

U3A Painting for Pleasure 2017. Group Leader, Liz Frederiksen.



The group have made a good start to the year with members producing some lovely art work. Juliette has led the oil group and her experience and knowledge has increased people's abilities and confidence in using oils. Juliette then showed the group decoupage which produced some stunning creations of flowers and animals with 3D effects. One of the areas that the group wanted to develop is drawing techniques and Juliette has devised methods for people to learn how to use pencils and drawing tools to produce quality sketches and art work.

Brian has led several group topics on acrylics and one of the highlights was producing a poppy painting using palette knives. As Brian reminds us it takes several weeks to paint a masterpiece and we cannot do it in one session, it is important to leave it for a time, have a new look at it and keep working at the painting over time until you know it is finished to your satisfaction. Richard has also led group topics on watercolours

techniques and though some people find it difficult to get the right effect, with his steady patience and influence even those struggling with this medium are improving. The group could not run without people using their experience and knowledge to lead group topics and also sharing their tips and techniques to assist others to improve their painting and drawings. I very much appreciate their input to the group and thank them for taking time to help us all learn and improve.

A group visit to Saltaire Mill was a great success to see the David Hockney art work. The day was too cold to go and paint by the canal, we were allowed to paint in the main visitor room and tried to paint a Hockney, now we know why he can charge high prices for his paintings!!

The group were invited to an open day at Silson Art Gallery by Sarah who welcomes anyone to visit or take a group via appointment. They are open every Friday 10:30 – 4pm or arrange an appointment for a group visit via Sarah by email or phone. Sarah has up and coming artists like Suman who won the Great British Painting Challenge, ceramic artists and other art forms on her books. It is a beautiful gallery and well worth a visit, it certainly inspired our group to look at painting differently and take on new methods for improving our paintings.

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The group are producing another calendar this year and people are working on their paintings. This calendar is for everyone in the group to produce a painting or drawing to showcase their painting achievement. Over the year I noticed that people have improved despite not having any formal tuition. Group members have grown in confidence and skill to produce good artwork.

An art workshop is planned for the end of term and a renowned Yorkshire artist Bruce Mulcahy is running the workshop and demonstrating a new painting medium Gouache which the group have not used before.

A warm welcome to several new members who have joined the group, this helps the group to keep fresh and brings in new ideas or art methods. The Painting for Pleasure group meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month at Bilton Community Centre, 1pm – 4pm. Dates below for the rest of this year. The group are very sociable and friendly, no matter what standard of artist you are from beginner to experienced we warmly welcome you. It is lots of fun and laughter, social chit chat, plus tea, coffee and biscuits.

October 2nd and 16th, November 6th and 20th, December 4th and 18th - Liz Frederiksen.