

LEITH LINKS TO NORWAY

Leith School of Art is, as many of you will know, more than a unique, independent art school. It is housed in a historic Scandinavian Lutheran church, which is the oldest Norwegian seamen's mission building outside Norway, dating back to 1868.

With a heart for maintaining and developing links between Norway and this special Leith building, the Bergen-based Helping Hand Trust invited Principal Phil Archer and myself over to Norway last September. We had an inspiring few days, visiting a variety of Arts organisations, and connecting with Hordaland County Council and Bergen City Council. Everyone we met was interested to hear about Leith School of Art. We talked with the Helping Hand Trust about the future of our building, and how we could work together in innovative ways in years to come.

The first of these ideas came to fruition over Easter, when Leith School of Art hosted an exhibition by Norwegian artist Bodil Friele. Titled "Prisoner of War: Paintings and Poems", the exhibition is a personal testimony based on stories and notes inherited by the artist from her father. He was a navigator in Halifax bombers in WWII, shot down over Hamburg, and a POW for several years. The exhibition had already been shown in Norway, and after Leith, it travelled to Bad Liebenwerda in Germany, not far from where Friele's father was held captive. The exhibition included paintings, poems, sculpture, and the original bullet-marked and shrapnel-torn wing section of an RAF bomber.



*From right to left:
Phil Archer
(Principal),
Lisbeth Iversen
(Chair, Helping
Hand Trust),
Bodil Friele
(Artist), Trond
Mohn (Bodil's
partner), Gitte
Saetre (Curator)*



*View from
Bergen*

Opened by the Norwegian Honorary Consul General, David Windmill, the exhibition attracted interest from the Norwegian community in Edinburgh, as well as the artistic community. The church was, for over a century, a place where Scandinavians could meet, share experiences, and get news about home. One Norwegian couple who came to the opening had happy memories of having been married in the building. Thanks are due to the Helping Hand Trust, in particular Chair Lisbeth Iversen, for their financial assistance in support of the exhibition and of our historic building. We look forward to continuing a programme of cultural exchanges between Bergen and Edinburgh. Plans are in mind for an exhibition of work by Leith School of Art staff and alumni to be held in Bergen.

Pete Brown, Chair

NEW TUTORS

In September, four new Tutors will be joining Leith School of Art. Find out more about the new arrivals here.

We are holding a special evening 'Introducing Our New Tutors' on Wednesday, 25 May, from 6.30 to 8.30pm, when Delia, Nicholas and Paul will be interviewed, and then available for chat over coffee. Do come along!



Printmaking Course:

NICHOLAS DEVISON

Nicholas trained at Wimbledon School of Art, and completed his MA in Fine Art Printmaking at Camberwell College of Art in 2000. He worked as Course Leader for MA Fine Art and MA Printmaking at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge School of Art. He has contributed to exhibitions and conferences on a national and international basis, and has work represented in a number of collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Nick moved with his family to Scotland in 2013. Since then, he has worked on a new studio, and has taught at Edinburgh Printmakers and Edinburgh Napier University. In his spare time Nick enjoys spending time with his family, developing a garden, growing vegetables and keeping chickens! He is excited about joining Leith School of Art.

Nick says "Although my practice is rooted in tradition, I am constantly surprised by the possibilities for innovation and experimentation that the printmaking provides. For me, printmaking is the perfect medium for testing visual ideas, solving problems and creating new and exciting images."

"In recent work, I have manipulated found imagery in an attempt to elaborate new patterns of meaning from disparate and sometimes fragmented source material. The images, many of which allude to the history of technology, from cosmological diagrams to renaissance perspectival illustration, are reimagined as a means of exploring ideas of location, mapping, time and space. In making this work, I am interested in teasing out the allusions and potential narratives which emerge between invention and appropriation."

www.nicholasdevison.com

One Day Painting Course:

DELIA BAILLIE

Delia has fourteen years experience of teaching in a university setting, first as a visiting artist with Foundation Course students in Dundee in 2002, and currently within the 3rd and 4th year Fine Art Programme. She has also taught evening and weekend short courses, and contributed to workshops for school children and young adults. The multi-disciplinary environment at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee has enabled Delia to develop projects and coursework that encourage individuals to explore their interests in painting in relation to the broader field of contemporary art practice.

