

# Quarterly Collection 2 Newsletter

First off, and some non-gallery news ... you may know, (and hopefully visit) our Arts and Crafts shop at 104 High Street which is opposite the Gallery at 103 High Street. We used to run a lot of workshops, make and takes and big Expo events, then, as the Gallery side grew, we had to scale back - it was a case of simply not enough hours in the day! But we miss the education side, the community involvement and the opportunity for people to learn new things and explore their creativity, so we are delighted to announce that Claire Poynter is joining us who will be developing all of these areas. Claire has been the Operations Manager at Nucleus Arts for the last ten years and it is great to welcome her to the family. As well as our new Workshop Programme, she'll be getting us savvy with social media and with Jackie Pugh our Ace Designer, will rebuild our ArtyCat website before we move on to the rebuild of our Gallery website. So, as you can see, it's going to be a busy time!

It's been a busy few months attending Art Fairs too - we kicked off the year at the Works on Paper Fair at the Royal Geographical Society in February, then went on to the Affordable Art Fair at Battersea in March. April saw us down at Cheltenham Race Course for the second year of the Fresh Art Fair - Alayne and Lucy had a chance to explore the gorgeous town of Cheltenham and the city of Gloucester where they stayed with Stuart, a neighbour of Nettie's who has a week day pad down there for work. It's a great area ... we hadn't realised that Gloucester had such strong nautical connections, but the development of the Wharf down there has been brilliantly done, with apartments and restaurants filling the area. It was good to fall into an eatery at the end of our days at the fair ... we recommend Greek on the Docks if you're in the area! It is always good to explore new places and meet new people - a big hello and welcome to everyone we have met so far this year at the various fairs, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Hampstead Affordable Art Fair this week. Belinda Sillars made the long journey to Cheltenham, complete with her 5 dogs, to deliver the stunning bronze that she's been working hard on - Flight to Freedom. It took pride of place in the entrance to the Fresh Art Fair and it was wonderful to see all the attention and admiration it attracted ... probably the most photographed piece of the Fair!



Nettie missed out on the Fresh Art Fair because Candace was staying with her and it has been 18 years since her last visit! Once upon a time, when our parents were running the gallery, Alayne ran our yarn and craft shop, Lucy was still at school and Nettie ran the framing department ... hard to imagine her radiance squirrelled away, down in our basement cutting lengths of moulding, but as our jewels of Commended Framers would attest (otherwise known as Aaron and Chris) the best things are kept out of sight! Candace wandered into the shop 30 years ago to ask if there were any vacancies, and she was at work by the afternoon ... what a treasure she was! We were all devastated when she returned to her native America a couple of years later. But if you ever need anything framed in Santa Fe then look out for Candace ... and she'll be easy to find as she is a legend in the art world there. Here's a picture of her - we loved that she had kept, found, and worn her Francis Iles badge for her visit.

People often ask us about staffing - we have a dozen people on our payroll across the two shops and framers and when we get someone, we tend to keep hold of them ... the average length of service with us is 13.4 years! But recently James in our art shop has left to move down to Folkestone and Christine in our card and gift shop has left to travel around New Zealand and so suddenly we've been looking for new people! It's been wonderful to find so many enthusiastic and brilliant people who want to join us, and a tough job to narrow it down, but we are very much looking forward to welcoming them into the fam. James is pictured on the left with Chris, helping to load the van for the last time after 12 years!



We think ourselves very lucky to be working with so many amazing people ... whether that is in our shops or gallery, the customers we serve and the artists we work with: The artists that we are featuring in this Quarterly Collection - Anna Allworthy, Jeremy Sanders and Jill Barthorpe, have been with us for 12, 18 and 24 years, and within that stability of working with them throughout those years we have seen their work go into new areas, levels and dimensions. It really is a joy to see and share in their development.

Logistics are a factor in how we nurture our artists, and our regular visits to our artists in St Petersburg have been very important in building up understanding and trust. We were due to visit in March this year, but with the political situation looking wobbly, and with Alayne losing her husband Pat at the beginning of the year, we decided to postpone our visit. Luckily, thanks to email (and we'd be a bit stymied without google translate) we're still keeping up regular correspondence with our Artists of Russia, and they are applying themselves to cracking the new, ever more stringent demands of the Russian post office and the various bureaus of culture and antiquities whose approval is needed for art work to leave the country.



New work from husband and wife team Natalya Sultanova and Yuri Sultanov has just arrived, looking as fresh as a daisy. It is interesting that so many of our Russian artists are artistic duos, but perhaps it is the case that only loved ones can understand the dedication and passion behind producing this quality of work - that need to work until the small hours when inspiration and flow is just right. Here's a photo of Natalya and Yuri from one of our previous visits, in their sunny apartment where they paint with their easels back to back. You may remember Yuri's enormous Pelican picture that has flown to its new home in London which took Yuri a year to complete ... we asked if we could have work more regularly

from him ... maybe a teensy bit smaller - take a look in the Quarterly Collection 2 brochure for the results!

*Alayne, Nettie & Lucy*