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# CENTREPIECES ARTISTS UPDATE

#  OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2020

**UPDATE ON REOPENING OF THE LODGE AND THE POP UP STUDIOS**

**Both of Centrepieces’ premises, the Lodge at Hall Place and the Pop Up Studios in Bexleyheath Broadway, are still currently closed to artists for normal activities. We have however been very busy starting to transform the spaces into Covid safe environments for all our artists, volunteers and the public. We have fortunately been very successful in our recent fundraising, an activity which has taken up a lot of time (details below) and have continued to offer ‘Operation Art Lockdown’, the online arts workshop programme delivered through Zoom, Whatsapp groups, Facebook and Instagram. We have tried to be as inclusive as possible during recent difficult times of Lockdown restrictions to ensure that most members will have been able to continue to benefit from Centrepieces in one way or another.**

**A big thanks to the team of Centrepieces Volunteers and Tutors who have been working tirelessly to ensure that all this has been possible, some from the Lodge and recently the Pop Up Studios, but mainly from home. We are planning to reschedule most exhibitions and events that have not been possible over the past 6 months.**

**We are currently making plans for a phased reopening of both premises, which will include measures for social distancing and Covid safety compliance, and are starting to buy the extra equipment required to achieve this. We will keep everyone informed as plans progress. Initially most group art workshop sessions will need to take place at the Pop Up Studios due to the bigger space available, and it will also be easier for artists with their own studio spaces to restart earlier than some other activities. We will however be reopening the Lodge as far as possible in a limited way, and try to utilise the outdoor areas there as much as possible for sculpture etc.**

**EXTENSION TO THE CENTREPIECES LOCKDOWN ART EXHIBITION IN THE STABLES GALLERY**

**We have just agreed an extension to our current Stables Gallery Exhibition at Hall Place (Lockdown Art) until 17th November and will be freshening up with some new pieces if any artists have further artwork produced since March which they would like to submit. The Exhibition is looking good showing about 130 pieces of artwork produced by Centrepieces Artists during Lockdown, around 20 of which have sold so far. Contact Geoff at the Lodge 01322 554 589 or info@centrepieces.org**

**‘SANE’ ARTIST GRANT AWARDS 10 Centrepieces artists have applied for these grants of between £100 - £300, with support from Centrepieces. The results are expected soon, SANE have said that the number and quality of applications has been very high this year, which is evident from those put forward by Centrepieces artists. So fingers crossed.**

**‘CENTREPIECES OPERATION ART LOCKDOWN’ is the name of the online arts programme which Centrepieces Tutors and Volunteers 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 an occasional 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. For the time being please feel free to 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 are continuing our weekly ZOOM programme with workshops covering watercolour techniques, various painting styles and techniques, mixed media, abstract art and creative writing and a Wednesday ‘Tea and Talk’ session which is currently running as the Tea and Talk weekly quiz. A weekly update and fliers are 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** **(see attached page with full details of how to go about joining the ZOOM Workshops). The cost is £2 per workshop which helps to pay our tutors something for all the hard work and long hours they have been putting in to create such an extensive programme for our artists.**

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

**MONDAYS 11 – 1pm ‘WATERCOLOURS’ (Nicki Lessing)**

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

**TUESDAYS 11 – 1pm ‘ART TECHNIQUES’ (themed) (Mala Morgan)**

**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 Kent)**

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

**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 other volunteers, 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 Art Challenges such as ‘Zentangle and other Patterns’, ‘Kindness Themes’, ‘Stone Painting’, Drawing Tutorials, Figurative 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.**

**FUTURE EXHIBITIONS**

**‘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 Exhibition will be installed in a couple of months time .**

**CAPITAL ARTS GALLERY: This gallery has now reopened. C/P artist Dorota Chioma has been exhibiting there and several artists took part in the Greenwich Art Challenge which they ran on Saturday 26th September. Contact Geoff if you would like to be considered to exhibit/ sell your artwork at Capital Arts, Centrepieces can help with costs.**

**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 Their Café / Basement Art Galleries have now reopened, and Dorota Chioma has a show in the Lower Gallery ‘Mental Health in Pictures’ from 27th October – 8th November, more details to be sent to** **artists@centrepieces.org** **If any other artists are interested in exhibiting at Creek Creative in either of their galleries then please contact Geoff asap as it gets booked up quickly, especially the upstairs café space.**

**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 supported by a number of helpful donations from organisations and individuals throughout the covid19 Lockdown and recovery period which has helped Centrepieces enormously as we have not been receiving our usual level of income but still had to pay the usual bills and overheads. We have also received donations of art materials, books etc, all of which has helped with Operation Art Lockdown and towards reopening the premises. We can now announce that we have been successful in three further major fundraising bids:**

**Winners Chapel Church Dartford: (£5K) . Bexley Council Discretionary Business Fund: (£10K) . The Baring Foundation Trust: (£12K) . National Lottery Community Fund Covid19: (£9.8K)**

**These funds will enable Centrepieces to equip our premises and pay for all associated costs for reopening, and continue our programme of art workshops, exhibitions, community/ school projects and public art.**

**MORE HALL PLACE INSTALLATIONS – ‘THE SIX’ We will return to finalising these proposals very soon.**

**HABERDASHERS ASKE’S Karen and the Centrepieces Art Tutors are currently working out the details for a year long Art project with Year 7 at this local secondary school in Crayford, to help increase awareness of mental health issues amongst young people.**

**DISCOUNT CARDS AT HOBBYCRAFT AND COSTA COFFEE This year’s Centrepieces Membership Cards now allow a 10% discount at both Hobbycraft in Crayford and Costa Coffee in Bexleyheath.**

**VISIT TO CROSSNESS OLD SEWAGE WORKS C/P Trustee Rosie Eaglen is organising a visit for Centrepieces artists, after their new 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.**

**LESNES ABBEY Lucy and Geoff met with the Development Manager at the Abbey to discuss partnership working, possibly offering art workshops to the public and artwork in the grounds. Lucy also worked up a separate proposal bidding for a commission in the grounds of the Abbey as part of the larger ‘Estuary 2021’ scheme, which although unsuccessful received good feedback and proved valuable to gain experience in this area of more mainstream art commissioning.**

**KILN We are planning to purchase a Kiln, which will help a lot to ensure a more efficient and accessible firing process for clay work produced in workshops etc.**