

East Neuk Harbour



QUARTERLY MAGAZINE NO 10 September 2013

FEATURING

James Somerville

Molly Garnier

Leo du Feu

You will very much enjoy the variety of excellent work produced by the three artists featured in this Quarterly Magazine, our last before Christmas.

We are working on an equally impressive collection for our magazines in 2014.

Merry Christmas

Steuart

You come to nature with all her theories, and she knocks them all flat.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir

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Borders Farm

James Somerville

Where is your studio?

A room in the house where I live.

Nothing special about it or the lighting although I prefer working in daylight when painting.

I work in shortish spells with frequent breaks to consider what I have done and what exactly I am going to do next since I work best when I am not hampered by overly preconceived ideas.

Never work outside when painting. Initial drawings however are usually done outdoors.

As regards the finished paintings - they often bear only a slight resemblance to the on-site drawings.

I let the first few marks on the canvas tell me what comes next - a very spontaneous way

of working that suits me - I don't like being restricted by what I have initially observed.



Subject matter?

Natural landscape / buildings / towns and cities / flower pieces.

Realism goes by the board in favour of moods and emotions that are aroused by what I have seen.

I tend to look for subjects that involve some aspect of man and his environment. Haphazard farm buildings / fishing villages / churches and cathedrals / subjects that show the efforts of humans coping with the constraints of the natural and often harsh environments.

I try to avoid scenes that are too orderly and over-planned.

I much prefer, for example, Spanish towns and villages that show no trace of town planners.

Evening Sun



Fife East Neuk

Colour / technique / equipment.

Preferences have changed over the years. I spend more time now in considering the emotional aspects of colour and how it can be used to create specific moods and emotions that go beyond natural representation.

The same goes for composition and technique. My work is much looser and breaks with the traditional approach I made use of in the past.

I use acrylics most of the time - I find it can be used in so many ways - impasto / watercolour / glazing / usually a mixture of all three. It also dries quickly so I can get on with a painting rather than having to stop and wait for the paint to dry and inevitably lose the mood.

Favourite tool is the palette knife.

Canvas I use for most paintings although for smaller work I prefer a handmade / rough textured paper.

I have a preference for a gloss acrylic varnish for the finished work as it rescues the original intensity of colour - acrylic, if used thinly can dry matt and be on the dull side. I work with the canvas / paper on a flat surface.



Mother's Day

Music?

I usually listen to music when working.

Shostakovich , Oscar Peterson , Bach - all full of feeling / technical brilliance / and good for keeping me aware of "mood" in the work. They also serve as a notice to "keep out I'm busy"

Working day?

I work best when doing so in shortish spells but never so short that I lose sight of my original intentions. The spells can vary between a couple of hours and ten minutes.

A break of a couple of days can be beneficial, but, can end up in a scraping out of something I had thought of as being good.

Preparing material for galleries - notes / photographs / delivering and collecting work / can break into my working routine and can break up the flow of work and is the thing I like least, but it has to be done.



iPAD Drawing

Influences?

The paintings by Robin Phillipson and Joan Eardley inspire me most.

Their work I find exciting because of the intensity of feeling and emotion that they

can convey in their work - all without involving themselves in producing written explanations of what they were trying to do - the paintings speak for themselves.

Phillipson's Rose Windows and Eardley's paintings of the Samson children are among my favourites - would love to own any one of these paintings. Toulouse Lautrec would be my choice for a painting from the past.

Two places would provide me with sites for living and working.

The interior towns and cities of Central Spain and a small island off the west coast of Canada - Cormorant Island.

I can relax by listening to music / walking the dog / travelling abroad.



Molly Garnier

Where is your studio, why do you enjoy working there and what's special about it?

My studio is at the bottom of the garden in a small summer house in the Norfolk seaside town of Sheringham. It overlooks our sunny garden and is lovely and light. I find it a calm space away from the everyday running of the house yet still close enough to feel connected to what is going on in the house. I get a very cold nose working in there as it is not insulated and it is very small but it is all mine and I do not have to clear up after a day's work!

How would you describe the light there and do you have a preference for a particular light and how does it affect your approach?

I have lots of natural day light coming through the windows and glass doors. It faces North but I do not mind this as I do not get a glare. I like using daylight and tend to stop painting when the light gets too dark.





