



*"Accord" Owen Normand
Sold at Charity Auction*

A Syrian Kurd, Nihad was jailed for refusing to join the Syrian army, and was arrested several times for opposing the regime. He eventually fled the country, with his wife and baby daughter. Nihad found his way to Leith School of Art where he had use of studio space to start making art again. The School has been supporting him as he begins to rebuild his career as an artist. Nihad's contribution of three works to the auction was his way of saying thank you.

THE FUNDRAISING AUCTION

On Friday, 24 March, Leith School of Art ventured into new fundraising territory, with an auction of artists' work.

We gathered work by more than 50 artists: tutors past and present, alumni, and other contemporary artists who wished to support the School. We sent out invitations to our known and loyal supporters, and to others far and wide.

We gave potential purchasers a chance to view the work and bid online a few days in advance. We hung the work at Lyon & Turnbull, Auctioneers, the day before the event.

We turned up on the evening, poured Prosecco, and then watched the evening unfold.

The auction was a great success. We took £39,000 on the night. After artists' shares were deducted and other expenses covered, a net total of £27,200 was achieved, to go towards the School's charitable activities. The benefits of the event were more than just financial. We introduced the School to a new audience of art-lovers and art-buyers in Edinburgh and beyond.

One artist who participated in the auction was Nihad Al Turk. Nihad is a Syrian refugee from Aleppo, who came to Scotland on the first official refugee flight in 2015. He was a respected artist in Syria, having won the coveted international "Golden Prize" at the Latakia Biennale, as well as having exhibited in Dubai, London and New York.

The School's thanks go to Lyon & Turnbull, Auctioneers, for hosting the event and generously waiving their fees, for their patient advice in the run up to the event, and for their help on the night. We would like to thank all the artists who participated, and also the purchasers. The auction was a combined effort, with many people playing their part. It was the first event of its kind that the School has held – but surely not the last!





PRIZE-WINNING SELF-PORTRAIT

A self-portrait by Painting Course student Frith Angell has been selected for the prestigious Ruth Borchard Self-Portrait Exhibition 2017. The exhibition showcases the very best of contemporary self-portraiture, featuring 120 works by British and Irish amateur and professional artists, with the chance for their work to be purchased for the Ruth Borchard Next Generation Collection.

The exhibition runs until 22 September, at the Piano Nobile Kings Place Gallery in Kings Cross, London.

HIDDEN DOOR

Hidden Door, Edinburgh's pop-up festival for new and emerging talent in the arts, transforms a different unusual space each spring. This year, Hidden Door will appear in the impressive, but derelict, Leith Theatre, just behind Leith School of Art. The beautiful 1930's art deco building has not been used for over 25 years.

The festival will bring the venue to life for ten days and nights, 26 May - 4 June. Not only will the main auditorium be turned into a fully functioning live music venue, cinema and theatre, but every nook and cranny will be filled with visual art projects. Hidden Door's Creative Director is Leith School of Art's very own David Martin, Foundation Course Leader. Several of the School's alumni and current tutors and students are taking part.

The Hidden Door festival is free to explore from 12.00 – 6.00pm, but will truly come to life in the evenings, with live music, theatre and spoken word performances, with a single ticket entry.

See www.hiddendoorblog.org for full programme details and tickets.



INTRODUCING: BEN DAVIES-JENKINS

Ben Davies-Jenkins has joined the School to teach the Wednesday evening class: [Drawing and Painting the Figure](#).

"I moved to Edinburgh from Cardiff in 1997 to study for an MA in Fine Art at Edinburgh College of Art, and have been here ever since. Since graduating, I have exhibited my figurative paintings regularly across Scotland and the rest of the UK, as well as working on portrait commissions. I gained a PGDE in Secondary Art and Design in 2008 and have taught at Dunbar Grammar School for the past eight years. I live in Leith with my wife, son and daughter.

I am delighted to be taking on my new role as tutor for Drawing and Painting the Figure, and look forward to sharing my enthusiasm for the practice and appreciation of drawing and painting with my students."



"Leith Theatre" Kristina Chan

IF YOU THINK CONTEMPORARY ART IS NOT FOR YOU..... THINK AGAIN!

Step into the studio and you will enter a space of activity, colour, sound, and earthy, oozing, shimmering materials....

The Contemporary Art Practice Course at Leith School of Art is a dynamic and life-changing experience for people of all ages, interests and backgrounds. Past and current students include: professional artists who want to refresh their practice, recent graduates (not only of art) using CAP as a stepping stone for post-graduate studies, art teachers seeking new approaches and skills, nurses, carers, anthropologists, ceramicists, scientists, advocates, mums, dads, retirees and school leavers, all needing direction and confidence to pursue their creativity. This is what makes CAP so special: the diversity of folk seeking new ways of expression.