Delia's practice encompasses drawing, collage, painting and printmaking. In recent years, her painted works have used the medium's inherent abilities to act as a metaphor for change. Employing specific methods and tools to apply and manipulate water-based paints, she has sought to use the mutability of painted processes to underscore formal and narrative instabilities and tensions within the final static image.

Delia says that she appreciates how her own practice and her enjoyment of teaching are mutually beneficial. Developmental shifts in her studio work often coincide with the preparation of new teaching material. Delia is very much looking forward to joining Leith School of Art, expanding on the year-long studio-based course to support and challenge students, whilst also drawing on the diverse resources available in Edinburgh.

Delia has a WASPS studio at Meadow Mill in Dundee and lives in Fife with her two children. She exhibits regularly, locally and nationally, and has been a member of the Royal Scottish Academy since 2008. During 2014/15 she undertook a residency and exhibition at Halle 14, Leipzig in partnership with Hospitalfield Arts. Delia is the convener for the RSA New Contemporaries Exhibition 2017.

deliabailie.tumblr.com



Landscape Course:

PAUL MOWAT

Paul studied Graphic Design and worked in London as a Designer, before studying Painting at Edinburgh College of Art. Since graduating, he has divided his time between teaching and continuing his own art practice. He has taught at ECA, University of Edinburgh Centre for Open Learning, and Edinburgh Drawing School, as well as numerous workshops and master classes.

Paul says about the Landscape Course “The opportunity to work with the same group of students over the course of three terms, focusing on the landscape, is fantastic. The time will give us the chance to explore a broad range of techniques and look at a variety of landscapes in undoubtedly all kinds of weather. We will be involved in creative research, making sketches and studies, through to producing resolved paintings. Over the course of the year students will have time to be rigorous in their investigation, take the inevitable risks, and hopefully find out something they did not know before about the process of making and sustaining an art practice. I can’t wait...”

“I try to take on the advice I give my students and keep my practice evolving. I prefer to work in oils but have, in the last two years, used inks, acrylics, plaster casting, installation, print, and made light boxes. My inspiration revolves around the human condition, I am fascinated by people and what makes us tick. My work is representational although not always figurative, and might involve painting in a gallery or the use of an environment.”

“I exhibit regularly each year and although I had talked myself into taking a year out to develop new work, I very recently exhibited in Newcastle in a portrait exhibition.”

www.paulmowat.com



Advanced Drawing And Painting Course:

CATHARINE DAVISON

Catharine is known for her distinctive Scottish landscapes. Originally from Kilkeel, County Down in Northern Ireland, she has been living in Edinburgh since 2007. The city’s natural panoramas as seen from the hills and parks, in particular Blackford Hill, Calton Hill, and Holyrood Park, have been a source of inspiration in her work. She is interested in the process of looking and editing, working directly from source on location, through the mediums of drawing and painting. Rather than a topographical approach, each work delves into Catharine’s connection to a place and the character it embodies. The use of line, and soft glazes in watercolour and oil, characterise her work. Through printmaking processes and working with stitch, she is able to give life to the most instinctive drawings, extending her practice into the studio.

Catharine’s work is highly recognised. She won the 2015 Discerning Eye Scottish Award. In 2014, she was awarded first prize in the Lynn Painter Stainers’ Prize for creative representational painting, at the Mall Galleries in London. Catharine is a professional member of Visual Arts Scotland, and in 2014 she was elected a member of the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour. She has had two successful solo exhibitions at the Open Eye Gallery in Edinburgh, and her next exhibition opens in November 2017.

