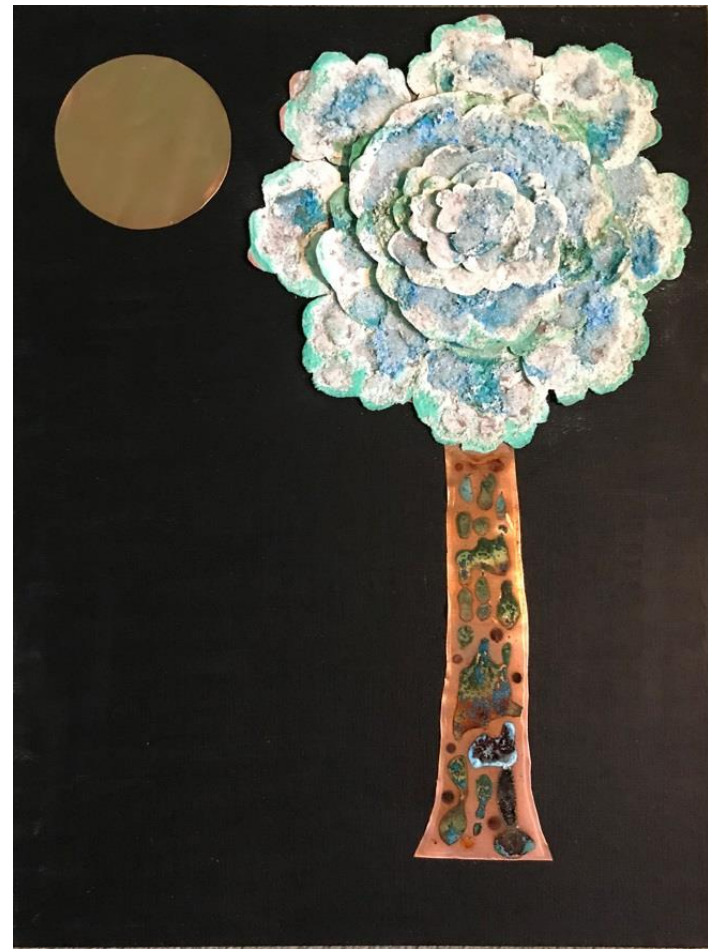
Some pieces turn out better than I expect – others definitely don't. It's a journey – as the saying goes – but one I'm enjoying being on!



TB1: Terry Pin is acrylic and ink and is A3.



TB2: Burning Bright, acrylic, A2



TB3 Cupro e Arbro, acrylic and copper, A3

Dan Preston

Having spent over 20 years as a consultant in the Oil & Gas Industry, it's now time to reinvent myself as an artist and spend time at home with the family.

I'm now studying an HND in Art & Design specialising in Fine Art at Swindon New College to further develop my skills and knowledge, before looking to study further in ceramics.



Instagram: artyfartydan



DP1: Automaton: It's the Little things in Life, Mixed media automaton, glazed ceramic and upcycled materials, £300



DP2: Wood: Self portrait of a rejected man, Upcycled mixed wood sculpture, £100



DP3: Sculpture: Mobius Man's Never-ending Journey, Mixed media sculpture, 3D printed mobius strip on brick, £150.

John Coughlan

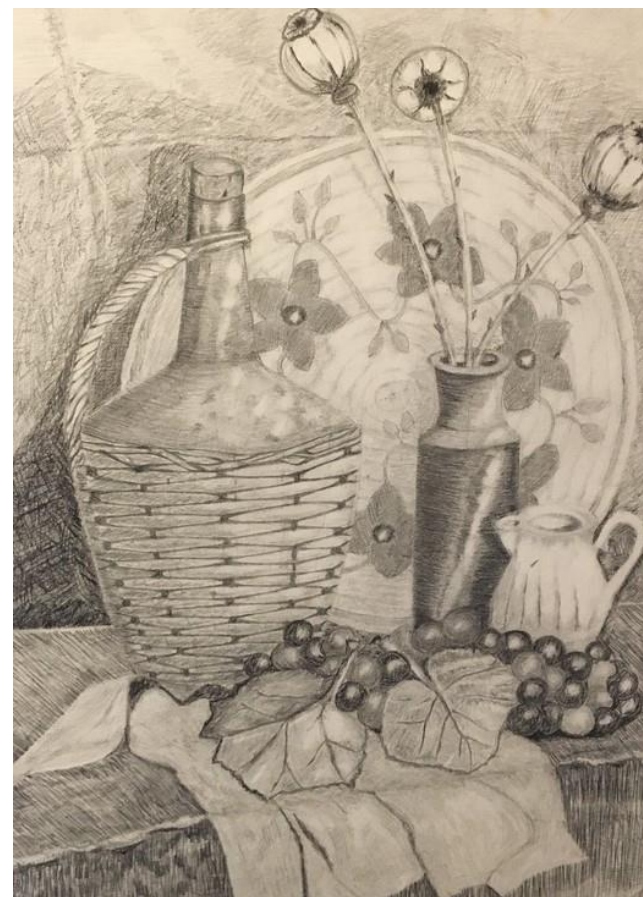
I have enjoyed visiting art galleries and museums for many years, but I hadn't picked up a pencil or a paint brush since I was thirteen. I had recently retired and was looking for some new challenges when a prospectus from the Abingdon & Witney college dropped through the letter box. It seemed like an opportunity too good to ignore and so I enrolled in Tatiana Wise's beginner's drawing and painting class last summer.



