

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Friends of LSA SUMMER 2020

LSA FRIENDS SPECIAL 25TH
ANNIVERSARY GIVE-AWAY!



Onward Journey by Raine Clarke



Welcome from LSA Chair, **ALISTAIR HECTOR**

As I write, the nationwide Covid lockdown is still in force and like educational establishments everywhere our doors are closed for face to face teaching. The health and wellbeing of the LSA community is always a priority for us and we have carefully followed Government and NHS guidelines on protection against the virus. Sad as it was to have to shut our campuses, we had no other choice.

For our termly courses this meant a premature end to the term and their suspension for the rest of session. This was hard but unavoidable and has brought a real sense of sadness. However, despite empty buildings

Image: *The Lazy Mist*, Oil on Canvas by Catharine Davison RSW, from her current exhibition: The World Outside.

the School is very much alive. Our Foundation Course and Year-long Courses are continuing by remote means, with remarkable energy and imagination on the part of the staff and wonderful enthusiasm and commitment shown by the students. All are determined to ensure that students can complete their courses and progress to the next stage with their art.

Working from home, our wonderful Admin team have been tireless in keeping the organisational wheels turning. We have worked hard to access emergency funding open to us from Government and other agencies, and are focussing on plans for re-opening as soon as we can in compliance with the guidelines. More than ever the arts will surely have a part to play in lifting people's spirits, brightening the days and supporting mental health. We are determined to ensure that LSA's unique offering of art education contributes to our community's recovery.

Throughout we have been very conscious of the support which LSA receives in so many ways from our many friends and supporters. Resilience for the future is one of our watchwords and we will need your help to build this. For now, I would like to thank you most sincerely for all the expressions of support we have received since the Covid emergency began. Your support means everything to us.

Finally, a word of appreciation to our new Principal. Nick was to have been the main guest at a celebration of 25 years of the Friends of LSA in April, but that sadly fell prey to the lockdown. He has shown great leadership in rising to the most extraordinary of challenges at the end of just his first term as Principal. On behalf of all who hold Leith School of Art dear, thank you to Nick and all the team at LSA for their exceptional work in these exceptional times.

Very best wishes to you and your loved ones. Keep safe and well. ■



Welcome from Principal, NICHOLAS DEVISON

I have been in post as Principal of Leith School of Art since January and, with the emergence of Covid-19 this short period has perhaps been one of the most challenging and dramatic of my 30 year career in Further and Higher Education.

This extraordinary period has brought out the best in many, and I've been incredibly impressed by the willingness and enthusiasm of staff and students to step up to the considerable challenges we are facing. The hard work and commitment of both our teaching and support staff, combined with the warmth and understanding of our students, has enabled us to create a vibrant and exciting online version of the School.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the The Friends of Leith School of Art. Over the years the Friends have supported the School through challenging times and with campaigns of support for a number of important projects such as our Spire Appeal. It is with thanks to the generosity of our Friends that we can provide direct support to aspiring young artists through the **Assisted Places Scheme**.

To find out how to support our work with young people and with our local community please visit www.LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk/support-us

It is from our continued sense of community, kindness and friendship that we draw strength during this time. We do not know when this period of uncertainty will end and I am sure that the new academic year will continue to present us with further challenges. However our staff are working very hard to prepare for an exciting delivery of courses informed by their knowledge and experiences of delivering inspiring digital and online learning.

Whilst we are in lockdown, the School can sometimes seem distant. Yet I am reminded of the motto Persevere – referencing the Port of Leith motto that we exhibit in our studios next to my office. It strikes me that this a particularly apt motto for the School at this time as we navigate through uncharted times. I am sure that with your support, with the perseverance and dedication of our staff team, we shall create a renewed sense of direction and purpose for the School's future.