How does the light hit your work surface? Do you like to have sunlight in your studio and what artificial light do you prefer? Do you ever work outside?

I have a small spotlight for my smaller more detailed nudes but I prefer natural light. My studio is virtually outside and I can open the French doors onto the garden. I do not really like shadows on my work so if the light is particularly bad then I stop working.

Is there a particular subject or emotion which draws you?

I live by the sea and am always drawn to the big skies and atmosphere. I also have a fascination with the female nude and observations of the model. Whatever I paint I want the viewer to be engaged in the painting.

Do you have a preference for particular colours? If yes, is it driven by subject, mood, light or an emotional response?

I love using ochres and cadium red. Both colours add to the glow of my paintings and add a certain depth to the works.



Silk 15x20cm

Have your colour/technique/composition preferences changed over time?

I originally focused on painting the female nude and used myself as a model in the early years. Now I have 2 models that I work with frequently. I guess I am continually making new discoveries and new compositions. Moving to live by the coast has also changed my work and subject matter as I live seconds away from cliffs and sea.

Do you have a "secret weapon" and would you like to tell us about it?

I build up my work using thin layers, all paintings start with a soft orange hue. I also use very fine brushes for the detailed bits.

What type of equipment do you prefer to use? Do you have a favourite brush/knife?

I use oils on board and really love using nylon brushes, I hate brushes that shed hair and then get stuck in the painting!

What do you prefer to paint on and why?

I paint on hardboard as I like the feeling of wood and being able to scratch through to the surface and layers of paint. I like to see the gradient of the wood and the direction of the brush strokes and primer.



Sunday Stroll 45x45cm. oil on board

Picture base/location when painting & why? i. Easel? ii. Table and propped? iii. Hung on the wall?

All of the above depending on the painting size, I like to have a full arm span.

Do you listen to music when working? If so, what are your preferences and why?

I listen to chill out music, cafe del mar and such. I also like the radio.

Do you enjoy working in company or prefer to be alone?

I am easily distracted so I like working alone! But my 3 year old frequently pops in to say hello.

Describe your normal working day.

I drop my daughter off at nursery then work in the studio at 10 usually after clearing up all the chaos of breakfast and doing the chores! I try to paint until I have to do the nursery run at 4.



Poppies in the storm 50x50cm

Who is your greatest influence?

I am strongly influenced by the old masters like Vermeer and Carravagio, by the glazes and underpainting and how they build up layers of thin paint within the painting.

Which work of art would you most like to own and see everyday?

I love Rothko's 'Black on Dark Sienna, on Purple'. I saw it at an exhibition in London and was blown away, the whole room seemed to show respect and admiration for the works, there was a real sense of calm and meditation in this busy london gallery, amazingly peaceful. It would make me feel alive and make me remember to breathe every day.

Which contemporary artist do you most admire and why?

I really love Antony Gormley's sculptures, the way he plays with the weight and feel of the body. I also love Lucien Freud's masterpieces. The way he pushes the paint around and makes the figures come alive is a real skill.



Between showers 50x60cm

If you could go anywhere to paint, where would it be and why?

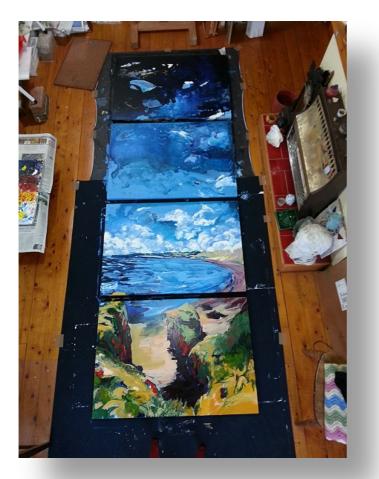
Nepal, we went trecking a few years ago and I felt so inspired.

What do you like to do to relax?

I love going for big walks on the beach and we visit my parents hut out on an island which is amazing, you reach it by boat and then you are cut off from the world! Being on the water on their boat always relaxes me and centres me.

Is there something you would like to say that we haven't asked about?