Catharine is an experienced teacher, having taught in schools, universities and a variety of arts organisations. She says “I am really looking forward to teaching the Advanced Drawing and Painting Course. I strive to achieve a balance between technique and creativity, and to assist the student in finding a path to think and live as an artist both in and outside of the studio”.

www.catharinedavison.co.uk

Laurence
Macpherson



STAFF NEWS

Laurence Macpherson joined the School in January, and works at St James on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, as Technician/Administrator. His job is to facilitate the smooth running of classes at St James.

Laurence graduated with a Fine Art MA (specialising in Sculpture) from Edinburgh College of Art. Since graduating he has worked as an Exhibitions Facilitator and Fabricator, with a key interest in casting.

COMMUNITY CLASSES

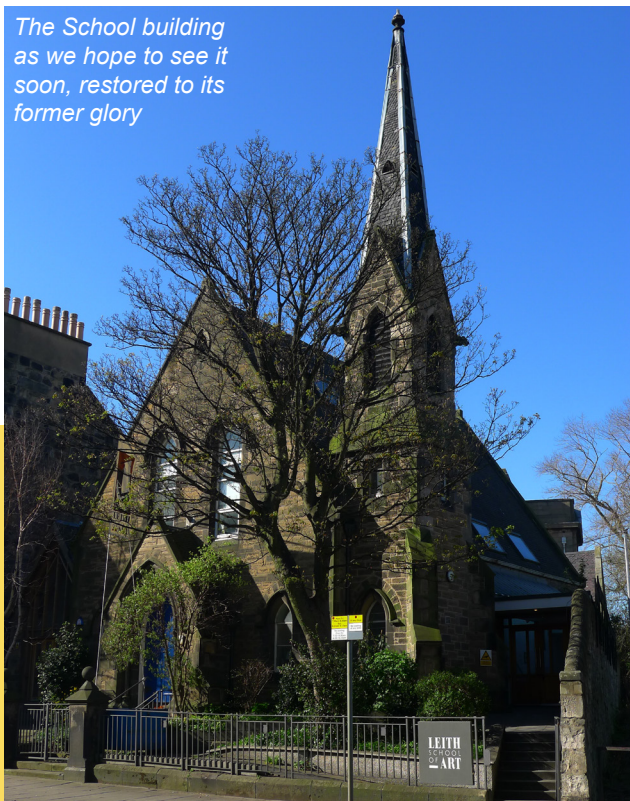
Leith School of Art currently runs two Community Classes. These take place on a Tuesday, at the St James campus. The Community Class tutor is Catherine Sargeant, who has taught Art for Edinburgh City Council, and in various settings such as in prisons and on teenage holiday camps, as well as being a practising artist. We have recently received 3-year grant funding from the Robertson Trust, which will enable us to keep these classes going, and to start a third class. We have also received local grants from Leith Benevolent Association and Forth Ports. To join a Community Class, a prospective student must show evidence of receiving a state benefit. The classes cost £2 per week, which includes all materials.

STEEPLECHASE SUCCESS

We are delighted to report that, since our November 2015 appeal, we have received loans and gifts from around 35 kind supporters amounting to about £120,000, to repair our beautiful old building (once we have reclaimed Gift Aid on the donations). This has allowed us to kick-start our steeple and stonework repairs, and building improvements programme, which should result in us being ship-shape again in 2016.

If anybody missed out on the chance to be involved in this project and would still like to support the School through loan or gift, needless to say, it's never too late! The School, a charity, has little in reserve so we welcome and are truly grateful for on-going financial support, as well as all the other practical help and support we receive from many enthusiastic friends, patrons and wider community members.

*The School building
as we hope to see it
soon, restored to its
former glory*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CORRIDOR EXHIBITION

Orchard, Prints by Sarah Gittins

Monday, 11 April to Saturday, 11 June 2016

OPEN DAYS

Wednesday, 27 and Thursday, 28 April, from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Both campuses.

OPEN EVENING

Tuesday, 31 May, from 5.00 to 7.00pm, North Junction Street campus only.

'INTRODUCING OUR NEW TUTORS' EVENING

Come and meet Delia Baillie, Nicholas Devison and Paul Mowat at a special evening on Wednesday, 25th May, from 6.30 to 8.30pm.

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