

# CENTREPIECES ARTISTS UPDATE

# JUNE - JULY 2022

**PREMISES UPDATE**

**Following the closure of our Pop Up Spaces earlier this year, all Centrepieces workshops and art related activities have now returned to the Lodge at Hall Place. We are continuing to identify other available venues for art exhibitions and create a new programme to ensure that these continue. All other art activities that are community based or in schools etc will carry on as normal, as they are not affected in the same way. Most artwork is still being stored in our emergency storage in Belvedere, and items of equipment and furniture belonging to the Artists’ Studios are down at Sandwich. The Lodge is also being used for storage, as well as the venue for face to face workshops and office administration. Some workshops are continuing either completely or partly on Zoom.**

**We are continuing to research affordable space to rent for our Gallery and Artists’ Studios and will continue to do so, but due to reasons already publicised we are primarily looking for accommodation on a longer term lease. East St Arts continue to offer short term lets in Bexleyheath Broadway as they become available, so it is possible we may consider a down scaled version of our Pop Up Gallery that is easier to maintain and install exhibitions in.**

**ART WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

**Most art workshops have now returned to the Lodge at Hall Place as face to face sessions. As COVID 19 restrictions continue to be lifted, we have increased the number of workshop spaces available whilst ensuring safe practice and following any government guidelines. Thursday morning art workshops are now operating on a Drop In basis without requirement to book in advance. However, it is important to check the Monthly Art Workshop Programme sent out to the artists@centrepieces.org email group or by post, for amendments and updates notifying any changes during the month.**

**Please contact Sue Turner on suet998@gmail.com for all workshop related queries.**

**Payments for workshops continue to be paid by ART Credits so it is important to keep these topped up. ART Credit payments can be made in person (by prior arrangement) at the Lodge or by Bank Transfer – see workshop payment information at the end of this update for more details.**

**Centrepieces Tutors are: Peter Kent, Lucy Thomas, Karen Larkin, John Exell, Nicki Lessing, Alex Spendley, Kim Campbell. Liam Davies and Sue Wieck.**

**The Photography Group has reverted back to being more informal, so if you are interested in becoming involved please email Nicki Lessing at centrepiecespopup@gmail.com for further information.**

**The monthly calendar and flyers sent out via the email group and post are also available to view on the website,** [**www.centrepieces.org**](http://www.centrepieces.org)

**Arts Train Workshops: Karen is organising two Saturday workshops with this music group to create some artwork based around music. Although primarily for younger people they will be open to all Centrepieces artists.**

**African Soapstone trip: The Sculpture group are organising a trip in the summer to the Africart Project in Brighton to see their sculpture and buy some soapstone with a view to holding workshops on working with this stone. To find out more click on their link www.africart.tv/**

**QUEENS GALLERY ROYAL COLLECTION The Queens Gallery continues to offer free Community Zoom sessions on a Wednesday, please see attachment for full details**

**Zoom login details are usually the same for each session although they can change so always check for emails announcing new log in details.**

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

**Meeting ID: 904 476 9010**

**Passcode: 624813**

**WHATSAPP**

**There are two social WhatsApp groups which are 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 for the Photography Club. If you would like to join either of these groups then contact Nicki Lessing on centrepiecespopup@gmail.com for more information.**

**FACEBOOK**

**The main Facebook page is managed by Jo Bowes and a team of volunteers, and features updates of what is happening in the Zoom workshops and other Centrepieces Artists work. This page also links to an additional Facebook group called the ‘Centrepieces Arty F’Arty Party’ where people can take part in Art Challenges and share images of artwork they are making.**

**INSTAGRAM**

**The @centrepiecesart Instagram page is overseen by Jo and promotes Centrepieces artists by showcasing their artwork and sharing their Mental Health journeys. It also showcases workshop photos and provides art challenges and information that promotes art as a mental health recovery aid. Please get in touch with Jo via email centrepiecespopup@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or would like more information about becoming one of the featured artists**

**ART EXHIBITIONS**

**ELIXIR GALLERY: We have just installed an exhibition in the West entrance of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich, which will run until August 17th and coincides with National Well Being and Creativity Week. Centrepieces artists work was selected from recent stock according to the Gallery’s criteria. A catalogue has also been circulated on the artists email group and artists profiles will be shown in the gallery where these have been submitted.**

**THE STABLES EXHIBITION: 8th September to 16th October 2022 The theme for our next Stables Gallery Exhibition is ‘Mental Health in an Unequal World’. Rosie Pinsent has written a brief for artists which has already been sent out to the email group. Please read this as it gives some good ideas for creating new work in accordance with the theme which is from last year’s World Mental Health Day. Submissions are now being accepted, so you can bring new artwork to the Lodge but please make sure they are photographed beforehand to a reasonable quality, especially if there is a reflective cover.**

**LIBRARIES: The Sidcup Library Exhibition is still on. Others to be arranged soon.**

**CAPITAL ARTS GALLERY: Contact Geoff if you would like to be considered for help to exhibit/sell your artwork at the Capital Arts Gallery in Eltham. It costs £100 for 6 pieces of work for one month at their recent Spring Festival, where C/P artist Dorota Chioma had work for sale. Website:** [**www.capitalartgallery.co.uk**](http://www.capitalartgallery.co.uk)

