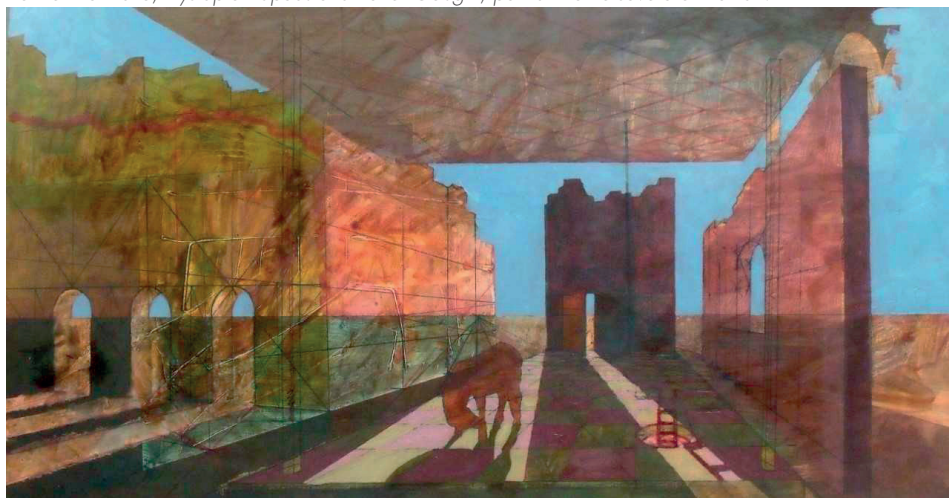


# spectrum

SPRING 2018

LEITH  
SCHOOL  
OF ART

*Kenneth le Riche, Dystopian Speculation after Gauguin, part of the Persevere exhibition.*



## PRINCIPAL PHIL ARCHER'S GREETING

The potential and inspiration of the first term has bloomed into the magnitude of a lively academic year in full swing. Four graduate residents, a fully booked Foundation Course, plenty of spirited students on year-long courses, and the creative activity of everyone involved with the School this year has made it a very positive start indeed.

The quality and variety of work displayed at the Christmas Exhibition showed this beautifully; an impressive achievement for this time of year.

## PERSEVERE AT BERGEN, NORWAY

*"So with our darkest days behind  
Our ship of hope will steer  
And when in doubt, keep in mind;  
Our motto PERSEVERE."*

Persevere. Leith's motto, and an attitude which has served Leith School of Art well over the last 30 years. Leith dockers and their families lived through tough and exciting times, always with an eye on the horizon of a better future. Leith School of Art nestles into this nautical social history, as the founders Mark and Lottie Cheverton took their inspired vision to a dilapidated old church to create a place where people come to steer their ships of hope to brighter futures.

Our North Junction Street campus owes much of its beauty to its history as the oldest Norwegian seamen's mission building outside of Norway. Sacred to Norwegian seafarers and their families, it holds a special place in the hearts of many Scandinavians, especially the students who used it as a community centre. Building on these Norwegian links to strengthen the School's presence in Norway, in February and March Leith School of Art is exhibiting in Oseana, a beautiful art centre over a fjord.

Persevere. The exhibition in Oseana, near Bergen, will feature work by eleven of Leith's alumni and staff members:

Philip Archer, Kristina Chan, Ginny Elston, Jenny Martin, Katie Watson, David Henderson, David Martin, Kenneth Le Riche, Matthew Storstein, Nihad Al Turk, and Izzy Thomson. Kenneth and Matthew have close Norwegian relatives, with Kenneth related to the Norwegian illustrator Ridley Borchgrevink, and Matt being the grandson of painter Aage Storstein. With this prominent exhibition, and a presentation to a Bergen Art School, the Norwegian and Leith art worlds become closer.

Some of you may recall the Helping Hand Trust inviting Principal Phil Archer and then Chair Pete Brown to Bergen in 2016. The Trust's support and enthusiasm continues, with sponsorship of Leith staff members' attendance at Persevere. Dr Alasdair Allan, MSP and the Helping Hand Trust's Patron, will attend the 150 year anniversary celebrations for our historic Norwegian Lutheran church, taking place from 31 August to 2 September 2018.