Particular mention should be given to Matt Storstein who leaves us at the end of the academic year. Matt joined LSA 20 years ago! He is an extremely popular tutor with staff and students past and present and will be greatly missed. We wish him all the best with his onward journey. I look forward to welcoming you back personally at the start of our new term. ■

LSA News, IN MEMORY

We are sad to report the passing of James Ramsden b.1923-2020, aged 96. He was a distinguished MP, Britain's last Secretary for War, and father to LSA Co-Founder Lottie Cheverton. He was a friend, a Patron and life-long supporter of LSA. His death came just four

months after that of his wife Juliet, who likewise took a life-long interest and gave loyal support to Leith School of Art. A fuller tribute to them and their part in the story of the School is planned for the next edition of Spectrum. ■

Home (Photogravure Etching), Nicholas Devison

Staff Spotlight: NICHOLAS DEVISON

Nick joined as Principal of LSA in January 2020, having trained in Painting at Wimbledon School of Art graduating in 1988, and completed his MA in Fine Art Printmaking at Camberwell College of Art in 2000. Nick has over thirty years of experience of teaching in art schools in both the independent and public sectors including Course Leadership roles on Foundation, Degree and Postgraduate level courses. From 2011 Nick was a Senior Lecturer and Convenor for MA Fine Art and MA Printmaking at Anglia Ruskin University. Nick moved with his family to Scotland in 2013, and more recently he has taught at LSA as Course Leader on the Year-long Printmaking Course and as a lecturer at Edinburgh Napier University and University

of Edinburgh Centre for Open Learning. He has also delivered regular Masterclass sessions for Edinburgh Printmakers where he served on the Board of Governors from 2016 -2020. More recently Nick has been appointed as External Examiner to University of Brighton BA (Hons) Printmaking course. Nick has contributed to national and international exhibitions and conferences and his work is represented in a number of collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. He has curated a range of shows including Viewfinder which brought together artists whose work addresses our reading of the digital and photographic image. 'Although my practice is rooted in tradition, I am constantly

surprised by the possibilities for innovation and experimentation that printmaking provides. For me, printmaking is the perfect medium for testing visual ideas, solving problems and creating new and exciting images.'

In his spare time Nick enjoys spending time with his family, developing a garden, growing vegetables and keeping chickens!

Nick's art-work featured above; *Home* forms part of a series of prints recently exhibited as part of Edinburgh Printmakers, Photography in Print exhibition, 17 Jan 2020-22 Mar 2020.■

www.nicholasdevison.com

If you are looking for a simple way to support LSA you can donate on-line today. Make a single donation or become a regular supporter.

DONATE NOW

ON BEHALF OF THE TEAM AT LSA, **THANK YOU!**

www.LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk

LSA FRIENDS AT 25 YEARS!



Note from Chair of Friends, FILLY NICOL

'Leith School of Art celebrated it's 30th Anniversary last year, and this year we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the creation of The Friends of the Leith School of Art.

Happy Quarter of a Century, Friends! And a huge Thank You for all that you contribute to the life of LSA.

The Friends of LSA was launched in 1995 to offer people the opportunity to participate further in the life of the School. On a personal level this included Newsletters, invitations to end of year shows, plant sales and Spring Fairs, lectures and being included in 'Life at Leith'. On another and vitally important level, the Friends financial support has helped LSA to realise the charitable aims set out by our Founders Mark and Lottie Cheverton when they started the school.

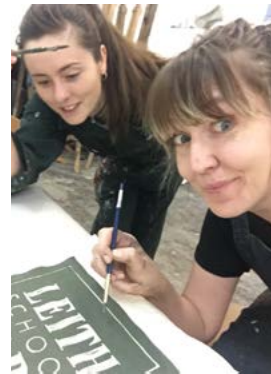
As I'm sure many of you will know, the fundamental ethos of LSA is that anybody, regardless of age or personal or financial circumstances, is welcome and encouraged to come to LSA. They wanted art to be open to everyone, believing in the huge importance of nourishing that form of self-expression.

Again, I'm sure many of you will know from personal experience, the teaching at LSA is positive, non-dogmatic and encouraging of the individual's attitude approach and aptitude. And students are taught how to work, how to take an idea, research, develop and execute it. All LSA tutors are working artists with a real love for their discipline.

As a charity which receives no annual government funding we rely on the support of generous individuals. The contribution of The Friends has helped to provide financial support for the **Assisted Places Scheme**. Without these important bursaries, many talented individuals would be unable to attend the School let alone consider a career as an artist. In 2020/21 £6250 will cover a Foundation Course student's full fees.

