

Quarterly Collection 3 Newsletter 2018

Hotspot! With temperatures soaring we are wondering how many of you are making plans to start your own vineyard, embrace the 'savannah' look in your gardens or enjoy a 'staycation' – saving a small fortune in travel costs that you can now put into your Art Kitty ... the purse rather than the feline kind!



The sunshine has welcomed St Petersburg artist Olga Simonova who has made the trip over to the UK with her daughter and who will be at the opening of our Quarterly 3 exhibition on Saturday 4th of August. She will be here between 1 and 3pm to meet and greet. After a handover of work at Heathrow she travelled north to Scotland, then west to the Welsh borders, to stay with Artists of Russia founder Julian Ravest. Olga's work is all about myth and story-telling, so we can't wait to see how she interprets the Celtic legends in future work, particularly as Julian is now heavily involved in his local archaeological society.

Alison Griffin will be at the opening too, but on Sunday 5th, between 12 and 2pm. (Our opening hours on the Sunday are 10am-4pm). We are always keen to whip sold pictures off the wall and get them to their new homes as quickly as possible, but we will be keeping all of Alison's work on display for the week following the opening, so her legion of fans can drink in the details. Don't forget that all work featured in this brochure is available for purchase immediately, and if you are pipped to the post, do let us know if you would like to be put on our 'First Reserve' list for any new work that Alison produces.

Of course, Rowland won't be at the opening, except hugely in spirit – with his large and enduring legacy of brilliance, hard work, and generosity with all he knew and was happy to impart. We are happily launching our 2018 Rowland Hilder Tribute to the great man, with more re-sales and a handful of reluctant releases from the Hilder family in response to our nagging. This year we also have three watercolours by Edith, who as a talented botanical artist teamed with Rowland to produce the 'Flowers of the Countryside' series promoted by Shell in the 1950's. They were considered pioneers in the production of colour illustration – reaching an audience of 10 million people a month with their full page illustrative art spreads.



Recent visitors to Rochester High Street will have spotted a frenzy of activity in our Arts and Craft Store at 104 High Street which is opposite the Gallery. We haven't closed during the refurb, and currently it is behind scaffolding while this lovely old building gets a face lift of colour and cleaning, but all will be revealed by the opening weekend, including

the new fascia and branding of Artycat @ Francis Iles. You can take a look at our sparkling new website www.artycat.com and try your hand at the Drop-In sessions and taster days that are now being run upstairs in the first floor creative area.

We very much hope that this new area will grow, with your involvement, into a hub for community and creativity. We are very open to ideas on how we can bring more people together, so if you've got a good one, do let us know – we will be starting Sit, Knit and Natter sessions, Ink and Wash, Sketch Away, Card Craft Sessions and Saturdays will see a range of Colouring, Craft, Art and Yarn Activities. We will soon be offering afterschool and weekend kids clubs too – for full details on all of these, head to the website www.artycat.com and the contact page to sign up to our email list for all the latest news and updates on what's on. We are starting off with Wednesday Afternoon Watercolour from 1.30pm. This weekly drop in session is free of charge and is an informal way of getting together with people of all abilities to share tips over the water pot. Bring your own pad and paints and #getcuriousgetcreative

We hope to see you soon, and do join us for a cool glass of Pimms on the 4th and 5th of August.

From The Three Sisters

Alayne, Nettie and Lucy