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# CENTREPIECES ARTISTS UPDATE

#  JULY – AUGUST 2020

**UPDATE ON CLOSURE OF LODGE AND POP UP STUDIOS**

**Both Centrepieces premises, the Lodge at Hall Place and the Pop Up Studios in Bexleyheath Broadway, are still currently closed. This has meant that the programme of workshops, exhibitions, events etc will not be happening according to the timescales planned for this year. In the meantime, we have continued to operate with minimal volunteer cover at the Lodge with most people working from home.**

**We are currently making plans for a phased reopening of both premises, which will include measures for social distancing and covid safety compliance and require funding to buy extra equipment. We will keep everyone informed as plans progress. It is likely that initially most group art workshop sessions will need to take place at the Pop Up Studios due to the larger space available, where it will also be a little easier for artists with their own studio spaces to restart. We will however also reopen the Lodge as far as possible with restrictions, and try to utilise the outdoor areas we have there for sculpture etc.**

**SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR THE CENTREPIECES SEPTEMBER LOCKDOWN ART EXHIBITION IN THE STABLES GALLERY HALL PLACE (see details below)**

**‘SANE’ ARTIST GRANT AWARDS These awards from £100 - £300 are now available from the mental health organisation ‘SANE’. Don’t miss out, this is a great opportunity, some C/P artists have already applied, deadline August 2020. Contact Geoff on 01322 554 589 or** **info@centrepieces.org** **for more information and application form and help if needed.**

**‘CENTREPIECES OPERATION ART LOCKDOWN’ is the name of the online arts programme which Centrepieces Tutors and Volunteers have created and have been offering over the last few months, involving the use of the** **artists@centrepieces.org** **email group, Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, and Zoom to provide live art workshops for those able to access. We have also been sending information out by post to those without a PC or internet access, which includes ideas to continue making 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 puts out a regular Newsletter entitled Centrepieces Operation Art Lockdown which contains the details of our arts programme and other useful links/ideas while we have all been under Lockdown. This is available via the email group, social media and the website, and is 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 ART WORKSHOPS**

**We have been running a full weekly ZOOM programme currently comprising 6 art workshops and a Wednesday ‘Tea and Talk’ session, with a weekly update and fliers sent out with full details of each workshop. If you would like to join but are not sure how to use/set up Zoom then contact** **centrepiecespopup@gmail.com** **and you will be guided through the process. You must book a place and pay in advance for any workshop you wish to join by contacting Sue Turner on** **suet998@gmail.com** **. The cost is £2 per workshop which helps to pay our tutors something for all the hard work and long hours they have putting in to create such an extensive programme for our artists.**

**The Zoom Workshops are currently being run by Peter Kent, Lucy Thomas, Jemma Scotter, Karen Larkin, Nicki Lessing and Mala Morgan.**

**MONDAYS 11 – 1pm ‘ART TECHNIQUES’ (Nicki/Mala)**

 **7:30 - 9pm ‘DOODLE PARTY’ (Lucy/ Jemma)**

**TUESDAYS 11 – 1pm ‘ART TECHNIQUES’ (Peter/ Mala)**

**WEDNESDAYS 2 – 3:30pm ‘TEA AND CHAT’ (and Quizzes) FREE (C/P Volunteers)**

**THURSDAYS 11 – 1pm ‘MIXED MEDIA’ (themed) (Lucy)**

**FRIDAYS 11 – 1pm ‘ABSTRACT ART’ (Peter)**

 **2 - 3pm ‘CREATIVE WRITING’ (Karen)**

**Full details of the Zoom workshops are sent out weekly with individual fliers for each.**

**Workshops tutors often encourage people to use materials that can easily be found at home as there has been a shortage of art materials during Lockdown.**

**Each Zoom workshop has a Whatsapp group attached to it where artists can share images of their work as it is being created and the finished product at the end, with some examples available to be seen more widely on Instagram and Facebook.**

