

What's This All About?

It's now almost six years since Marine House at Beer opened and Steam Gallery is coming up for its second birthday. We're pleased that many people from all over Britain and abroad enjoy the combination of informality and the wide and ever changing selection of fine and applied art presented.

Our regular customers are now numbered in thousands. So, without bombarding you with information, we felt that an occasional newsletter may prove an agreeable way of communicating events and changes at the galleries. This printed newsletter is mirrored by an electronic version on our website. Please return the enclosed card with your preferences and to make sure your details are correct.

New at Marine House

We are delighted that Mary Pym, a respected Hampshire artist, has chosen Marine House as her gallery in the West Country. Most of her first selection has now been sold, but we plan to have examples of this popular work regularly in the gallery.



Marine House announces the John Blockley Prize

To be awarded annually at The Royal Institute for Painters in Watercolours Spring Show

John Blockley RI, the Cotswolds based artist renowned for his moorland canvases sadly died in 2002.

John's inspiration is evident in their work. Michael Morgan sums it up: "I, like many others, remember John with a mixture of awe and inspiration. He was an undoubted wit, wicked raconteur and insightful critic as well as an extremely talented and inspirational painter. It was a joy to have known him and he is sorely missed. Marine House's gesture to sponsor this new John Blockley prize is deeply appreciated by those who knew him."



John Blockley, Storm Sky, Wales

"I have always been a fan and since opening the gallery have been astonished at John's influence on many of Britain's top contemporary painters," says Mike Lambert of Marine House at Beer. "His regular painting holidays attracted artists like Michael Morgan RI, Mike Bernard RI, Martin Procter and John Harlow, and I'm glad to say that this tradition is being kept alive by his painting partner, Moira Huntly."

To encourage other artists to display the same mastery of technique, Marine House at Beer is instituting the John Blockley prize of £500 to be awarded at the annual RI Open Spring Show which is held at The Mall Galleries in London from March 17th.

Moira Huntly, Michael Morgan and Mike Bernard will assist Mike Lambert in selecting the work which in their opinion best reflects the genius of John Blockley.

Website rework

New pictures and crafts for sale on the web

While most of our customers revel in the opportunity to visit Beer, many can only manage it infrequently, which means they don't have the opportunity to view much new work. So we've decided to bring both galleries to you through a major overhaul of the website. Our goal is to allow you to browse online works for sale by our top artists and craftspeople. "The website will show images of many paintings and other crafts, but there will usually be a wider range available in the galleries," says Rosemary Lambert, "So do phone if you are particularly interested in somebody's work and gallery staff will be happy to help."

Over the years we've shipped many original works and prints in the UK and around the world, so armchair selection and door-to-door delivery is now a well practised reality.

We plan to make the website as dynamic as possible, adding and deleting new and sold works weekly. If you like something, just phone the galleries who can arrange payment and delivery.

www.marinehouse-at-beer.co.uk

John Hammond

Travelling Light, by Su Carroll

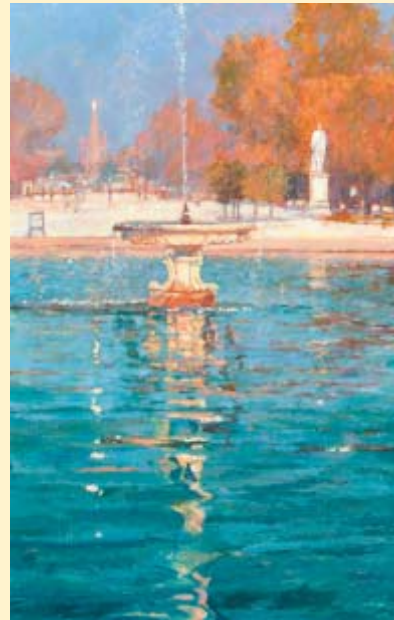
While the rest of us were enjoying the remarkable hazy summer heat of 2003, artist John Hammond was hard at work trying to capture the essence of a fleeting moment.

John, 42, describes himself as a "painter of light" and his work is full of luminosity and colour. "It is such a transient thing," he admits. "If you can capture that you have captured a moment of atmosphere and emotion as well as a part of the landscape."

"Paintings do have an emotional centre. I'm not just trying to reproduce something, I'm trying to paint something that looks like how I felt while I was there."

For John that means enjoying the landscape - walking, sketching, taking notes - and remaining receptive to Nature. Since he turned to painting full-time ten years ago, he has found his own 'voice' with his vibrant and detailed acrylic work on board.