“As an artist and art teacher, I saw CAP as the ideal opportunity for Continuing Professional Development – introducing me to new people, a wide canopy of contemporary art, and exciting materials and processes. The course has met every expectation: outstanding lectures, mentoring and technical support, as well as interaction with an eclectic group of people. The course has encouraged personal research and has challenged and developed my creative practice to embrace ambient intervention, light and film work. The CAP course has had a considerable impact on my practice as an art teacher.”

Sarah Knox

“I joined CAP as I wasn’t sure of my next step in the creative world. I had not long finished a Diploma in Illustration and was beginning my freelancing career. Feeling a little restricted by the “rules” that Illustration comes with, I came to CAP aiming to discover new techniques, and to further my understanding of contemporary art. Both of those aims were met very soon into the course. CAP has given me the opportunity to work with a wide range of new materials and processes, the support of fantastic mentors, and

a new understanding of why I am making the artistic choices I am. My eyes have been opened to a completely new way of creating.”

Rebecca McLean

“The CAP course has given me new insights into contemporary art issues and is helping me to develop an individual direction in my work. Leith School of Art provides a warm welcoming environment in which to present ideas, socialise and delve into the thoughts of others. Having the opportunity to exhibit continues this dialogue”.

Anthony McKale

Course details can be found on the School website.



TUTORS' NEWS

Alistair Gordon has recently held an exhibition in the Ahmanson Gallery in Los Angeles, "Souvenirs from the Waste Land", featuring eighteen new paintings created especially for the show in response to the Ahmanson Collection extensive postcards archive. He has also contributed to a group exhibition of prints with Southwind Projects in New York.

Alistair has also just published "God Art", reflections on the discussion between faith and art.

Rachel McBrinn has new work in "Summa", an exhibition of recent Royal Scottish Academy "Residencies for Scotland" artists, at the RSA on The Mound until 2 July.

Jo Pudelko is participating in the Forth Valley Open Studios, opening to the public her brand new studio and teaching space in Anderson Street, Dunblane, from 10 – 18 June.

Dr Andrew Paterson has been awarded his doctorate by the University of Edinburgh, for which he began studying in 2009. His thesis is titled "The Earliest Christian Icons in the Collection of the Monastery of St Catherine, Sinai, and their Possible Sources."

Andrew says "The research and writing was a totally absorbing creative process, maddening at times, but ultimately very satisfying. This wasn't a stepping stone to anything else (except perhaps a book one day), so the best thing about finishing it, is being able to pick up my painting again after a seven year gap."

Alan McGowan has recently published "Unstill Life: Figure Paintings, Drawings and Writing", a meditation on working in the life drawing studio. Through over seventy paintings and drawings and ten short written texts, Alan explores what we can know of the world, what it means to look, to try to understand and to try to paint.

CORRIDOR EXHIBITION

Our next Corridor Exhibition is "a.be.ce.dar.i.an", by **Catherine Sargeant**

Marking 10 years since graduation from Edinburgh College of Art, Catherine continues to explore ongoing themes that include text, poetry and quotations. Recent developments include her work with altered prints and erasure poetry.

Catherine's work is known for engendering viewer engagement from people of all ages and backgrounds. Previous exhibitions with Hidden Door and the Scottish Society of Artists, along with open studio events, have allowed her to create ongoing artist books of viewers' responses, and these responses often feed into future works. During this exhibition the viewer will be offered a chance to submit an erasure poem (from a given text), to be included in an expanding artist book.

The exhibition will be held at Leith School of Art, North Junction Street Campus, 10 July - 18 August. The Private View will be on Friday, 14 July, 6.00 – 8.00pm. Catherine is holding an event titled 'Alphabet Soup', involving an artist's talk and live music from Tom Houston, on Saturday, 12 August, 4.00 – 5.00pm.

ABOVE: "Spectral Colour" Detail
BELOW: "Miscspelt Art - Erasure"



TERM DATES FOR 2017/18

TERM 1

Monday, 4 September –
Saturday, 16 December
2017

Half Term:

16 – 21 October 2017

Exhibition week:

11 - 16 December 2017

TERM 2

Monday, 8 January –
Saturday, 31 March 2018
NO HALF TERM

TERM 3

Monday, 16 April –
Saturday, 23 June 2018
NO HALF TERM

Exhibition week:

18 - 24 June 2018

Leith School of Art
25 North Junction Street
Edinburgh
EH6 6HW
0131 554 5761
enquiries@leithschoolofart.co.uk
Scottish Charity No. SC007456
Company Registration No. 111089