**WHATSAPP**

**There are two Whatsapp groups in addition to those attached to each Zoom workshop, 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 either of these 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 the ‘Centrepieces Arty F’Arty Party’ where people can take part in Regular Art Challenges such as ‘Monochrome’ ,’Our Planet Earth’ ‘Creative Writing’, ‘London Landmarks’, ‘Abstract Art’ and can also upload images of artwork they are making. This is managed by the Social Admin Team.**

**INSTAGRAM**

**Lucy has been facilitating this and supporting C/P artists in the use of Instagram to enable them to show their artwork, with many great examples of work on show. So get in touch with** **centrepiecespopup@gmail.com** **if you would like to get involved.**

**TV ART PROGRAMMES/ WORKSHOPS/ DEMOS**

**We have been listing some of the best of the many currently showing in our regular CENTREPIECES ART LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTERS.**

**MOLLY THE COW DESIGN COMPETITION**

**We are still taking entries for 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 butcher’s 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 are available from** **info@centrepieces.org**

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK THEME ‘KINDNESS’ 18th – 24th May**

**We contributed to the Lockdown KINDNESS theme through Centrepieces artists painting/decorating a letter each from the phrase ‘ KINDNESS HELPS US TO FEEL LESS ALONE’ out of which Karen created a YouTube video which was also shared on the Mental Health Foundation and Small Charity Coalition websites.**

**YOUTUBE VIDEOS:**

**The Kindness Video:** [**https://youtu.be/53eOUOgzCEA**](https://youtu.be/53eOUOgzCEA)

**Butterfly Collage Tutorial Video:** [**https://youtu.be/uECf3TVy0QU**](https://youtu.be/uECf3TVy0QU)

**EXHIBITIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

**LOCKDOWN ART EXHIBITION in the STABLES GALLERY HALL PLACE SEPTEMBER 2020 This will be our first exhibition after Lockdown which will enable C/P artists to show examples of artwork they have been creating while at home under Lockdown. It is scheduled to be installed on 10th September and will run until 14th October. As things stand, Hall Place hope to reopen the Gallery by then, subject to Govt Covid Policy guidelines. SUBMISSIONS BEING TAKEN NOW Contact Geoff on** **info@centrepieces.org** **or tel 01322 554 589 Mon/Tues/Thurs at the Lodge to let us know what you intend to submit/ bring work down to the Lodge. If required help is available to get work framed.**

**‘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.**

**BEXLEYHEATH RAILWAY STATION Mark Harrison continues to show his work in the station waiting room. We will return to the plan to show C/P artists work in rotation once we are able to after lockdown has eased sufficiently.**

**CREEK CREATIVE STUDIOS IN FAVERSHAM Let us know if you would like to be considered for a solo or a group exhibition in future either at this venue or elsewhere. Again we will return to making arrangements post lockdown.**

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.

XMAS CARDS and CALENDARS 2021 We will very shortly be circulating information about how to submit designs for this years Xmas Cards and how we propose to make a Calendar(s) so watch this space and the artists@centrepieces.org email group.

FUNDRAISING

We have been very submitting funding bids to help Centrepieces through Lockdown where we have not been receiving our usual level of income but have still had to pay bills and overheads. We have received a number of helpful donations from organisations and individuals, and are now waiting to hear back from several bigger grant applications which we have made. Any success with these bids will be announced.

MORE HALL PLACE INSTALLATIONS – ‘THE SIX’ We will be resuming getting more outline proposals for 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 with cards being issued on membership renewal.

VISIT TO CROSSNESS OLD SEWAGE WORKS C/P Trustee Rosie Eaglen will be organising a visit for Centrepieces artists, after their Learning and Outreach Officer Petra Cox expressed interest in offering casting workshops and possibly siting some C/P public art in their grounds, possibly the 3 colourful Totem Poles or the ‘ Broken yet still Beautiful’ mosaic sculpture. This will now be pursued after Lockdown.