Persevere. The mindset which brings ideas into reality, the philosophy which manifests an artist's inner experience into a great piece of art even when it's difficult, part of the approach which gives Leith School of Art a very special culture to share with Norway.



*Bodil Friele and Trond Mohn receive Jenny Martin's Persevere print in thanks for opening the exhibition.*





## COLIN BLACK

After an impressive 24 years with Leith School of Art, Head of Design and Foundation Course Tutor Colin Black is leaving Leith School of Art to move to York with his wife Sallie and his collection of 2,000 enamel badges. Colin and Sallie will set up and run Seek Art School, offering a fun environment for art classes.

Born in Wembley, London, Colin studied Graphic Design at Chelsea and the Royal College of Art. He worked for some major design companies and taught in London art schools before moving to Edinburgh to contribute his warmth and skills to Leith School of Art. He has two sons, Isaac and Laurie.

Seeing the School through many stages of its development, his enthusiasm and love for the subject, and his ability to relate authentically, has had a significant impact on the many students he has taught over the years. Colin's ability to produce visually exciting brochures, invitations and the like has created the familiarly unique design identity of the

School. An aesthetic eye and capable mind make Colin a real asset when it comes to organising and setting up exhibitions.

Leith will be very different without Colin, but his kind and encouraging spirit, and his enthusiasm for quality, will continue to inspire art students to reach their potential. Thank you for all you have given, Colin, and all the very best to you and Sallie with your upcoming adventures in York.

## TRUSTEES

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank Pete Brown, Alison Lady Burt and David Patterson for their service as Trustees. The legacy of their contributions will continue to bring value to the School, and all three will stay involved with us, with David Patterson continuing as Chair of the Friends of Leith School of Art.

It is wonderful to see greater diversity at board level, with a broad range of ages and backgrounds. We welcome Anne Sibbald, Eleanor Cunningham, Gillian Simison and Calum Smith. A past student of the School, Anne comes from a professional background in higher education with expertise in organisational development and leadership. We are pleased that the School will benefit from her knowledge and charm. Eleanor brings her lively personality and vast experience in textiles, finance and food. Gillian currently manages the grants programmes at Museums Galleries Scotland, and her gentle understanding

of how to support artists is sure to enrich the School experience. Calum currently studies at the School, and his warm personality and business and financial experience are a welcome addition to the board.

After six years as Chair, having masterfully and cheerfully steered the School through a period of expansion, Pete entrusts the helm of Chair to Alistair Hector's calm and capable hands, to guide us in the next stage of our voyage. Alistair has been a Trustee with us for three years, was headmaster of George Heriot's School, and is now a German language tour guide and photographer.

## CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

Well done to all students for the excellent work shown at the Christmas Exhibition. Thank you to all who contributed to the Annual Fundraising Postcard Sale, both as artists and buyers. This raised around £2,600 for our Assisted Places fund, to offer to students in financial need.

We were lucky to have donations to enable each Schools Outreach Project student to choose a postcard to take home with them as a memento, a motivator and a valuable experience of being an art buyer as well as an art maker.





We are delighted to have four excellent graduates with us this year.

Leith's structured and supported Graduate Residencies aim to launch the careers of these promising new artists, courtesy of the Ahmanson Community Charitable Trust.

Their presence and experience is an inspiration to Foundation Course students.

# GRADUATE RESIDENCIES 2017-18

## HUGH MORTON

Originally from Edinburgh, Hugh studied in Grays School of Art, Aberdeen. He is a figurative painter, producing new work for the RSA New Contemporaries and an exhibition in the Rendezvous Gallery, Aberdeen.

## DEA CAMPBELL

A figurative painter with an abstract approach, Dea studied in Brighton. She was in the Colombia Threadneedle Prize, and is excited to be in Leith's buzzing environment where she aims to develop her own language of paint.



## MARINE LEFEBVRE

Marine studied Decorative Art in Paris, then an MA at the Royal College of Art. She has exhibited internationally, and had residencies in Spain, the United States, Northern Ireland and France.

