



LEABROOKS WITTER



May 1st 2021

The Artists' Forum at Leabrooks Arts Complex. Keeping in Touch



Just saying

It can take courage and determination for artists to present their work to the public, after all, the creation of art in any of its forms is a highly personal experience, exposing the artist's thoughts, feelings and perspective on life. Once the artist has mastered the know how, got to grips with her/his chosen subjects(s)and has gathered the confidence to exhibit there remains a drive for growth and development; it's a work of heart and soul –unless the artist has found a market for a particular style and focus and chooses, quite reasonably, to exploit this singular approach for financial gain, (art is an expensive business).

So, whatever the artist's style - abstract, neo realism, surrealism , cor

blimey, etc., - and her/his range of experience, the process of presenting it to a critical public can be daunting. It helps if you have the support of your nearest and dearest, influencers, galleries and other artists. Despite the differences in their individual styles, success rates and experience artists can, and do, work collaboratively, selflessly sharing useful information, advertising by word of mouth, providing likes and comments on the social media and giving unlimited encouragement.

In this spirit I'd like to wish the artists participating in 'Open Up Sheffield' Open Studios, 'The Spring Gathering' at The Green Man in Buxton and in all the special exhibitions throughout May every success. Their contributions and sales help to raise the profile of art, which serves all of us in the artists' community.

(The image above is of a painting created by twelve artists working together. It measures 1m by 1.20m and is called 'The Garden at Leabrooks'; it's a testimony to the artists' generosity of spirit in merging their very different skills. It's beautiful In very many ways.

Carol



Arwyn Quick, a highly successful, much loved artist, explains the Cor Blimey School of Art in characteristically humorous style.

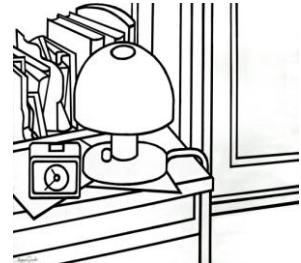
With the Phoenix Project soon to be launched at Leabrooks Arts Complex artists will, no doubt, have been planning to assail the unsuspecting public with challenging masterworks torn from their very souls. I have noticed Leabrooks artists going all arty-farty with semi-abstract concoctions designed to affront the dignity of the public's gaze.' What is all this going to achieve?' one might ask. I can well imagine quite a variety of responses, many positive and a few positively vindictive.

As for my own more contemporary pieces, the audience seems to be divided between "the scoffers and the understanders", to quote Dame Edith Sitwell. The reason I call my semi-abstract works my "Cor-Blimey Series" dates from the time that a man once lifted one of my paintings off the wall at a charity exhibition and shouted, "Cor blimey! Who on earth would want THAT on their walls?!"

I found the whole event extremely amusing, especially seeing the duty curator rush forward to say, "Would you mind not handling the paintings, sir?" So, it became, when potential clients ask if there are paintings available "in Arwyn Quick's OTHER style", the answer is, "Oh, you mean his CorBlimey paintings!"

I am sure I am not alone in suffering the sling and arrows of outrageous insults: some re-greet us like old friends. Remember "Mm, INteresting!" or "Which way up does it go?" or even "What made you do THAT, then?" Ah, yes, what would we do without them to guide us!

(The image to the right, above, is of a painting called 'Mitchell Field, Impression' and, to the left, 'Late Night Line-Up'. Both have challenged viewers who have a limited critical vocabulary. Cor blimey!!)



The Critic

Comments made by visitors to exhibitions – mainly about my work!

'Don't mind me saying it but that painting does my head in!'

'We did paintings like that when we were in Primary School.'

'I could easily do something like that if I had the time and inclination.'

'Cor blimey, it makes you wonder why they keep trying!'