I very much enjoy the classes and have met a lot of lovely and talented people. With Tatiana's expert tuition and her constant encouragement, I am learning a great deal and I feel I am starting to make some progress. I hope to make it to the Improvers group one day!



JC1: Churchyard at Ardington. Gouache on paper. 59 x 42 cm A2. NFS



JC2: Fiasco and Jugs Still Life. Pencil on paper. 59 x 42 cm A2. NFS

Kunmi Fasanade

Born in the United Kingdom in the late 60s and travelling abroad with parents I have been exposed to many influences. Art has always been one of my passions along the way and certainly a way to quickly find my happy place. As a young lad, drawing cars and attempting to draw favourite DC and marvel superheros and cartoon characters, developed into a keen interest in colour, shapes, form and setting. Fine art was firmly amongst my chosen subjects in school which I did till the end of high school and at a GCSE O' level, mainly using watercolours, poster colours and pencil drawing & shading, which I thoroughly enjoyed. The vibrancy of colour has always been appealing to me, particularly during my time living abroad. Previously, I have completed a number of works in oil on canvas and have found that medium easy to manage Whilst still attempting to keep the brushes wet, pursuits in a career in medicine, dentistry and in the NHS took its toll on Fine Art. I always ensured that whatever I was doing in my full-time employment would feed to and require manual and hand skills, to feed the interest and be able to give back in some way. The demands of the day job however kept my commitment to Fine art on the back burner for several years until more recently when I have reignited my interest and commitment to Fine Art by enrolling in the Abingdon and Witney College Course. This has allowed me to meet new people and the opportunity to gain more insight into various forms of colour and media of expression amongst other things. Tatiana has been an inspirational teacher and has stimulated my interests into the use of ink, gouache, and acrylics and also exposure to abstract representations. I hope you enjoy your time viewing the artworks in the exhibition and that some of my works will be of viewing pleasure!



KF1: Fruit bowl on a velvet sheet. Oil on canvas 20" x 16" framed (51 cm x 41 cm)



KF2: Mother with child. Pencil drawing, portrait. 21" x 18" framed (54 cm x 46 cm).



KF3: Vessels and grapes. Still life. Gouache on plain paper. 26" x 20" unframed. (66 cm x 51 cm).

Anna Avdejeva

My artistic practice is primarily concerned with process-driven painting, and sculpture which is a recent development.

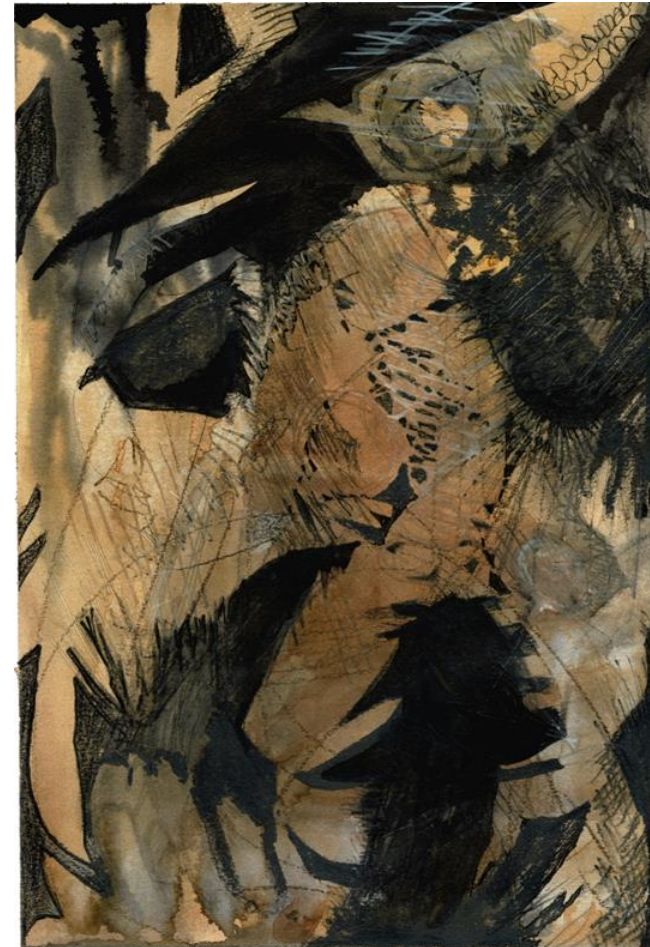


I view my work as an afterthought, a passing of undigested stress, a cathartic chewing that spits out whatever has worn me down throughout the day.