## ELIZABETH MARTIN

Having completed the Foundation and Drawing courses at Leith, Elizabeth went on to study at Central St Martin's London, and is returning after a few years. She has been working with jewellery and light on the body, and is developing a fine art approach, aiming to apply for a masters in the future.



## THEIR LEGACY LIVES ON

Sadly, we have had to bid goodbye to a few friends of the School recently. Thank you to warm and artistic Moira Chetty, and her family, who chose to gift us 50% of the proceeds of her funeral collection.

Inspirational lawyer and code breaker Ethel Houston passed away aged 93. Ethel was instrumental in setting up Leith School of Art's business, spiritual and charitable aims. Joyce Cheverton's spirit also lives on in the School now she has left us aged 97.

We are extremely grateful to the late Robin Spark, his wife Anthea, the executors of his will, and beneficiary Patrik Lau. They gifted us a £2,000 scholarship, good quality art materials and a significant number of excellent art books to boost the School's library. Initially working as a civil servant, Robin's love of art brought him to a career change in his 40's which culminated in him enjoying life as a painter and curator. He was the son of Muriel Spark and lived in Edinburgh.



Rembrandt. "Belshazzar's Feast,"

## RESTORATIVE WORK AT GALLERIES

A rare chance to view the restorative work behind the scenes at The National Galleries of Scotland is coming up for the Patrons of Leith School of Art in April, just before the Rembrandt exhibition. Thank you to Alison, Lady Burt for suggesting this. Alison has stepped down as Chair of the Patrons. We thank you graciously for your support of the School, and trust that you will continue to be involved as a valued member of the community, and an artist.

If anyone should wish to become a Patron of the School, it is simply a matter of gifting upwards of £9 per month. Patrons enjoy being part of a supportive group, closely connected with the School. Our charitable aims include offering high quality art education to talented people whose personal circumstances would otherwise exclude them from studying with us.



Dominic McIvor's *In Security: Drawings of Paintings, Paintings of Drawings*. On until Saturday 31 March.

## DIARY DATES

### Corridor exhibition: *In Security: Drawings of Paintings, Paintings of Drawings* by Dominic McIvor:

Dominic is a Technician and Tutor Support at the School. He is a graduate of Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen and Leith School of Art, aiming to study a masters in New York. Exhibition at 25 North Junction Street, until Saturday 31 March.

### ms'spel:

Until 1 April at the Byre Theatre, St Andrews.

### Corridor exhibition: *Elemental: Jewellers & Leith School of Art*.

16 April – 16 June, at 25 North Junction Street.

### 40 Years of Wasps Studios Exhibition:

11 May – 17 June, new Kirkcudbright Galleries.

### Hidden Door Arts Festival:

Hidden Door is a not-for-profit underground arts production organisation.

Friday 25 May – Sunday 3 June.

### Summer Exhibition 2018:

Friday 22 June – Sunday 24 June.  
Private View Thursday 21 June 7:00 - 9:00pm.

### 150th Anniversary Celebrations for Scandinavian Lutheran Church at the North Junction Street campus:

31st August – 2nd September 2018.

### Porty Art Walk:

Saturday 1 – Sunday 9 September  
[www.artwalkporty.co.uk](http://www.artwalkporty.co.uk)

Visit artist's studios, homes and site specific artworks around Portobello.

## STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to our Student Registrar Sophia Hannah (nee Scott) who married Alan recently, and will become a mother this summer. Her mature presence is intrinsic to the smooth flowing of activities at the School, we all cherish Sophia and wish her the very best at this time of change.

A warm welcome to Gwen Rowland who joined the School as our Fundraiser, following on from Antonia Clark. Gwen's working days are Mondays and Tuesdays.

We welcome back two valued members of staff from their maternity leaves: Maria Hadam and Fiona Scroggie. Welcome also to Jessica Poole who is covering Rachel McBrinn as Tutor Support.

Katherine Barrington, Tutor Support for the Schools Outreach Project has left us, and we thank her for her contribution.

**LEITH  
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