In addition, your support allows the School to preserve and enhance the well loved building which contributes so much to the unique atmosphere which is the Leith School of Art. You can find out more about LSA and all that it does by visiting the website **www.LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk**

Now LSA is on the cusp of its next phase of exciting developments. As Chair of the Friends I'd like to offer a very warm welcome to our new Principal, Nick Devison. I'm sure you would like to join me in wishing him and the School all good fortune as it finds new ways to operate during the current situation. I know that he and the staff have been working extremely hard and imaginatively to support the year-long classes and I hope that many of you are enjoying 'Wake up & Draw' with Leith School of Art.



Cat Sammon and Jo Richardson hand-finishing our new LSA screenprinted tote-bags

LSA Benefactors, Patrons and Friends are the backbone of LSA's support network, fostering and championing the students, and the LSA year-round course programmes. Your support is more essential than ever if the school is to maintain its position, nurturing talented artists and their confidence to engage with the contemporary art world.

The more Friends we have, the more ambitious we can be about the future of Leith School of Art, and the more it can inspire future generations. For this reason we are running a special promotion to encourage friends and family to join us, and to mark this special 25th anniversary of Friends of Leith School of Art, we are giving-away to the next 25 individuals who join, an exclusive offer of an LSA tote-bag and a limited edition digital print of Onward Journey by LSA student artist Raine Clarke - **@looks_like_raine_again** - who was inspired by the stained glass window at LSA for this work. Raine has kindly offered a donation from the proceeds of sales of her original work to benefit Assisted Places. Please contact **Friends@LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk**

Happy Birthday to you Friends! ■

For membership enquiries, and to take advantage of this special offer please email **Friends@LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk** and quote Onward Journey.

JOIN US THE FRIENDS OF LSA 25TH ANNIVERSARY EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Limited Edition digital print Onward Journey & LSA Tote-Bag

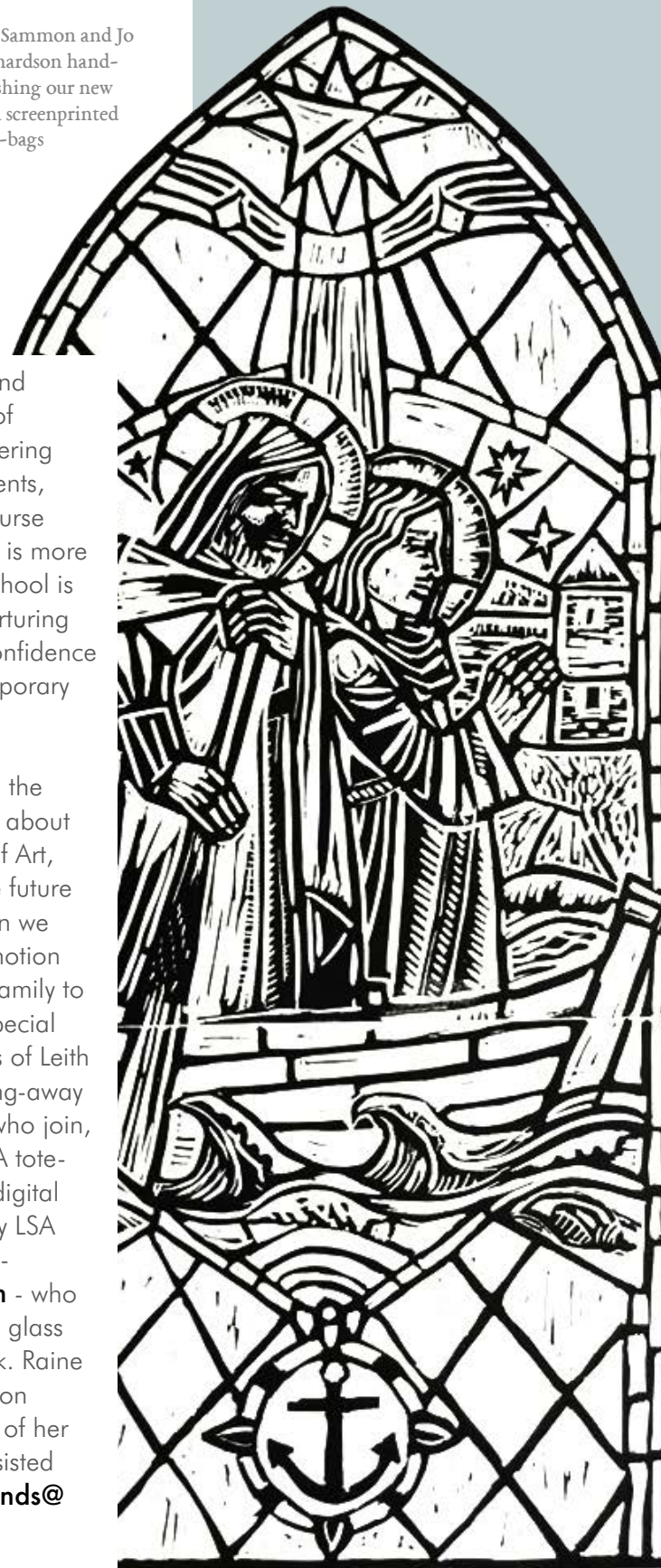
FRIENDS NEW MEMBERS OFFER JOIN TODAY AND RECEIVE SPECIAL OFFER OF LIMITED EDITION DIGITAL PRINT OF ONWARD JOURNEY BY RAINE CLARKE. IMAGE INSPIRED BY STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT LSA. OFFER INCLUDES LIMITED EDITION LSA TOTE-BAG IN ADDITION TO USUAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS. *It's a great time to join us!*