My paintings are mainly abstract, with hints as to a form or partial representation of something, like an animal or part of one. My sculpture work, in contrast, is fully representational, typically featuring anthropomorphic creatures' frozen mid-step, with arms open wide. Through either medium, I let the paint slip and slide, let it guide my brush to its next stroke or I follow how a lump of clay has slumped, and thus mould it into a figure.

In that way, my artistic practice is a form of self-therapy, where it is up to the material to let me know what I should do, and therefore I can let go and finally, relax.

Instagram: [@a_avdejeva_art](#)



AA1: Fallen Remnant, Smoky Messenger, charcoal and ink on paper, 30 x 42cm, NFS.



AA2: Trying Iris, ink on paper, 30 x 42cm, £95.



AA3: Lunch, ink on paper, 30 x 42cm, £95.

Victoria Whitehead



Art always seemed to be in my periphery but never the focus, and I was searching for a hobby in life. One day, I came back from work to find my kids drawing in the kitchen together, having so much fun! I felt so happy for them, as it brought them both so much joy, that I wanted to join them. When I told them how I felt, they enthusiastically said, "Just buy some paints and we'll try this together!". And that was that! For a while, I painted in oils and acrylic, gradually moving onto gouache and watercolour – which is currently my favourite medium to use. I paint and draw in sketchbooks whenever I can because I enjoy it so much, and it is so relaxing! I am incredibly fortunate to have this passion as now I have been painting and drawing for years, and it is my obsession, in the best possible way!

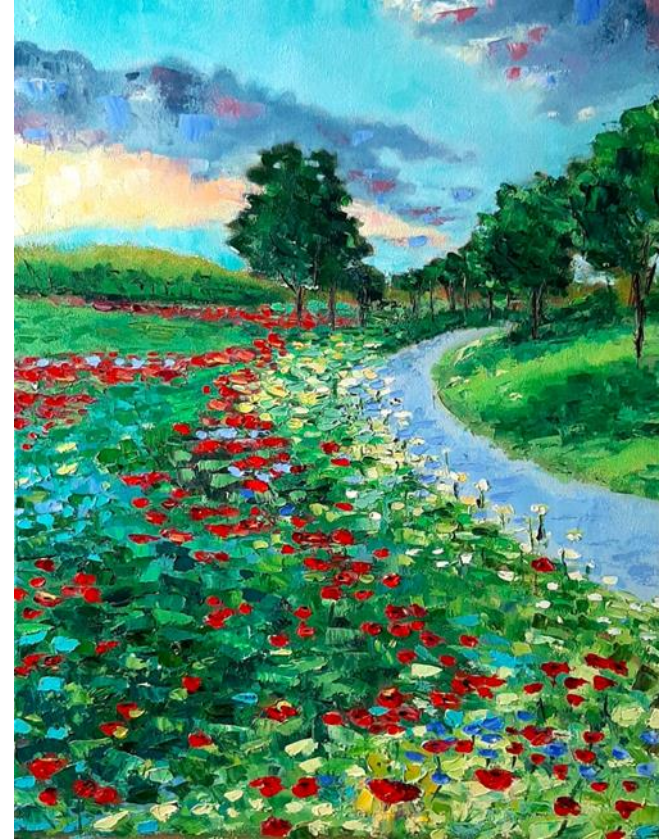
Instagram: [@veronywhite](#)



VW1: Peace in My Soul, oil on canvas, 23 x 31cm, £40.