I went to Edinburgh College of Art and then went on to live in Edinburgh for another 5 years and I owe much of my success to Edinburgh and being spotted and exhibiting with Galleries straight after graduating. The Scottish art scene was a big stepping stone and since then I have been so fortunate to be represented by some amazing galleries throughout the UK. I have had 9 solo shows and exhibited in over 60 group shows. I am always so touched and flattered when people admire my work and even purchase one. My paintings are like my babies and I always hope that one day I can get to see them in their new homes!



Large private commission

Leo du Feu

Where is your studio, why do you enjoy working there and what's special about it?

My studio is a room in my dad's house, in my childhood home in Linlithgow, West Lothian. It's not a purpose built white-walled studio but the size is good and the view is great. Out the windows is my dad's garden - large and green and wildlife friendly. Most of my childhood fruit and veg intake was grown here. A lot still is. I permanently feed the birds in the garden and keep track of species and numbers for British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) Garden Birdwatch scheme - www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw The studio lighting isn't perfect - the main windows face south and when it's sunny I have to close the curtains. Daylight bulbs in ceiling and in lamps make it fine to work at night or when I have to have the curtains closed

I enjoy working in here, especially when I've got a commission or big project that I can work on for weeks. I get into the flow of being indoors, cosy, listening to Radio 4, Radio Scotland, audiobooks, and Radio 3, in that order. Things may soon be changing – I may be moving to Burntisland or somewhere else along the Fife coast. If so, I'll be sure to maintain my links with Linlithgow as many of my contacts and friends are here.

My favourite place to work however is outdoors. Over the past few years I have painted more and more from nature and now it's perhaps the largest part of my artistic practise. More than half of the works in my latest solo show (RGI Kelly Gallery, Glasgow) were completed almost entirely out of doors.



Large private commission (detail)

Working outdoors is a treat. It can be totally absorbing and there's nothing better for imprinting a place in your memory. If you're interested in wildlife (I am!) you see so much more by sitting in one spot for an hour or two. Animals get used to your presence and start to ignore you.

Is there a particular subject or emotion which draws you?

My personal and artistic inspiration is landscape and nature. Birds in particular are increasingly flying into my work. I undertake regular voluntary bird counts for BTO and some campaigning and awareness-raising for the RSPB. The more I learn the more I want to learn, and the knowledge I gain is very important to my art. Understanding of and respect for nature is the best way we have of encouraging people to help protect it.

Do you have a preference for particular colours? If yes, is it driven by subject, mood, light or an emotional response?

I don't feel I have a favourite colour or colourscheme 'though I'm told that blue appears a lot in my paintings. I am naturally drawn to moody, dramatic, brooding. I love Scotland's weather. Cloudless blue sky and sun doesn't inspire me.

Have your colour/technique/composition preferences changed over time?

Yes, at college (Edinburgh College of Art) I was primarily painting imaginative scenes - fantastical landscapes inspired by little details of nature. I still love that sort of work (recently I finished a three metre work for a private home) but these days my focus seems to be Scotland's landscapes and nature. Nowadays I am more excited by looser, more flowing, work than I would have been five or six years ago.



Large private commission (detail)

What type of equipment do you prefer to use? Do you have a favourite brush/knife?

I really use any old brushes, I haven't gone down the expensive route. I love square-ended palette knives for foreground rocks, grasses, etc. Working thickly in acrylic is very satisfying. My paints are the best quality you can get. I use Golden acrylics and Winsor & Newton Artists' watercolours. If I want people to buy my work I need to use the best, longest-lasting paints possible.

What do you prefer to paint on and why? Eg: canvas, board or paper

Canvas is great for texture and palette-knifing but I most often work on thick watercolour paper (600gsm). Sometimes I work on mountboard covered with a few coats of white acrylic primer. Before starting a painting I often put a layer of colour on top of the white primer. Often a dark red. Don't ask why!

Do you listen to music when working? If so, what are your preferences and why.

I'm not at all well musically educated and probably not terribly musically driven, although I certainly enjoy it when I listen. I like classical and soundtracks; 'folky' music like Karine Polwart, Jackson Browne, Goldfrapp, Mumford & Sons; I like the Beatles and Kate Bush and the Kinks. But as I mentioned earlier, spoken word is what I listen to far more.

Do you enjoy working in company or prefer to be alone?

