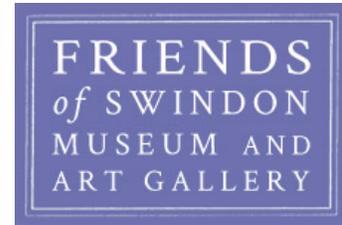




Newsletter

March 2021



Hello Friends

We had a very busy Committee meeting in late February and here are some of the items we discussed.

Monthly Zoom Talk

The **March** Zoom talk will be given by **Simon Carter Wednesday 17th March 7.30 - 8.30pm** Simon Carter is an artist and curator. His work is based on the Essex coast, which surrounds his home and studio. Simon is also co-founder with Robert Prizeman of 'Contemporary British Painting,' a collective which promotes the work of about sixty artists.

The collective donated forty works to Swindon Museum and Art gallery, including two by Simon, 'Burnt Gorse' and 'Figure with Yacht'.

For a taster, click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0Pmt00J8A4&feature=youtu.be>

Linda Kasmaty will send out the Zoom link on the day before the talk.

The **April** talk will be given by **Dan Hicks Wednesday 28th April 7.30-8.30pm**

Dan Hicks FSA is a British archaeologist and anthropologist and has recently published a book called 'British Museums'. He is Professor of Contemporary Archaeology at the University of Oxford, Curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum, and a Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford.

Our Patron, **Desmond Morris** gave the first of our February talks, which was very popular.

We received many appreciative emails and Graham Carter of the Swindon Advertiser found it fascinating. His article 'Graham Carter: Is keeping an active mind, inspired by Dr Desmond Morris' can be found on the Advertiser website.

Friends' visits

When things get back to 'normal' we plan to resume visits to interesting places. In the pipeline is a trip to Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, the subject of the second talk in February, given by **Dr Stuart Prior**, archaeologist from Bristol University. Stuart hopes to join us and to guide us around the site.

Friends' Website

Adaptations and updates are in progress but you can still click on <http://www.friendsofsmag.org> to find details of talks, newsletters, news, videos of talks, a link to the blog and you can also make a donation to FSMAG.

Gift Aid

All Friends have been contacted about this. Please return your completed form, if applicable.

Spreading the Word

The Friends now have a page on the 'We Are Swindon' website and our Instagram account has also been updated. So, we have lots more publicity out there, please pass it on.

<https://weareswindon.co.uk/swindons-charity-hub/friends-of-swindon-museum-and-art-gallery/>

Friends' Survey

Friends will soon be receiving an online survey which gives us all a chance to have a say in the future development of the Friends and to comment on current activities, fundraising for new acquisitions and restoration projects, possibilities for volunteering, Art on Tour and your thoughts on the proposed relocation of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery to the Kimmerfields Cultural Quarter. The survey is very easy to complete, just click on the buttons and send additional comments by email. A paper version will be sent to Friends who don't receive emails.

Swindon A-Z

Would anyone like to help with compiling A-Zs of Swindon People and Businesses, to be presented as a booklet or posted on social media by Swindon Museum and Art Gallery? The information can be obtained from 'The Swindon Book' and 'The Swindon Book Companion' by Mark Child, which are available from Swindon Library. Some of the research has already been done by committee member, Angela Atkinson, contact her aaedits56@gmail.com

Kimmerfields Cultural Quarter in the news

Quote from the **Swindon Advertiser** February 22nd.

'Stars have lined up to shower praise on the borough council's cabinet member for heritage and culture Dale Heenan. And it has propelled him to runner up place in the nationwide Heart for the Arts awards as the councillor who best champions the arts. Coun Heenan was nominated for his work in kicking off the project to build a new larger Wyvern Theatre and a new home for **Swindon Art Gallery and Museum** in what he calls the town's cultural quarter.'^[sic]

Photography exhibition

A Photography Open Exhibition was held at Swindon Museum and Art Gallery from 17th March 2020 but due to the lockdown very few people were able to visit. The exhibition has been judged by three committee members and as planned, a prize of £100 has been awarded to the winner, who will be announced shortly. The photographs can be seen on Facebook.

Friends Online Exhibition

The committee is considering '**Landscapes in the Collection**' or '**Female Artists in the Collection**' as the subject of our next online exhibition.

Art on Tour

The Gharial on the top floor of the Museum might be having a welcome rest while the Museum is closed but Swindon Museum and Art Gallery's **Katie Ackrill**, Art on Tour Project Engagement Officer and **Mags Parker**, Learning Officer, have been very busy finding ways to make Swindon's art collection accessible during the closure. Here is the latest news:

Meet the Artist

Art on Tour has launched the Meet the Artist video interview series on the Swindon MAG Youtube channel. The series is aimed at secondary schools, but the videos are relevant for

anyone interested in art! The interviews are a good addition to Art Snaps and Friends talks, giving an exclusive insight into the work and lives of practicing artists in the Collection. Our most recent interview with Desmond Morris is now available to view, and you can also find interviews with David Bent, John Greenwood and Simon Carter (who will be speaking to FSM&AG in March). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvSfl07jgCY>

Art Snaps

Our latest Art Snap 'Painted Love' looks at depictions of love in paintings from Swindon's collection. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmUZeR0e8SA&t=6s>. The next Art Snap will be released in March for Women's History Month.

Virtual Exhibitions

If you're missing the Gallery, there are hundreds of artworks from the Collection in curated exhibitions on the Art on Tour website <https://artontour489147035.wordpress.com/explore-the-collection/> and on the Art UK website.

Exhibition at STEAM Museum

Art on Tour has recently worked with STEAM Museum to curate a display of artworks from the Collection called 'A Picture of Health', for NHS Staff and volunteers working at the vaccination centre. This looks at health and wellbeing through art, and a virtual version of the exhibition is available, search for <https://artuk.org/discover/curations/a-picture-of-health>

The Art on Tour Learning Programme

Throughout the pandemic, Art on Tour has continued to work with 15 partner schools, through its online learning hub, touring outdoor gallery, resource box scheme, and Young Artist-in-Residence and Young Photographer programmes, in addition to running a families-in-residence programme and holiday clubs. Mags has put together a huge number of resources for schools, as well as a Home Learning Hub, all available through the Art on Tour blog <https://artontour489147035.wordpress.com/schools-programme/>

The Art on Tour Blog

We continue to publish articles about the Swindon Collection on the Art on Tour blog. In honour of LGBT History Month, our most recent post explores the work of Duncan Grant in the context of the Bloomsbury Group's progressive attitudes. You can read it here <https://artontour489147035.wordpress.com/2021/02/17/blog-post-celebrating-lgbt-history-month-with-duncan-grant-and-the-bloomsbury-group/>

How to Support Art on Tour

You can follow Swindon Museum and Art Gallery's YouTube Channel and Art on Tour on social media to be the first to know when new videos are released!

If you haven't yet followed the Art on Tour project, we would be really grateful for your support! Please share with friends, family, and schools who you think might benefit – it would really help us to get the message out! Art on Tour is available on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

Click on the links to find out more

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwLHgHbvoC0OF8zDXyv-EPQ>
<https://artontour489147035.wordpress.com/>