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# CENTREPIECES ARTISTS UPDATE

#  JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2021

 **HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE**

**Despite the ever changing scenario and uncertainties due to the impact of the Coronavirus and restrictions, Centrepieces has continued to offer an arts programme and to plan for the future.**

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

**Karen and the team of volunteers have been very busy at the Pop Up Studios, buying screens and other equipment to ensure a safe transformation of the Space for the eventual return of the Studio Artists, Art Workshops, Exhibitions and access by the public. The Gallery Exhibition areas are all freshly painted with a new hanging system and display boards and screens, and the studio spaces screened off and newly refurbished. All items purchased can be moved relatively easily should we be required to move into alternative space(s), as by their nature the Pop Up Studios are leased on a temporary basis at a cheaper rent. Some Studio Artists have already started to return in the first phase, to be followed by live workshops, Exhibitions and reopening to the public.**

**The Lodge at Hall Place is still currently closed for general artist activities. Successful fundraising last year has enabled us to purchase the equipment needed for both premises to be able to return once Covid19 Lockdown restrictions can be sufficiently relaxed. Phased reopening of both premises includes measures for social distancing and Covid safety compliance, with strict rules for the use of face masks and handwashing etc. It is planned for most art workshop group sessions to take place initially at the Pop Up Studios due to the larger space available, but we intend to reopen the Lodge in a limited way with fewer people, and to utilise the outdoor areas there as much as possible for sculpture etc.**

**And as most will be aware, we are continuing to offer ‘Operation Art Lockdown’, the online arts workshop programme delivered through Zoom, WhatsApp groups, Facebook and Instagram.**

**A big thanks to the team of Centrepieces Volunteers and Tutors who have been working so hard to ensure that all of the above has been possible, some from the Lodge and the Pop Up Studios, but many from home. We are planning to reschedule most Exhibitions and events which have not been able to take place over the past 9 months, and will continue to keep everyone informed as things progress****.**

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

**Centrepieces has agreed a further extension to our LOCKDOWN ART Exhibition in the Stables Gallery at Hall Place until 10th February 2021, subject of course to the gallery being able to reopen. We would like to keep all work up which is currently showing, but if anyone wishes to have their artwork returned before 10th Feb then please contact Geoff on** **info@centrepieces.org** **to make arrangements. If there is any further artwork produced recently which you would like to submit (subject to availability of gallery space) then please let Geoff know on** **info@centrepieces.org**

**‘SANE’ INDIVIDUAL ARTIST AWARDS Congratulations to all our artists who with Centrepieces support applied for these grants in 2020, and to the 9 artists who received awards of between £150 - £275 each. SANE gave some good feedback on the quality of our artists applications, especially as there was a lot of competition due to the total number and standard of those received. The proposals which our artists put forward were well thought out and imaginative, the successful artists were: Dawn Tomlin, Beverley Coldron, Fatma Durmush, Kim Campbell, George Adeniran, Mala Morgan, Karen Larkin, Dorota Chioma and Stuart Smith.**

**CENTREPIECES AGM NOVEMBER 2020**

**Centrepieces 2020 AGM took place by Zoom on the 25th November with presentations by artists Dorota Chioma, Lesley Cody and Nicki Lessing as well as the usual talks by Mike Ellsmore, Chair of the Trustees, and Geoff Norris, Coordinator, and a great video of workshops over the past year put together by Karen Larkin, Assistant Coordinator. The video is now on YouTube and can be viewed on our YouTube channel “Centrepieces Mental Health Arts Project”** [**https://youtu.be/svnaqW2\_U8o**](https://youtu.be/svnaqW2_U8o) **We hope to bring you more videos showcasing the artwork created by our artists at home or during Centrepieces workshops.**

**The Winners of this years ‘Jackie Inspire Awards’ were as follows:**

**Dorota Chioma: For a fantastic start as an emerging artist, producing and exhibiting great artwork throughout the covid19 pandemic and times of personal difficulty. And in particular for her first solo show and book ‘Mental Health in Pictures’.**

**Lucy Thomas: In recognition of her personal growth and development as an art tutor and buddy to Centrepieces artists in her workshops, and as Social Media Organiser and help with all manner of Centrepieces projects and campaigns.**

**Sue Turner: For consistent dedication and admin support to Centrepieces from home, despite all Lockdown 2020 restrictions.**

**And to Mala Morgan, Nicki Lessing, Liam Davies, Joshna Mistry and Peter Kent: For tireless efforts throughout 2020 supporting Centrepieces online in ‘Operation Art Lockdown’ and in exhibitions and real spaces wherever this has been possible.**

**All award winners also received a cash prize.**

**‘CENTREPIECES OPERATION ART LOCKDOWN’ As stated, the online arts programme which Centrepieces Tutors and Volunteers created and have been offering since April 2020 is still continuing. This involves the use of live Zoom workshops supported by WhatsApp groups, Social Media with Facebook and Instagram, and the** **artists@centrepieces.org** **email group. We continue to send information out by post to those without a PC or internet access, with ideas to help people continue to make art at home. This is to ensure that most members can continue to benefit from Centrepieces in one way or another. We have also been maintaining a network of support for any of our members who have needed it in these challenging times, through telephone calls and email, to help reduce feelings of isolation which some people may be experiencing.**