Overall I definitely prefer to be alone when I work. Sketching outdoors with a friend is really enjoyable though. I have regular birding sketching trips with Kittie Jones (www.kittiejones.com), as I do with my Mum - Susan Smith (www.susanmcsmith.com)



Isle of May guillemot, 20.5x14.5cm

Describe your normal working day.

There is no such thing as normal. I spend far too much time on the computer, looking for and following up opportunities. All this business-side is vitally important, especially keeping in touch with my mailing list, but it definitely eats too much into the time I would like to spend creating. At least 50% of my business related time is not painting.

When I'm working indoors on a big commission or towards an exhibition I tend to start early in the day, perhaps as early as 7am. I'll work for a couple of hours before I have breakfast. Later in the day I try to go for a walk (which always includes my binoculars). I can work late into the night but I'm much more of an early early morning person. I recently worked on a 3 metre x 1 metre commission for a private house – a huge landscape packed with little hidden details from the buyers' lives. It was a treat to work on and a treat to have two months devoted entirely to work in the studio, listening to lots of Radio 4!

10. Who is your greatest influence?

I have been hugely inspired by the Group of Seven, early 1900s painters of the Canadian wilderness. They were devoted to painting outdoors, far from 'civilization'. Their oil 'sketches' on cedar wood panel (nearly all around 21x27cm in size, for ease of carrying) are fantastic. They glow with life out the sense of outside. They're very often more exciting than the large studio canvasses.



Aberlady curlew, 33x62cm

Unfortunately it's difficult to see much of the work of these artists and their associates without going to Canada. Dulwich Picture Gallery in London had a big exhibition of their work in 2011. You can still buy the accompanying book by visiting their website. It's called 'Painting Canada'. I really recommend it -

http://www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk/shop/exhi bition_catalogues.aspx

I am very attracted to the freedom in William Gillies' pen and watercolour landscapes and treescapes.

Which contemporary artist do you most admire and why?

There are lots of contemporary artists who I admire. Wildlife artist John Busby is one of the many that come to mind. Also Kate Downie (www.katedownie.com) - as with Gillies, the freedom and excitement of her huge and sweeping ink landscapes.

If you could go anywhere to paint, where would it be and why?

Scotland is what inspires me most of all. I love it here. Especially the islands. I would put St Kilda at the top of that list, as most island lovers would.

Overseas – somewhere cold. I would love to paint the ice and birds of the far far north and far far south. I would love to explore the wildlife of Norway and northern Scandinavia. The Great Grey Owl is my absolute favourite bird. Stunning creatures. I dream about owls, rather more often than some would consider healthy.

What do you like to do to relax?

Relax?



Is there something you would like to say that we haven't asked about?

Yes!

I've just had a book published – Landscapes and Birds of Scotland, an Artist's View. 122 large glossy pages of sketches, paintings and writings from my explorations of Scotland. Intended to encourage and inspire people to get out and explore this wonderful country for themselves, and to care for its natural heritage.

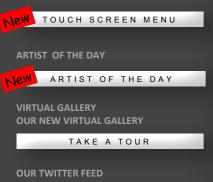
The book costs £20. Signed copies available directly from me by emailing jennifer@leodufeu.co.uk or by visiting Linlithgow's excellent independent bookshop, Far From The Madding Crowd (www.maddingcrowdlinlithgow.co.uk)

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WEBSITE NEWS

TOUCH SCREEN MENUS:

Our new tablet "Touch Screen Menu " is now live. You can also use our traditional "computer" menus too.



"Live" Tweets"

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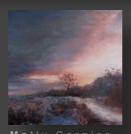
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The next quarterly issue is due in March 2014



James Somerville

www.James Somerville



Molly Garnier www.Molly Garnier



Leo du Fei

www.Leo du Feu

PROMOTING SCOTTISH ART

It is Frigyes Karinthy's theory that we are all only six steps away from being introduced to any other person in the world. So please continue to promote Scottish Art by "introducing" this magazine to your friends and colleagues.

You have been so successful at this that in our website's brief life we have rushed past **1,000,000 hits** to 1,350,000.

This is not robots, worms, web-crawlers, or replies with special HTTP status codes. It's **1,350,000 hits by real people** looking around our website and following our links to Scottish artists and galleries.

And we've only just started!

OUR THANKS

We'd like to give a special thank you to James, Molly and Leo for working with us to produce our Quarterly Magazine.