**FURTHER EXHIBITIONS IN 2022 AND BEYOND**

**‘LOCKED IN’. This exhibition proposal is based on the work of people who have been incarcerated and have expressed their experiences through art (not connected in any way to lockdown or the pandemic). Trustees Guy and Rosie have visited the Linden Hall Gallery in Deal Kent, to negotiate holding the exhibition at this prestigious venue.**

**DRILL HOUSE SANDWICH: We will soon be revisiting this friendly community art café/pizza venue where we held our ‘Body Image’ exhibition about 3 years ago, to discuss another for Spring 2023 as they are fully booked up this year.**

**CREEK CREATIVE FAVERSHAM: There are still some slots available for this year in both the Upper Café and the Basement Gallery. If you are interested in holding either a solo exhibition or being part of a small group then please contact Geoff on 01322 554 589 or** [**info@centrepieces.org**](mailto:info@centrepieces.org)

**PICTURE LOAN SCHEMES**

**We currently have artists’ work on show at the following venues: Woodlands reception area at QMH Sidcup, Slade Green Community Centre and Repton Community Centre in Ashford Kent. These schemes are a good opportunity to publicise Centrepieces and sell our artists work. Artwork is generally rotated.**

**MERCHANDISE:**

**The following are available from the Lodge:**

**Centrepieces T shirts and Sweat Shirts at £10 and £15 (£8 and £12 respectively to volunteers).**

**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 at £8.99. Britta’s ‘Centrepieces, A Story of Mental Health and Art in Bexley’ at £14.99, reduced rate to Centrepieces artists and volunteers £12.99.**

**Britta has just finished three new books ‘Pictures from the Edge’, a visual introduction to art therapy in Bexley Hospital, ‘People and their Pictures’, the stories and images of artwork produced by Bexley Hospital patients, and ‘Talking about Art’ a series of essays, all to be published through Centrepieces Press.**

**Ann Cronin’s excellent little booklet of artwork with text ‘Creative Insomnia’ is still available for a minimum donation of £1 to Centrepieces.**

**Dorota Chioma’s two books, ‘Mental Health in Pictures’ comprising artwork, narrative and poetry which explores varying states of mind and mental health is available at £18 for Centrepieces artists and volunteers, and the second, ‘Notes from Postnatal Depression, Healing through Art’ is similarly rich in beautiful artwork with accompanying poetry, and contains much interesting information about postnatal depression and Dorota’s personal experiences, also priced at £18. Dorota has now co-produced a new publication ‘Sleep and Mental Health’ which is part of the regular ‘This Zine has Issues’, a journal which is devoted to breaking the stigma of mental ill health. Copies are available at the Lodge price £15 and make very interesting bed time reading.**

**Prints and Cards: We now produce a good selection of cards from images of C/P artists work, which sell well at our exhibitions and other spaces such as the Stables Shop and the Lodge. They are primarily to help with fundraising for Centrepieces and hence proceeds go to the organisation itself. If any artists require any part of the money from sales of cards then please let us know by emailing Geoff on** [**info@centrepieces.org**](mailto:info@centrepieces.org)

**We are considering ways of making prints from original artwork, at various grades, quality and prices. Please contact Rosie Pinsent at the Lodge if you are interested in becoming involved.**

**BAME ETHNIC DIVERSITY ACCESS PROGRAMME:**

**We have a new secondee from John Lewis, Janine Miller, who will be working p/t at Centrepieces for the next 6 months, principally to help develop our work with different community groups, and with our schools’ programme. We will also be doing some fundraising to support this work and hopefully running more art workshops at different venues.**

**SCHOOLS PROGRAMME:**

**Centrepieces has been working in schools for many years now but the increase in prevalence of mental health issues amongst young people, and in particular the impact of the pandemic and lockdown, has led to us giving this an increased focus.**

**Hurstmere School Sidcup: We will be returning to the school to complete this project at the end of June/beginning of July to work on a final art piece.**

**Red Hill Primary School: Members of the school project team are still working on the rainbow mosaic mural to commemorate the school’s 70th anniversary in 2021. This project is funded by the school and will include creative mosaic sessions with all the classes in the future.**

**HALL PLACE PLANT TIMELINE: We have been invited by Hall Place to undertake the painting of a new set of stones which outline the timeline of plants introduced into the UK and their botanical names, which are situated along one of the walkways in the nursery garden. Hall Place will provide all materials and a space to work. This could be a leisurely fun project for a group of Centrepieces artists to undertake over the summer. Please contact Geoff on 01322 554 589 or** [**info@centrepieces.org**](mailto:info@centrepieces.org) **if you are interested in getting involved.**

**DISCOUNT CARDS The Centrepieces Membership Card offers artists a 10% discount at a range of local venues. These currently include: Hobbycraft in Crayford, Costa Coffee and Gallery Gifts in Bexleyheath, and the Butterfly Jungle, Jambs Owls and Riverside Café (volunteers only) at Hall Place. These are available to all those who have paid their annual subscription and to our volunteers.**

**ART AUCTION: We are still discussing whether to hold an Art Auction at the end of this year, maybe as a combination of real space and online, and have approached Erith Exchange as a possible venue. As soon as a decision is made it will be publicised.**

**VOLUNTEERS: Several new volunteers have recently started at Centrepieces, as already mentioned Janine Miller on secondment from John Lewis for 6 months, also Suzanne Perrett who will be helping with exhibitions and arts admin, and Kohinoor Begum and Maria Alvarez who will be helping with general office administration. Rosie Pinsent will be taking a break, leaving at the end of June.**