**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 various painting styles and techniques, mixed media, creative writing and a Wednesday ‘Tea and Talk’ session which has been running as a weekly quiz and to start up again in February, after the Queens Gallery Community Zoom sessions finish (see details below). A weekly update and fliers are sent out with full details for 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.**

**Payments for these workshops can be made in person (by prior arrangement) at the Lodge or by Bank Transfer – see workshop payment information sheet at the end of this update for more details.**

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

**MONDAYS 11 – 1pm VARIOUS ART WORKSHOPS (Nicki Lessing)**

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

**TUESDAYS 11 – 1pm VARIOUS ART WORKSHOPS (Mala Morgan)**

**WEDNESDAYS 2 - 3pm ROYAL COLLECTION COMMUNITY TALKS (free) (Queens Gallery)**

**(from February) 2 – 3pm ‘TEA AND TALK’ (AND QUIZZES) (free) (C/P Volunteers)**

**THURSDAYS 11 – 1pm VARIOUS ART WORKSHOPS (Lucy Thomas)**

**FRIDAYS 11 – 1pm VARIOUS ART WORKSHOPS (Peter Kent)**

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

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

**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.**

**YOUTH SERVICES: We are working in partnership with local young people and the Youth Team to create an Exhibition of artwork from their new Calendar and associated artwork based around their Lockdown and Mental Health experiences, which will take place once the Pop Up Studios have reopened.**

**LIBRARIES: The Sidcup Library Exhibition will be installed as soon as the Library reopens.**

**CAPITAL ARTS GALLERY: Contact Geoff if you would like to be considered to exhibit/ sell your artwork at Capital Arts Gallery in Eltham when it eventually reopens. Centrepieces will help with costs.**

**BEXLEYHEATH RAILWAY STATION Mark Harrison continues to show his work in the station waiting room and is exploring the possibility of doing this at more stations. We will return to the plan to show C/P artists work in rotation once pandemic restrictions have eased.**

**QUEENS GALLERY ROYAL COLLECTION The Queens Gallery are organising free Community Zoom sessions to show and present their new exhibition ‘Masterpieces from Buckingham Palace’ which take place over 7 Wednesdays, the remaining sessions are : 13th, 20th Jan, 3rd, 10th, 17th Feb all at 2:00pm. These are open to all Centrepieces artists, full details have been circulated to the artists@centrepieces email group.**

**Login details for the Zoom sessions are the same for each:**

<https://zoom.us/j/9044769010?pwd=ZmwwdVZKdjFMVnNJWlMvbXRzOUpSdz09>

 Meeting ID: 904 476 9010

Passcode: 624813

**Feedback was very good from those who attended the session on Wed 6th Jan on the artwork from the Royal Collection of the ‘Dutch Golden Age’.**

**Karen is also organising a special Zoom session with them for Centrepieces artists only.**

**‘INNER EYE’ PROJECT This is being run as part of the 1st year Fine Art course at the University of East London which Centrepieces artist Beverley Coldron currently attends, and will be exploring the role of art with socially excluded and vulnerable people. They have asked to do this with Centrepieces so to this end will be interviewing Centrepieces artists over the next couple of months.**

**MERCHANDISE The Centrepieces T shirts with a colourful design by Kim Campbell are still on sale at £10 each, available in a full range of sizes with Sweat Shirts soon to become available.**

**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 is available from the Lodge at £8.99. And Britta’s ‘Centrepieces, A Story of Mental Health and Art in Bexley’ is still on sale at the Lodge for £14.99, available to Centrepieces artists and volunteers at the reduced rate of £12.99.**

**Ann Cronin has recently produced an excellent little booklet of artwork with text which she created during Lockdown entitled ‘Creative Insomnia’, and is available from the Lodge or the Stables Exhibition for a minimum donation of £1 to Centrepieces.**

**And Dorota Chioma has published a book of artwork, narratives and poetry from her first solo exhibition at Creek Creative last October entitled ‘Mental Health in Pictures’, which explores varying states of mind and mental health. This is available from the Lodge at £18 for Centrepieces artists, or can be loaned through our new library system. A highly recommended read.**

**FUNDRAISING**

**We have continued to receive smaller donations from a number of individuals which has helped enormously as the money from the larger successful bids is being put to good use to buy equipment to ensure Covid safety in our premises and towards future art activities, exhibitions etc. Donations from an art shop which closed has included a large number of good quality art books and materials which has enabled us to create an improved library system at both the Lodge and the Pop Up Studios, which Lucy has been cataloguing.**

**MORE HALL PLACE INSTALLATIONS – ‘THE SIX’ We will be returning to these proposals once lockdown restrictions have eased.**

**HABERDASHERS’ ASKE’S CRAYFORD ACADEMY Karen and the Centrepieces Art Tutors are currently working on the details for a 2020/21 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 Centrepieces Membership Cards now allow a 10% discount at Hobbycraft in Crayford, Costa Coffee and Gallery Gifts in Bexleyheath, and the Butterfly Jungle and Jambs Owls at Hall Place. These are available to all those who have paid their annual subscription.**