

30th Anniversary Special Edition **SPRING 2019**



Image: Phil Archer, Departing

Principal Philip Archer's Greetings

Welcome to this, my last edition of Spectrum before leaving the School after 27 demanding but wonderful and fulfilling years. I am leaving to focus fully on my own art and believe that now is the ideal time to pass on the baton.

It is our 30th anniversary year and the School is in a very good place. We have established a full range of courses and, with our charitable aims, they are open to all aspects of the community. Our business plan for the past six years has been focussed on adding quality and

depth to our activities; hence the development of our year-long courses and the addition of a graduate programme. It has been my ambition to see work made in our studios at the highest level and I am delighted to see that this is now in place.

The favourite theme of the founders was 'The Journey' and it has been my privilege to see Leith School of Art move forward consistently step by step and I could never have foreseen how the journey would unfold, taking us to where we are now.

I will enjoy watching and supporting the School in the next stage of its remarkable and exciting journey.



Leith School of Art at 30

We are delighted to celebrate three decades of Leith School of Art. Inside we have more photos from across the years.

Fond Farewells



Philip Archer Principal

When Philip Archer agreed to lead Leith School of Art in 1992, he was a Welsh artist intending to return to full time practice after a few years. Twenty-seven years later, and it is impossible to imagine what the School would have looked like without Phil's visionary and dedicated leadership. Phil is currently Principal and One Day Painting Course Leader. Throughout his career he has lead the Foundation Course and taught across the School. Phil's genuine care for students and their art shines through, demonstrated by his ability to remember names and anecdotes in great detail.

Phil studied at Cardiff College of Art and Sheffield College. He progressed to the Royal College of Art, London. Here, he became one of a group of young Christian artists who dreamed of offering an art education in a nurturing environment that would offer a foundation in tradition and meaning. Mark and Charlotte

Cheverton began to manifest these dreams by starting the School and infusing it with their spirit in the first three years. After their tragic deaths in a 1991 car crash, Phil was unwilling to let the group's dream die with the Chevertons, and he persuaded the board that he could keep the School going. It was a very uncertain time; no-one knew if the School would continue even by the start of the academic year, but Phil took up the mantle and determinedly built up the School to be the one we know today.

Phil specialises in painting and oil pastel. A major theme of his work is the rural terrace, the space between the outside and inside, exploring the safe and familiar home and the unfamiliar wilderness beyond. His paintings are constructed landscapes, inspired to some extent by Edward Hopper. The starting point is to look through drawing and then to reflect on the subject, gradually distilling the most essential information.

We wish Phil a peaceful retirement from the School, and thank him for the incredible service he has given to the art world. May he have a joyful return to full time painting, many years after he originally planned it. In Wales, it is said '*Gwell hwyr na hwyrach*' (Better late than later). For everyone who appreciates Phil's art work, we are glad he went with that version rather than the English equivalent 'better later than never'. If you would like to contribute an image or memory to Phil's memento box, or to donate towards his retirement gift, then please phone the School.

Phil Archer gave so much of his life energy to the School, and his legacy will live on as long as Leith School of Art continues. Thank you Phil, and blessings on your next chapter.

You are welcome to attend 'Departing' a talk by Phil Archer on 21st May 2019. See back page for details.



Image: David Henderson, Gathering Clouds Revisited



David Henderson Head of Painting

Leith School of Art has benefitted greatly from David Henderson's four years as Head of Painting. David was well known to the School before this appointment, as he was an external assessor on the Foundation Course. As Head of First Year at Gray's School of Art, David would visit Leith in order to encourage Foundation Course students to apply to Gray's.

David brought a wealth of experience to Leith School of Art, after over thirty years at Grays. David studied Design & Craft (Printmaking) at Gray's, and achieved an MBA at Aberdeen Business School in 1999. He was awarded a George Davidson Travelling Scholarship, Scottish Arts Council Young Artists Bursary and was appointed as a professional member of The Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolours. He won the Society's Council Award for best painting in the 2006 exhibition and the David Gluck Memorial Award in 2014. David held a number of senior academic posts within Gray's and was made a Teaching Fellow in 2002 by Robert Gordon University. His research and professional practice has contributed to conference papers and exhibitions nationally and internationally, and his work is in public and private collections.

He has been a finalist in the Sunday Times Watercolour competition several times.

"It has been a pleasure to work at Leith - a unique and rigorous art school. I wish to thank Matt Storstein for his support and vital contribution to the success of the course. And welcome the appointment of Catharine Davison as Painting course leader. I am confident Leith has a very bright future."

- David Henderson

It has been a privilege to have David Henderson teaching the Painting Course, and supporting the Graduate Residents. David's warm and stable personality has been a gift to the School; he has been a well-liked and highly respected colleague. We all wish him wonderful times ahead.



Where Are They Now? Hans K Clausen

A Graduate of Leith School of Art's Foundation Class of 2009, we are delighted to welcome back Hans K Clausen as he offers his installation of aprons modified by alumni of the School, Art Apparel.