WE HAVE GREAT ARTISTS IN PREVIOUS ISSUES

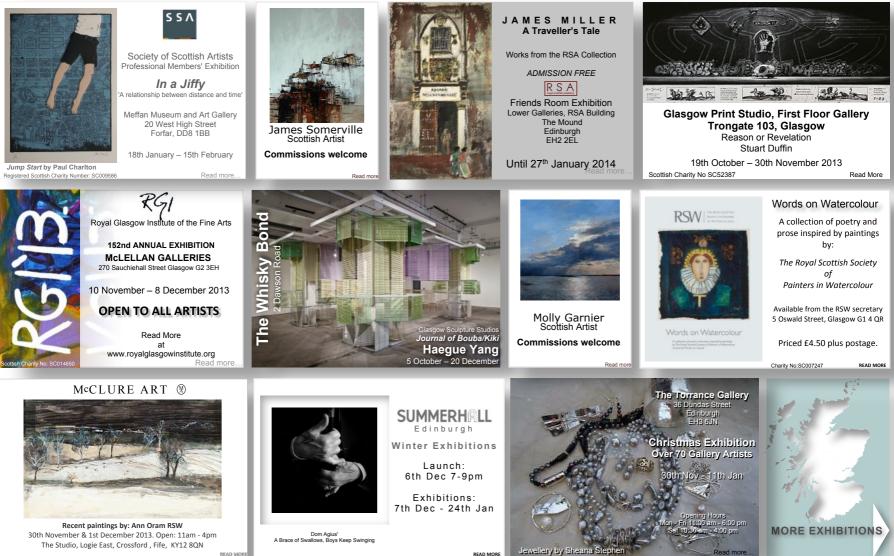
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EXHIBITIONS PAGE

Exhibitions

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Leo du Feu Scottish painter of landscape & nature

Commissions Welcome Follow blog www.landscapeartnaturebirds.blogspot.com



Catriona Mann MA LLB RSW RSW Vice President for the East Perth Festival-A Sense of Place Perth Museum and Art Gallery Gallery Ten Edinburgh PAI Annual Exhibition



The Meffan Winter Exhibition 2013 begins at the end of November, so it's time for artists to prepare their entries for this annual competition.

> Open to all artists resident in Scotland. A prize of £200 Amateur Category Up to £1500 Professional Category

Find out more on our Website www.angus.gov.uk/history/museums/meffan the.meffan@angus.gov.uk Read mo

> Gallerv Q Dundee



5 Oct to 2 Nov Morningside Gallery Edinburgh 1 to 31 Oct Lemond Gallery, Glasgow Annual Winter Exhibition 9 to 10 Nov Edinburgh Art Fair 15 to 17 Nov Walker Gallery, Harrogate Scottish Exhibition 16 Nov to 24 Dec Iona House Gallery, Oxford Scottish Show 23 Nov to 31 Dec Stafford Gallery, London Exhibition of Scottish Artists 26 Jan to 9 Feb

Gallery Q, Dundee "Oil & Water"



Dylan John Lisle fine artist Works to commission





Leap of Faith 20cm x 20cm acrylic on canvas



Jane Cruickshank

also paintings, ceramics, textiles and jewellery by gallery artists

December 7th 11am - 5pm. The exhibition continues until Saturday 18th January READ MORE



George Donald can be seen at Artmill Gallerv Plymouth Bohun Gallerv Henley on Thames Open Eye

Édinburah

Jan

Read more.

Jean Martin See her work in our Quarterly Magazine No 5

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Read more.



Lesley Banks Bevond the Grand Canal See her work in the **RUDA Auction**

> 6th December Read more.



