



HAPPENINGS

APRIL 2006



To encourage and facilitate the furtherment and enjoyment of the Arts and Crafts within the community

WELCOME

Hello all and a big welcome to the first news letter of the Newbiggin by the sea Arts forum HAPPENINGS. With the news letter we intend to keep you informed about what's happened and what's happening within the forum hence the name. It will inform you with updates, information about trips, competitions, group activities, calls for assistance and help from within the forum and from outside projects.

If you wish to be involved in anyway with the forum for instance setting out chairs, helping with the workshops, even running a workshop, speaking about your own experiences skills etc. If you feel the urge there is this very news letter for you to put your views, reviews, thoughts and anything you feel might inform the forum. Then please get in touch with the appropriate contact the details for this can be found towards the back of the news letter

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PREVIOUS MEETING

Spring competition

A huge thank you must go out to all of those who entered the spring art competition. There was a wide range of styles and media, ranging from painting and ceramics through to poetry and photography. It was a really good show so well done all.

Thanks must also go to Mr Ivan Webley form the Bedlington Painters group who had the very difficult task of judging the competition but the excellent job of presenting the prizes. The winners of the runner up prizes of delicious Milky bars where Richard Martin with a photographic piece, Claire Cooper with a print and Pam Shears with a painting. Finally the winner of the grand prize of a box of Maltesers was William Bell with a painting.



Richard Martin



Claire Cooper



Pam Shears



William Bell

Printing workshop

Claire Cooper gave the forum a very informed and fun workshop on printing she showed us two different techniques one where ink was put onto a glass plate and drawn into then paper placed over this and rubbed gently to achieve an image the other where the paper was placed onto the ink and then that drawn on.



Claire demonstrating



Having a go



Some finished products



More finished work

Speakers

Brenda Longstaff was our speaker she delivered a very interesting and informative talk on Art within Wansbeck hospital and its implications on health and the benefits there of. She showed some work from a photography project that had been done and said she hoped the forum could work closely with the hospital in the future.

Small groups

At the meeting a number of people started to get together to form small groups of individuals who would like to pursue a chosen Art form more in depth. There were photographers, painters, potters and musicians. These groups will not be exclusive any one can join in it is just to explore things deeper than we can at the forum itself. Indeed if you have interest in starting your own small group do not hesitate to get in touch for help in doing this

REVIEWS

One View of the Baltic Exhibition

1. North-eastern Artists ("You shall know our Velocity")

Two things stood out for me. One, a sculpture made of brightly coloured wires shaped like a wig-wam, and a picture of a partly demolished house. On the end wall, you could see wallpaper still attached indicating the position of each room. Reminiscent of post second world war bomb sites.

At least one sculpture took up the theme, exploring the beautiful textures of decaying buildings. Again, another piece was of rotting fruit with contact microphones attached to present various sounds produced during the decaying process. Very interesting. I feel that this exhibition expressed hope amidst decay, and could stand as a metaphor for our times.

2. Spencer Tunick

First question: Is it art?

Interesting from the fact that so many nudes are never normally seen together. The figures come across as just bodies that have had their individuality taken away. It is as if they were just machines waiting for a spirit to enter into them to bring them alive. (This is not a personal comment about the individuals - but is about the way so many figures were presented)

3. Kerry James Marshall ("Along the Way")

The centre panel of 'The Garden of Earthly Delights' by Bosch sprang to mind. It was rare to see an all black exhibition. It was very powerful and moving. The paintings had an innocence, something rare in the modern world. One painting of a boy and girl in a cornfield could have been of Adam and Eve. Each figure in the paintings appeared to be totally involved in what they were doing.

4. Mark Manders ("Short Sad Thoughts")

As the catalogue says: "the pieces consist of beds, blankets, tables, chairs, spoons, sponges and effigies of dead animals." In addition, the vast majority of the pieces were painted an un-relieved black. This to me spoke of desperation and that man had become departed from his true purpose. This seemed very much in alignment with the right hand panel of Bosch's 'Garden of Earthly Delights' which portrays the descent into hell!

Many thanks to Pip one of our member for this review of our recent visit to the Baltic

ACTIVITIES

Whitley bay playhouse

Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers

Thursday 11 May, 7.30pm

Thundering rhythms on huge taiko drums interweave with delicate and expressive shinobue bamboo flute and layers of subtle percussive soundscapes in a visually spellbinding display. From strong foundations in technique through intensive training in Japan under top taiko masters, Mugenkyo have developed a style that is uniquely their own. Retaining the traditional spirit of taiko, yet creating a thoroughly contemporary sound, Mugenkyo are forging a new path with their innovative approach

Tickets: £11.50 full, £10.50 Easecard, £9.50 concs, £27 family 3, £36 family 4

Arts Fayre – Dates 28/05/06 Funded by Newbiggin Life

We need volunteers to help with this & of course contributions from Artists wishing to sell their work. I think we should set up a working group to run this. This will need to include someone who can develop a media strategy to publicise the event & maximise attendance.

Tri-Town Festival / Moorside School

Does anyone have any ideas regarding the tri-town festival?

Could this be the time to do the Raku workshop?

Do we want to have a stall publicising the forum – do we have any volunteers who might be willing to organise some activities etc?

Do we have anyone who wants to get involved with the Moorside School project?

NEXT MEETING

Monday 8 May