After graduating in 2012 from Edinburgh College of Art with a BA Hons in Sculpture, he received a New Graduate Studio Award 2012 from the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshops and won the Signature Art Prize for sculpture 2012 from Degree Art, London. In 2013, Hans was selected for The Catlin Art Guide; was highlighted as one of three UK emerging artists by Glass Magazine and was an invited Graduate Artist for the Society of Scottish Artists Annual Show at the RSA. Since 2014 Hans has been developing his socially

engaged art practice completing projects in Glasgow's Yorkhill Children's Hospital, Inverclyde Education Department, an art and science collaboration for Creative Scotland in the Outer Hebrides, an art and therapeutic design residency for NHS Lothian's new Royal Hospital for Children, and a permanent sculpture commission for Edinburgh and Lothian Health Foundation in North Edinburgh. He has a studio in the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and teaches Sculpture for the University of Edinburgh Centre for Open Learning.

Hans's artistic journey was built on earlier careers in social work, palliative care and therapeutic counselling which have influenced his interest in socially engaged practice. In 2016 he set up Arcadum in collaboration with Lindsay Perth when both artists met on a Creative Scotland funded artist residency. Arcadum brings together the participatory arts projects and commissions that Hans and Lindsay have carried out in partnership with North Edinburgh Arts. Lindsay was one of the first Leith School of Art students, taught by Mark and Lottie.

In his own words, Hans describes his work as follows.

"The interaction between people and material culture has been a recurring area of enquiry in my work; how we read signs and symbols, how we make sense of our material world and how the objects that surround us can define us. I am intrigued by the narrative qualities, associations, provenance, and power of ubiquitous objects and in particular by the forces of materialism, consumerism, obsolescence and inventiveness. Through the visual language of 'stuff' my work examines the relationship between artist, object and viewer and investigates the boundaries between making and discovering, creation and craft, authorship and ownership."

Amazingly, around 80 of Leith School of Art's alumni and staff have applied their creative energies and time adapting, manipulating or decorating one of the Schools artist's aprons for Hans' Art Apparel project to celebrate 30 years of the School. The idea to create a collective artwork installation for the anniversary celebration came out of a conversation between Hans and School Principal Phil Archer. It is a way of illustrating and celebrating the diversity and sense of community which are central tenets of Leith School of Art. The pristine white artists' apron is symbolic of a starting point, a place of beginning, the blank page where a creative process starts. Relevant as for most of the Art Apparel contributors Leith School of Art was their creative departure point.

One of the apron artworks is a collaboration between Jacqueline Watt who taught on the Friday all-day class for 19 years, and her husband Ron Burnett who designed the original School logo, and also the original prospectus. Their apron proudly bears the

logo, including the original boat, which was included as founders Mark and Charlotte Cheverton enjoyed the theme of boats as vessels which hold a community as they journey together. The Journey was a favourite theme of the Chevertons: the one with which they opened the School, and the one with which Philip Archer chose to re-open the School.

The individual Art Apparel apron artworks will be auctioned to raise funds towards the School's charitable aims. You can see the complete installation at the North Junction Street Campus on Saturday 30th March. Please visit the School's website for details of the auction.

#ArtApparel2019

Image:
Apron by
Jacqueline Watt
and Ron Burnett



Image: Inside the Glasshouse by Andrew Gilchrist

Dates For Your Diary

18 February - 6 April 2019

'Thirty years of Drawing & Painting at Leith School of Art'
by Andrew Gilchrist

North Junction Street Campus, 25 North Junction Street, EH6 6HW

9 March - 28 April 2019

'Allaban'

by Jane Couroussopoulos and Jemma Derbyshire
Aberfeldy Watermill, Mill Street, Perthshire, 28G PH15

28 June - 30 June 2019

End of Year Exhibition, 10 am - 4 pm

Private View: 27th June 2019, 7.30 - 9.30 pm

North Junction Street and St James Campuses

23 April - 15 June 2019

'Departing' by Philip Archer

North Junction Street Campus

Private View 5-8pm 26th April 2019

27 - 28 July 2019

Open Studios Weekend

Opening night: 26th July 2019, 6pm.

Coburg House, 16 Coburg Street, Edinburgh EH6 6ET

21 May 2019

'Departing'

Talk by Philip Archer, 6.30 pm

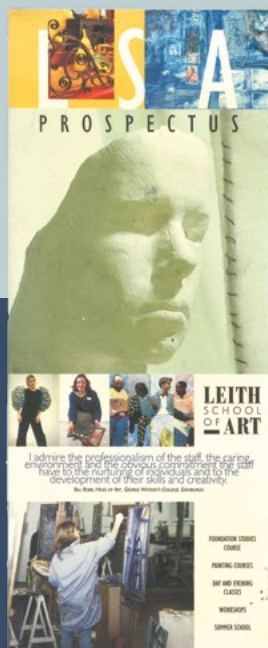
North Junction Street Campus

15 July - 12 October 2019

An exhibition of drawings by John Brown

North Junction Street Campus

Past Prospectuses



**LEITH
SCHOOL
OF ART**

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