Be part of a lively community of LSA Supporters! You will receive priority booking onto our courses, with exclusive discounts on our courses and in Edinburgh art shops. You will be invited to exclusive LSA events and have discounts on LSA merchandise and publications. We hope you enjoy being a member of the Friends for this coming year. We are currently putting together our programme of events for the coming months and hope to see you at our events in the future!

Become a Friend for just £20 a year and take advantage of our benefits;

- ✓ Invitations to exclusive events; LSA exhibitions & P.V., talks, presentations and annual events.
- ✓ Advance booking and £10 discount on final balance of fee for Summer School bookings
- ✓ 10% discount on LSA Weekend Workshops and School publications
- ✓ 10% discount at Greyfriars Art Shop
- ✓ 10% discount at Henderson Art Shop
- ✓ 10% discount at City Art Centre Shop (excluding exhibition related merchandise)
- ✓ 10% discount at Concrete Wardrobe (purchases over £10)
- ✓ Discounted membership for the Flemming Collection

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT OF A MEMBERSHIP, OR SIMPLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR RANGE OF BENEFITS AND SUPPORT LEITH SCHOOL OF ART BY BECOMING A FRIEND, PLEASE CONTACT US BY EMAIL: **Friends@LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk**



Onward Journey, lino-print by Raine Clarke.
For sales go to **www.raineclarke.co.uk** / **@looks_like_raine_again**

Artist Spotlight:

LSA GRADUATE RESIDENT LUCIA WELSH



LSA Graduate Resident Lucia Welsh featured at the Royal Scottish Academy's New Contemporaries 2020. Lucia showcased her work *Untitled*—featured to the right—selected amongst the best emerging talent in Scotland.



We are delighted to join in celebrating the success of our most recent LSA Graduate Resident Lucia Welsh who has just exhibited at the RSA New Contemporaries Exhibition alongside two other talented LSA alumni Lynsey MacKenzie and Katherine Allan. We are pleased to announce that Lucia was awarded both the prestigious RSA Patrons Award and the Walter Scott Award for her exceptional work.

'Becoming an artist in residence at Leith School of Art has allowed me to further my artistic practice, providing me with core materials to experiment with, in an inspiring environment full of other artists. The School has helped me to learn and to gain the knowledge needed to embark on life as a working artist.

After graduating I was awarded with the RSA 2020 New Contemporaries exhibition prize, for which I created all new paintings at Leith School of Art. Being able to create these paintings at LSA was an amazing opportunity. I was supported by technicians to build large scale boards in the School's workshop. My paintings were also critiqued and discussed by tutors, allowing me to gather a clearer vision in what I really wanted to communicate within my paintings.

