



# LEABROOKS WITTER



July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Leabrooks Artists' Forum

Keeping in touch

In these still uncertain and confusing times it's even more important to plan for the future so that we're ready to move forward and take up the opportunities that will arise when the time is right. With this in mind Nick Tyldesley, our Secret Shopper, has written about the ways in which he might be persuaded to buy art, (many thanks, Nick!) and I've written about our plans at L.A.C.

### Nicholas Tyldesley is an art historian and lecturer who works in Bolton

'Calling into a gallery or art show whilst out and about is much more interesting than a quick scroll on the internet. The purpose of this piece is to reflect on what makes me want to look, see or even buy something. It's my personal opinion and shouldn't be considered as definitive market research.



The window of a gallery or appearance of a stand in a show can, in 30 seconds, literally determine whether a customer becomes engaged by your work. Like most people with limited disposable income I avoid displays of tasteful, high quality work with expensive price tags and don't appreciate aesthetic, clinically minimalist displays or go for the junkshop chaos of Auntie Wainwright's shop in "Last of the Summer Wine"! I'm attracted by different media works, ceramics and sculptures, varied in style and price. A welcoming smile from the owner, who I hope is a practising artist too, is essential but I don't want to be followed around with questions being fired at me. Let me mooch unaided.

I am probably not intending to buy anything unless I am specifically in that mood but I can be tempted by a reasonable price. I may need to go away for a coffee and then "comeback later". [Don't you just hate that phrase?] I don't want a picture to fill the foyer of a stately home nor something so avant-garde that it totally dominates the room. I am not looking for an investment. Even if I don't buy a picture then I am always likely to pick up original cards.

While with you I'm willing to have a conversation about art, but not Brexit or your personal history. I enjoy an uncluttered display that allows for serendipitous browsing and relaxed wandering. I am not expecting a Poundland approach to pricing and understand the factors that determine prices - but in these hard times a four figure sum is too high.

If I leave empty handed, don't be upset. I may well share positive impressions on social media, Personal recommendations are important. Be reassured that art can be therapeutic in these difficult times for the buyer as well as the creator - so, as a viewer/buyer I'm there for you!

### Finding the way forward

CBJ

Like all galleries, and those involved with the arts in general, we, at Leabrooks Arts Complex, are keen to engage with the public and everyone involved in the process of keeping art in the public eye, whilst, at the same time, maintaining a viable business.

We have planned our emergence from the darkest days of the pandemic and are hoping to move forward with renewed vitality and commitment, taking others with us. So, interiors have been cleaned, painted and equipped with all that's necessary to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone involved, the garden has been tidied and Bonnie, the Gallery Cat, has been spruced up. We're ready to move on!



We re-opened on Monday, 27th July, 2020 with **Lesley Linley's stunning exhibition of watercolours; this exhibition ends on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> August with a Wine Down event**, (the opposite of a Preview), to which all are welcome. Thereafter we have a programme of exhibitions and meetings in place, (subject to government directives and/or common sense); it's as follows.

### Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 'Inside Out' Exhibition

An exhibition featuring the work of a number of artists displayed in the open air and in the Main Exhibition Room. This concludes on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sept..

**Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 'Journeys' Exhibition by Mo Laycock** opens with a Preview, This impressive exhibition ends on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September The Artists' Forum and Macmillan Coffee Date.** (Other dates for Artists' Forum meetings to be announced.)

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 'In Praise of Derbyshire' an award winning exhibition by Charles Wilby.** There will be a celebration of the artist and his work on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. This exhibition closes on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 'By Design' exhibition by Barbara Groome and Carol Barton-Jones.** This multi-media exhibition ends on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. From 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020 until 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 there will be a variety of work displayed: 'In Celebration'.

And so we start a new year, 2021, older and wiser but still determined to promote the arts and artists.



### Titter on the Witter

(See left)  
It's different from the kind of joke that we usually share but I couldn't resist it: it's so apt at this moment in time! CBJ