

CENTREPIECES

Mental Health Arts Project

Registered Charity 1160300

CENTREPIECES ARTISTS UPDATE

MAY – JUNE 2020

CENTREPIECES UNDER LOCKDOWN DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Both Centrepieces Premises, the Lodge at Hall Place and the Pop Up Studios in Bexleyheath Broadway are currently closed at the moment. This has meant that the programme of workshops, exhibitions, events etc will not be happening according to the timescales planned for this year. And of course there is much uncertainty as to when we will be able to open the premises again, and when other exhibition spaces etc will become available, according to Govt guidelines on safety and Social Distancing etc.

But in the meantime, Centrepieces Volunteers and Tutors have been very busy organising an alternative arts programme called 'CENTREPIECES OPERATION ART LOCKDOWN'. This has involved use of the artists@centrepieces.org email group, WhatsApp groups, Facebook, Instagram, Skype and now Zoom to provide live art workshops for those able to access these. We have also been sending information by post to those without a PC or internet access which includes ideas to continue with art at home. And we have tried to maintain a network of support for any of our members who have needed it in these challenging times.

OVERVIEW OF OPERATION ART LOCKDOWN

Karen has created a weekly/fortnightly Newsletter (called Centrepieces Operation Art Lockdown) which contains the details of our arts programme and other useful links/ideas while we are all under Lockdown, 2 editions of which have gone out already. This is available on the email group, Social Media and the website, and will be posted to those without internet access. Please send any artwork you have been working on which you would like to be included in the Newsletter to info@centrepieces.org

LIVE ZOOM WORKSHOPS

This is the planned ZOOM programme, which is being continually updated. If you are interested but not sure how to use/ set up Zoom then contact Karen on

karen.larkin@centrepieces.org who will be able to guide you through it. The Zoom Workshops are being run by Peter Kent, Lucy Thomas, Jemma Scotter and Karen Larkin.

MONDAYS 7:30pm 'DOODLE PARTY' using coloured pencils and pens (Lucy/ Jemma)

TUESDAYS 2:00pm 28th April - 'MONET' Water Lilies (Peter)

11-1pm 5th May – 'A THROW OF THE DICE' (Peter)

12th 19th May ART WORKSHOPS (details TBC) (Peter)

26th May 'HOW TO PAINT SEA AND WAVES' (Peter)

THURSDAYS 11am 30th April – 'ORIGAMI' (Lucy)

7th 14th 21st May – MIXED MEDIA (Lucy)

FRIDAYS 11 – 1pm 1st May – 'MONET FOLLOW UP' (Peter)

8th May - 'ABSTRACT ART' What do I want to say and why ? Part 1 (Peter)

15th May – 'ABSTRACT ART' What do I want to say and why ? Part 2 (Peter)

22nd May – 'ABSTRACT LANDSCAPES' (Peter)

29th May - 'ABSTRACT PORTRAITS' (Peter)

2-3pm - 8th 15th 22nd May CREATIVE WRITING (Karen)

Thursday Mixed Media workshops with Lucy will be encouraging people to use materials that can be easily found at home as there is likely to be a shortage of art materials under Lockdown.

VIDEOS AND WRITTEN TUTORIALS

In addition to providing links to useful art tutorials that are already out there we have started to provide some of our own. John Exell has done one on Portrait Drawing with more to follow, and C/P tutor Sue Wieck has just made a YouTube video on Butterfly Collage which will be circulated soon, and can be found if you go to YouTube in your web browser and type in butterfly collage sue wieck. Lucy will also be making one on Drawing a Face.

WHATSAPP

There are two WhatsApp groups, both open to all Centrepieces artists. The first is a social support group with Quizzes, Art Challenges, and the opportunity for those not using social media to take part in the Facebook challenges and show any artwork they wish to share, and the second is with the Photography Club run by Terry Longley. If you'd like to join in then contact Karen on karen.larkin@centrepieces.org

FACEBOOK

The main Facebook page is managed by Lucy and Peter and features updates of what is happening in the Zoom workshops and other Centrepieces Artists work.

There is an additional Facebook group called 'Centrepieces Arty F'Arty Party' where people can take part in Daily Art Challenges such as 'Drawing Trees', 'Under the Sea', 'Sunrise/ Sunset', Sketching and Creative Writing, and can also upload images of artwork they are making. This is managed by Karen, Nicki and Peter.

INSTAGRAM

Lucy has been facilitating and supporting C/P artists in use of Instagram to enable people to show their artwork and this has been working well. So get in touch with centrepiecespopup@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.

TV ART PROGRAMMES/ WORKSHOPS/ DEMOS

You may have noticed that there are a number of good art programmes being shown on TV during Lockdown. We will attempt to highlight some of these in our regular CENTREPIECES ART LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTERS.

NHS RAP VIDEO

Centrepieces artist tony Bennet has made a 2 part YouTube rap video about covid19, Social Distancing and the NHS which can be viewed via the following links: Part 1 <https://youtu.be/UYHDRm8TMnA> Part 2 <https://youtu.be/Fvwui0WCOGk> They are well worth a look !