My work was then exhibited and awarded with the RSA Patrons Award and The Walter Scotts Prize Award. I feel very privileged and grateful to have been able to create these works at Leith School of Art, as it has opened up new doors and provided me with a new confidence in pursuing my development within painting.' ■

Staff Spotlight:

LSA TUTOR CATHARINE DAVISON RSW

PAINTING COURSE LEADER CATHARINE DAVISON IS ENJOYING HER 4TH SOLO SHOW AND ONLINE EXHIBITION AT THE OPEN EYE GALLERY, EDINBURGH ENTITLED **THE WORLD OUTSIDE**

Catharine is a landscape painter whose practice focuses on working on location in the plein air tradition, directly from source within the landscape inspired by the expansive topography of the Pentland Hills, Blackford Hill, Calton Hill and Holyrood Park. This exhibition of new works maps the city's natural panoramas from the hills and parks of Edinburgh, through to a more intimate physical world of green spaces, public places, waterways, and suburban gardens in south Edinburgh surrounding her home in Oxbgangs. The exhibition of new works charts a creative passion for working directly from source within the landscape. Each work represents a form of perceptual truth and reality, where the interplay between formal experimentation and content is rooted in nature. Curated from a significant output, this exhibition reveals a breadth of interest and depth of experience which takes you on a celebratory journey of life through paint.

Catharine 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 stich, she is able to give life to the most instinctive drawings, extending her practice into the studio. Catharine develops the 'plein air' tradition into a more contemporary visual language.

'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.'

Catharine grew up in Kilkeel, a market town in Northern Ireland, and has been living in Edinburgh since 2007. She studied at Manchester Polytechnic and then at Liverpool John Moores University before gaining a Masters degree in Illustration with Printmaking at Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College of Art & Design. She exhibits regularly at the RSA, the Edinburgh Academy, the Paisley Art Institute and Visual Arts Scotland. In 2014 she was announced the

winner of the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize for creative representational. Prior to this in 2009 she won the Cuthbert Award at the Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts, her painting recognised as the most distinguished by a New Young Artist. In 2013 she was shortlisted for the Jolomo Foundation Award for Scottish landscape Painting.

www.catharinedavison.co.uk

Please note a donation from the sale of this work will go directly to the Assisted Places Fund.

www.openeyegallery.co.uk/exhibitions/catharine-davison-rsw-the-world-outside

For sales enquiries please get in touch;

mail@openeyegallery.co.uk

& quote Persevere. ■

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LSA STAFF NEWS

On behalf of all at LSA we would like to wish Matt Storstein a fond farewell. Matt studied on the Foundation Course at LSA, and has taught for 20 years on various courses at LSA including the Year-long Drawing and Painting Courses. Matt will be greatly missed, and we wish him luck in his new ventures. www.mattstorstein.com

Last year we said goodbye to Gwen Rowland, Fundraiser, and hello to Kitty Douglas-Hamilton Consultant Fundraiser. Genevieve Kay-Gourlay, Programme Co-ordinator (maternity cover) has taken up a new position at North Edinburgh Arts, and we welcome back Alison Thorngren to this post, following maternity leave.

We are committed to improving the digital e-learning experience, and to taking our exhibitions programme on-line. Please continue to check the LSA website for our latest news. www.LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk Thanks! ■

LSA staff have adapted quickly to on-line teaching, with group crits, talks and demos and approaching the challenges creatively. Take a look at our latest Zoom experiences taken on the CAP course (left) and the Foundation Course (right).

TERM DATES 2020/21

Term 1: Autumn Term

Monday 7 September 2020-Saturday 12 December 2020
Half Term: 19-23 October 2020
Event Week: 14-18 December 2020

Term 2: Spring Term

Monday 4 January 2021-Saturday 27 March 2021
Half Term: 8-14 February 2021

Term 3: Summer Term

Monday 12 April 2021 – Saturday 19 June 2021
No half term
Exhibition week: 21-27 June 2021

YEAR-LONG COURSES

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN TO COURSES STARTING SEPTEMBER 2020

**FOUNDATION • PAINTING • DRAWING
CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE • FIGURE
LANDSCAPE • ONE DAY PAINTING • PRINTMAKING**

APPLY ONLINE AT LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk 



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