

Art that matters

Moreton Art Weeks, July 6-20, 2013, have been organised by a group of art professionals, designers and antique dealers who are based in and around the town.

Event: Moreton Art Weeks

Moreton-in-Marsh has a train station and stands at the junction of two old trading roads, the Fosse Way and the A44 link between Oxford, Hereford and Worcester, so is ideally situated for visitors to the North Cotswolds who love art, creativity and design.

With its many galleries, antique establishments and varied food places Moreton offers a great day out. From the beauty of the great outdoors at Batsford Arboretum, Bourton House and Seizenecote to the beauty of crafts, arts and design on the High Street, you will find a great range of offerings in the town and the surrounding area.

The Moreton galleries offer a wide range of styles and a huge variety of objects to suit every taste from 19th Century and Victorian paintings to contemporary artwork.

During Moreton Art Weeks you can experience many artists' demonstrations, enjoy special exhibits and even see a celebration of the creativity of our local school students.

Do also visit the Furniture Studios of Robin Furlong to experience the delights of working with wood and join Jon Fox as he celebrates the 30th anniversary of his antique business in Moreton with his quirky displays and his probing question 'Yes, but is it really art?'

www.moretonarts.com

- Allium Florists * Astley House Fine Art * Celia Lendis Galleries * Grimes House Gallery * John Davies Gallery * Jon Fox Antiques * The Moreton Gallery * Wold Galleries * Robin Furlong Furniture * Ted Nasmith Art Shop * Wellington Aviation Museum

Pictured, an Emma Clegg vase (coming to the Lendis Galleries soon) and a painting from the Wold Galleries



Fiona Murray

My art

Emma Clegg, Potter

Describe your work.

I am a potter working in porcelain clay. My work is usually thrown and then embellished with porcelain flowers, all of which are British, and most of them wild. I make both decorative pieces and functional tableware – the tableware being based around tea.

Who is your favourite all-time artist?

When I was an art student, I really loved the work of the Scottish colourists, mainly JD Fergusson and Peplow. As far as contemporary artists are concerned, John Lendis is currently my favourite.

Incredibly sensitive images of women, painted by a man. Combining traditional and contemporary styles of painting and using pigments that I have never seen before in an oil painting – truly beautiful.

What is currently inspiring you?

I am currently working on a large piece for the Elephant Family Charity, which will be exhibited in New York. My father ran pottery factories when I was growing up near Stoke, so we had some very nice pieces, which I loved as a child and appreciate even more now. We had a very old Parian Wreath made by Edward Raby, the intricacy of which is incredible.

What artwork would you like to own?

A few years ago we went to the outdoor sculpture exhibition in the gardens of Asthall Manor. To be allowed to touch the smooth stone, which had been warmed by the sun was incredible. When sculptures are housed in museums they are always cold to the touch. At Asthall Manor they had gained another, richer dimension. I wouldn't mind having Henry Moore's Reclining Figure (1929) either.

Most over-rated artist?

Has to be the Da Da movement. Very odd.

Favourite arty hangouts in Oxfordshire?

The Ashmolean. Just love the ceramics there, and of course the Oxford Ceramics Gallery. An amazing selection of contemporary makers as well as Lucie Rie.

Describe your work:

As Gallery Director, my role is mainly about being a bridge between our artists and our clients. I spend a lot of time with both, which is so enjoyable and inspiring. Clients often have as many stories as our artists and I am privy to inner worlds ... good art often acts as a trigger to reflecting on one's own life and people are excited by that and want to share it.

How did you get started?

For 35 years my father was Head of Drawing at the University of Tasmania and we grew up surrounded by artists, dealers, writers and collectors. After I finished school I worked in design studios as a writer and creative director for seven years. I was also curating, reviewing exhibitions and talent-spotting for a number of major national art magazines and working in various public and commercial galleries.

Who is your favourite all-time artist?

What a huge question! The contenders would be Picasso, Duchamp, Courbet, Friedrich, Kieffer, Vermeer, Rachel Whiteread, Turner, Man Ray ... the list goes on! BUT, I think, because of the purity of his vision, the genius of his skill and the intensity of his knowledge of the human heart, I would have to say my favourite artist is Rembrandt.

What is currently inspiring you?

You can feel a big shift in the art world at the moment. There is a lot of new work around that feels really fresh, serious, well crafted and beautiful. I am really excited by work that has the intellectual stimulation of non-figurative/conceptual work, but that also speaks enormously of poetics, emotion and just straight out beauty. I am also really excited by the fact that our audience seems more and more educated about good art now ... it is really exciting to be a gallery with an educated and

My art

Celia Lendis, Gallery Director



excited audience since they are so open to the discovery of new things.

What artwork would you like to own?

Can I choose four?

1. Picasso's *Weeping Woman*
2. One of Louise Bourgeois's *Hysteria* works
3. Mark Wallinger's *The Departure Lounge*
4. One of Jasper John's *American Flag* works

Most over-rated artist?

I just cannot stand celebrity art. And I am also so angry when galleries over-rate their art (which is not really art anyway, merely 'product') and tell people it will increase in value. If you have been parted with a good few hundred pounds to purchase a Rolf Harris print (edition of 200), then it will never ever increase in value regardless of what any gallery assistant working on commission has told you. There is so much great art in the world and it need not be expensive to buy it ... find a good dealer who you can trust to teach, support and work for you!

Favourite arty hangouts in Oxfordshire?

I rarely get the time, but always do the Ashmolean terrace cafe and a quick whizz round, the MOA is sooo consistently good, the Ruskin Studios have some good and challenging shows and I really like the great wine bar in South Street, which often has some remarkably good work on the walls.



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