Shelagh Atkinson & Poet Kathrine Sowerby The Written Image - The Spoken Image Edinburgh Printmakers & the Scottish Poetry Library READ MORE 15th Nov to 5th Dec



Scotlandart.com McClure Art Arteries Gallerv Seagull Gallery Concept Gallery



Willie Fulton Moira Fulton Ardbuidhe Cottage Gallery Drinishader Isle of Harris Phone 01859511218 Mobile-07717198423





Commissions welcome

MORE EXHIBITIONS

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Works to commission

'The Art of Resistance: Defending Academic Freedom'



Auction to support the CARA Fellowship Scheme

5th Dec. 2013 at Pentagram Designs London 6.30 pm to 10.00 pm

Neesha and Seb (detail) oil on canvas 50cm x 40cm Charity No. 207471

Works by established artists and cartoonists Charity No. SCO 006715 READ MORE

The Cordis Trust Prize for Tapestry

Visual Arts Scotland



VAS is delighted to announce a major new prize for woven tapestry generously given by the Cordis Trust. It will be awarded at our annual exhibition in late 2015 and then in two subsequent years. This prize is divided into two awards. The first is open to professional artists for a large tapestry hand woven by the artist within the last five years and is for £5000. The ...

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The New Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice

@SEALIFE Loch Lomond Statut pare Staircase Gallery a winter exhibition of affordable contemporary art

Artists are invited to submit up to 3 works to 'BARE' an exhibition of affordable contemporary art to be held in the Staircase Gallery, Loch Lomond SEALIFE Centre, Balloch this Winter. Entry £10. Open to all UK artists. For further information on how to enter your work, please email borrowedspace@hotmail.co.uk

On the first day of Christmas

An exhibition of selected work by leading contemporary Scottish artists



Liz Knox Solo Exhibitions The Edinburgh Gallery Edinburgh 27th April - 25th May Catto Gallerv London September Smithy Gallery Glasgow 20th Oct - 10th Nove

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Tom Allan Sculpture

The RSA Open Exhibition Royal Scottish Academy The Mound Edinburgh 23 Nov 2013 to 26 Jan 2014

RGI Annual Exhibition McLellan GalleriesGlasgow, 9th Nov till 8th Dec,

Gatehouse Gallery, Smithy Gallery, Blanefield Roger Billcliffe Fine Art, Glasgow The Compass/ Cyril Gerber Gallery ArtEries Gallery, Glasgow



San Gimignano Snow

Glasgow Art Club A demonstration of painting Was given by Alexandra Gardner To raise funds for the

New Hospice

Donations are still welcome by the Hospice please follow the link to read more

Charity No: SC012372



House for an Art Lover. Café Gallery, 28 November to 6th January 2014



Steve Dilworth 'In the Flesh' **OBS Gallery** Tonbridge 13th Jan to 14th Mar 2014 'Sculpture at Goodwood' Current Read more.



Georgina Starr, Splitzing, 2013. Image courtesy of the artist



GEORGINASTARR

Before Le Cerveau Affamé

Cooper Gallery Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design Dundee

11 October - 13 December



Art Tuition Painting in Portpatrick

Expressive Painting Weekends

See website for details



The Academy of Realist Art UK

Find out how to join our Academy at St Margaret's House, Edinburgh.

> Open 10 am to 10pm



Read more.

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Darkest Dreams

Lamb Gallery Tower Building University of Dundee

9 November 2013 - 11 January 2014

(Closed for Christmas 25 December - 2 January)

Mon-Fri 09.30-20.30 Sat 09.30-16.30

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Susie Hunt @ His Majesty's Theatre "Concealed and Revealed" runs

Grampian Hospitals Art Trust



GHAT artists @ ARI "Deltiology -The Collection and Study of Postcards" runs 15/11/12 - 10/1/14



Hospitalfield Arts THE VIEW: of land and sea Open Weekend - 6th to 8th December Work by artists Henry Coombes, Andy Holden, Hannah Imlach, Michael Reisch and Iain Sarjeant Charity No: SCO09987 READ MORE

Alison McWhirter BA MA

Spring 2014



David Hay DA (Edin) June and recent exhibitions

Art Amatoria David's recent work was shown Affordable Art Fair Battersea London Read more.



Charity Auction Date 6th December

> Doors open at 5.00pm. Auction starts at 7.00pm

> And on line at http://www.rudatanzania.org.uk Most of the work can be viewed on the Flickr

http://www.flickr.com/photos/rudatanzania

From Another View Point June Carev

Scottish Charity No SCO 33311



Angus McEwan RSW ARWS Winner Shenzhen Watercolour Biennial 2013-2014 Exhibition Shenzhen Art Museum 10 December to 10 January



Katharine Wheeler Specialising in Portraiture Commissions. Figurative and Landscape Painting. Read more



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