



Hello and welcome to the twelfth newsletter!

AGM

No doubt by the time you are reading this the AGM will have taken place. It was disappointing that we did not have any nominations for new committee members. After quite a lot of persuasion the existing committee are willing to stand again but this may not be the case in future. Over the coming year please think about offering to help. It would be much healthier for the art group if new members with new ideas could be recruited to the committee.

Dates for your diary

There are several events coming up so please make a note of them so you don't double book! They are:

- 15th May Southwell Craft Fair
- 10 -13th June Patchings Festival
- 17th June WI coffee morning at Judy's
- 22nd June Mike Webster demo
- 6th July MAG Summer Lunch
- 9th Sept Vic Bearcroft workshop

All are welcome to **Judy's fund raising coffee morning** for the WI - ask Judy for more details.

Mike Webster's demo will be a seascape using acrylics. Do invite any friends or

anyone you think might be interested. The entrance fee for non-members is £4.

The **MAG Summer Lunch** will be at the Ferry Inn, North Muskham. All members, partners and associates are welcome to come. It will be about £7 per head for a sumptuous cold buffet with mountains of strawberries and lashings of cream. Yum!

Vic's pastel workshop will provisionally be on the 9th September and not the 2nd as previously stated. This has been booked in response to his last demo where several members and visitors asked for a workshop. If we can get 15 people to attend it will cost roughly £20. If we can get 20 people it will be less. £6 of the cost is for materials that Vic provides and you keep afterwards. This is much cheaper than going to one of Vic's own workshops! The subject will be a seascape.

Ron Freeman

Because the AGM is on May 11th Ron won't be in attendance. He will be on hand to help at the next two meetings instead.

Appreciating Abstract Art:

One of the most common reactions to abstract art is along the lines of "My six-year-old could've done that". And the usual response by artist is to say the person lacks the mental ability to appreciate abstract art.

But if a piece of abstract art is to have significance for anyone other than the artist, it needs to have something that'll retain the

viewer's attention, draw them in, keep them looking, and generate an emotional response.

As a viewer of abstract paintings, ask yourself the following questions:

- Am I trying to figure out what it looks like or represents rather than allowing something to emerge from what I see in front of me?
- What are the elements, colours, and textures of the painting?
- How do these interact with each other?
- What emotions do the painting evoke?
- What is the title of the painting and how is this influencing what I see?
- Have I allowed enough time to make a connection with painting?

As an artist creating abstract paintings, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I simply want my abstract painting to be beautiful?
- Do I intend this abstract painting to convey something specific to the viewer?
- Do I want people to extract their own meaning from it?
- What in the abstract painting is going to do this?
- How do the elements interact?
- Do I want to guide the viewer's interpretation with my choice of title?
- Do I want to write a statement to accompany the painting explaining how I created it, what my thoughts were while I made it, or what I see it conveying?
- Does it matter to me if they don't "get it"?

(With thanks to Marion Boddy-Evans)

At the risk of being non-PC:

A Brit, a Frenchman and a Russian are viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden.

"Look at their reserve, their calm," muses the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagrees. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

"No clothes, no shelter," the Russian points out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."

And a contribution from a member:

What do you get when you cross a Mini with a dog?

"A carpet"

Don't forget, this is your newsletter. Please let the committee know if you like it and what you would like to see in it. Contributions, comments and ideas are all welcome.



Happy painting!