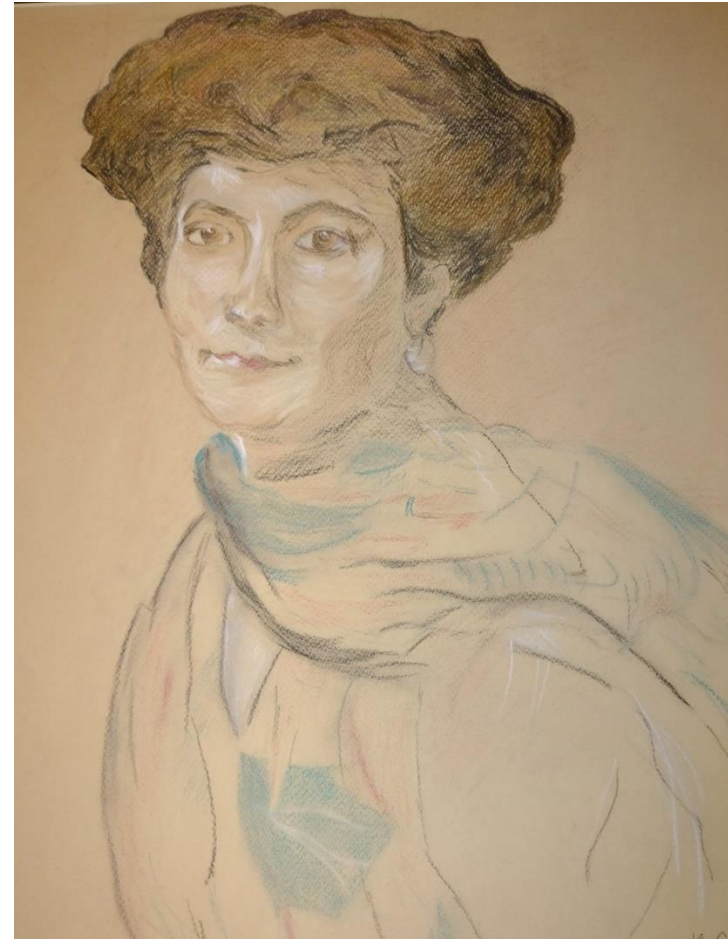
VW2: Happy Afternoon, oil on canvas, 30 x 40cm, £55



VW3: I'm on My Way, oil on canvas, 41 x 51cm, £85.

Marion Turberfield

I had to give up art and focus on science to get into medical school. Having escaped from the NHS I am enjoying the opportunity to learn from the artists whose work is in the Ashmolean Museum, under the expert guidance of Tatiana Wise, and in company with a very congenial group of artists who have become friends. I discover from the current special exhibition of Dutch Masters' drawings at the Ashmolean that "aspiring artists began their training by copying other artworks, whether contemporary or older examples". So, we are in good company, and in my second year I have confidence enough to display my most recent work.



MT1: Elena Ivanova Roerich, after original by Valentin Alexandrovich Servo 1909, Pastel. NFS



MT2: French Pastoral Scene, after original by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, Pastel. NFS



MT3: Oriental Poppy, after original by May Morris 1879, NFS

With thanks to the support from:

The Abbey Cinema



The Abbey Cinema offers a state-of-the-art cinema experience on a huge nine metre projection screen, high-spec acoustic wall coverings and advanced Dolby 7.1 surround sound to enjoy all new releases in style. Alongside this brilliant technical set-up, the cinema is hosted by a staff team of the most friendly and bubbly people who will make your cinema experience feel even more personal whoever you are. Offering a finely stocked bar, a hot food selection that will please even the fussiest of eaters, cinema seating and even cabaret style seating. Furthermore, as well as all the latest blockbusters screening 3-5 times per day, the space will also be used for hosting live events such as comedy, musical performances, film theme nights and live streams of National Theatre productions making our cinema a dynamic multi-use space.

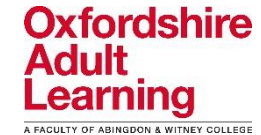
[The Abbey](#)

Melou

Designing the flyer



Oxfordshire Adult Learning



OAL is an award-winning faculty of Abingdon and Witney College, with a strong history of providing courses, to a diverse group of learners, throughout Oxfordshire.

This year we are supporting Oxon Artmakers, working in partnership with The Abbey Cinema, to host an Art Exhibition as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks. We are proud to sponsor Oxon Artmakers, which grew from our very popular art courses, to celebrate learner achievements.

Alongside our visual arts' courses in watercolours, museum drawing, still life, acrylics and drawing and painting we also offer courses in Homecrafts such as sewing, cookery, guitar, and floristry. Our broader offer includes courses in, Health & Wellbeing, Digital, Languages and Employability.

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to find a hobby, retrain and upskill, follow their passions and fulfil their potential. Oxfordshire Adult Learning remove obstacles and provide flexible learning options in communities across Oxfordshire, for all types of interests and whatever your personal circumstances may be.

There are plenty of positive reasons to study part-time, whether it's enjoying the social side of learning something totally new with other people or getting the sense of accomplishment that comes with a finished project.

If you would like to learn more about our courses or enrol, please visit our website:

[Oxfordshire Adult Learning - Abingdon & Witney College \(abingdon-witney.ac.uk\)](http://Oxfordshire Adult Learning - Abingdon & Witney College (abingdon-witney.ac.uk))

Bringing learning opportunities to communities