MOLLY THE COW DESIGN COMPETITION

This is a competition which is open to all C/P artists to create a design to repaint the full size cow which is outside the butchers shop in Sidcup. It has been organised by C/P art tutor Sue Wieck who painted the original, and the winner will be able to do the artwork with support from Sue, and receive £100 of food vouchers for either the butchers shop or delicatessen next door. Templates available from info@centrepieces.org , the competition deadline has now been extended to the 30th June.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK THEME CHANGE TO 'KINDNESS' 18th – 24th May

The Mental Health Foundation decided to change the theme of this years MH Awareness Week from 'Sleep and Mental Health' to 'Kindness' as a result of the impact of the covid19 pandemic. The 'Sleep' theme will be revisited at some point in the future, so we will continue with our workshops and plans whenever that happens. Anyone who wishes to continue with their 'Sleep Journals' is welcome to do so and any material can be used for the project and exhibition in future.

Centrepieces contribution to the KINDNESS theme is an invitation for our artists to paint/decorate a letter from the phrase ' KINDNESS HELPS US TO FEEL LESS ALONE' for a collaboration and presentation of the final result and hopefully put up on the MH Foundation website. Letters are available from Karen Larkin at centrepiecespopup@gmail.com They are still available but please get in quick as the deadline for submission is Friday 8th May.

EXHIBITIONS FOR THE FUTURE

LOCKDOWN EXHIBITION: The current plan is for this to be the first exhibition once we are able to reopen the Pop Up Studios to enable C/P artists to show what they have been doing while under Lockdown.

'FRACTURED': Exhibition to be rescheduled once the Pop Up Studios reopen.

'ART HEALING': Exhibition to be rescheduled once the Pop Up Studios reopen.

LIBRARIES: The Sidcup Library will be installed as soon as the libraries reopen.

CAPITAL ARTS GALLERY: C/P artist Dorota Chioma's exhibition will be one of the first when this gallery in Eltham reopens after Lockdown.

STABLES GALLERY ANNUAL OPEN EXHIBITION: This is still currently scheduled for 10th Sept – 14th October, but will be subject to the impact of Govt policy and Guidelines on Lockdown and Social Distancing due to the Coronavirus.

BEXLEYHEATH RAILWAY STATION Mark Harrison continues to show his work in the station waiting room. Contact Centrepieces if interested as work needs to be of a particular size and depth in order to fit into their standard poster type locked frames. We are looking for a volunteer to support a programme of rotating exhibitions in this space.

CREEK CREATIVE STUDIOS IN FAVERSHAM Let us know if you would like to be considered for a solo exhibition either at this venue or elsewhere later in the year. Their Upstairs Café Gallery is fully booked for 2020 but the downstairs Basement Gallery is fairly free.

MERCHANDISE The new Centrepieces T shirts with a colourful design by Kim Campbell are on sale at £10 each, and now available in a full range of sizes. Centrepieces Trustee Britta Von Zweigbergk's third new book, 'Words from the Edge' a collection of Words, Pictures, Poems and Objects from the Bexley Hospital 1973 – 1996 has just been published under Centrepieces Press and copies are now available from the Lodge at £8.99. 'Centrepieces, A Story of Mental Health and Art in Bexley' with input from many people involved in Centrepieces over the years is still on sale at the Lodge for £14.99, available to Centrepieces artists and volunteers at the reduced rate of £12.99.

FUNDRAISING

A consultation with local residents living in the North of the Borough is now starting following the recent successful £1M bid to the Arts Council 'Creative People and Places' scheme. This has involved the Erith Exchange, Peabody Trust, Beaux Arts and several other organisations for a project entitled 'Made in the Estuary'. Centrepieces Trustees Guy Tarrant, Rosie Eaglen and Fiona Miller are on the Creative Board and will be monitoring progress and pushing for Centrepieces voice to be heard in relation to any future funding.

MORE HALL PLACE INSTALLATIONS We are still looking for more ideas for outline proposals of further artwork in the Gardens at Hall Place (The SIX), for which Centrepieces will be seeking funding. Please contact Geoff if you have any further suggestions/ feel able to take on/ help with any of these projects.

DISCOUNT CARDS AT HOBBYCRAFT Centrepieces Trustee Guy Tarrant has negotiated a 10% discount for Centrepieces artists at the Crayford branch of Hobbycraft. These cards are being produced and will be available at the Lodge for all volunteers, and to artists on renewal of their membership. We are also talking to Hall Place Visitors Café about this scheme. This scheme will become active once the shops reopen.

VISIT TO CROSSNESS OLD SEWAGE WORKS C/P Trustee Rosie Eaglen will be organising a visit for Centrepieces artists, after their new director Petra Cox expressed interest in offering casting workshops and possibly siting some C/P public art in their grounds. This will now be pursued after Lockdown.