John always carries a sketch book and ordinary drawing pens with him and draws and makes notes, almost like a journal. He loves to paint *en plein air* when he can but anything over 16 inches high or wide is created in the studio. He occasionally uses a camera to record the nuts and



Towards Place de la Concord

Amanda Popham

Inventive 21st century jugs...



Art Cred

Buy Art Interest Free

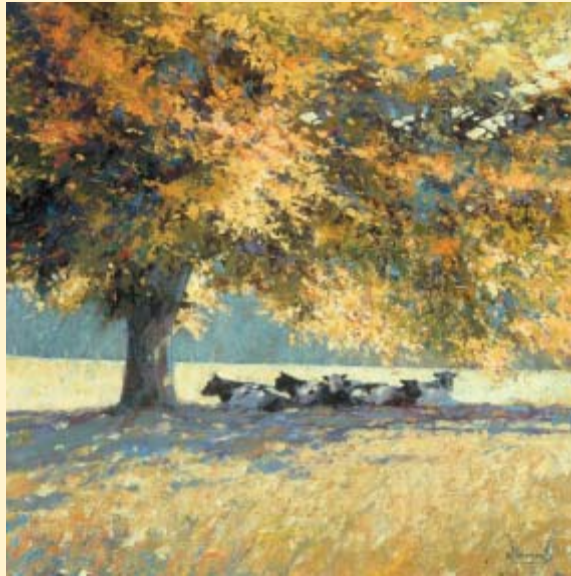
Giving the credit card an outing is still the most popular way to buy art. More and more people however are becoming attracted to the Art Cred scheme sponsored by The Arts Council. Its goal is to make it easy for you to invest in art, not just for the pleasure it brings to the purchaser, but because the creative world is a major source of employment throughout Britain in both rural and urban areas – not least in Devon.

Marine House at Beer is a flagship gallery for the scheme, helping The Arts Council test and streamline the process. Now, subject to credit approval, you can borrow from £100 to £2000, interest free. We can often get the go-ahead over the phone. We ask for a 10% deposit and then you pay the balance in 10 equal instalments over 10 months, completely interest free. Not bad for cashflow.



bolts, maybe the architectural features of a Venetian basilica. "I'd rather be painting than spending four hours counting windows," he laughs.

Working in the studio, he plays music to set the mood of the painting and try and recapture what he found in the moment. When he did a whole series of lavender fields in Provence he hung a bunch of lavender in the studio.



Shady Rest

John is an Academician of the South West Academy of Fine and Applied Arts, Marine House at Beer is the Westcountry home for regular examples of his work and prestigious exhibitions.

"A show will have around 50 paintings and people can purchase from the catalogue which gives them a chance to buy when they can't get to the show. I always keep about 15 paintings fresh for the day," says John.

For his next show, Travelling Light, at Marine House at Beer in March (March 27-April 9), buyers and collectors will find some familiar subjects - Tuscany, the South of France, Majorca, Venice - but also some wonderful paintings that reflect the lovely

summer we had. John spent a lot of time in Devon - his father lives in Budleigh Salterton - doing beach paintings.

He also enjoyed capturing one of the most familiar artistic locations in the world in a new light. "I did a group of Paris paintings quite early in the year," he says. "I had been to Paris before and I wanted to go in the late winter/early spring when the streets weren't full of foliage."

"I wanted something slightly different from Paris and what I saw was the city exposed. It didn't have that cushion of leaf and it opens up the avenues."

"Normally you can't see anything over 20ft in the air because of the leaves. There was the most wonderful palette of lavenders, pinks

and greys - both deep blues and charcoals. It was good to have a challenge - that's one of the things that makes me want to get up and paint in the morning. If you're going to be painting for the rest of your life, you've got to love it and want to do it. If you don't paint what you want to paint then there's no point in doing it."



Back towards The Bridge of Sighs

...and more

Being recognised as a truly distinctive and innovative potter is the goal of many artists and craftspeople. Rather like footballers who aspire to play in the premiership, it takes extra talent to arrive in the top league.

Amanda Popham undoubtedly falls into this select group. Her creative work has a real buzz, so inventive that it brings a smile to your face. She works from home in a remote corner where Devon, Somerset and Dorset meet.

Amanda's work is unlike anything you will ever have seen - dangerous jugs, creatures with large sharp teeth; distinctive 'toby jugs' with searching eyes, pieces inscribed with quotations that make you ponder, candlesticks, perfume bottles, sugar bowls; the ingenuity is endless.

Amanda's reputation was established at

Liberty's when in the 90's the famous London store promoted new British artists. Since then she has won the INAX prize, a pan-European design award, and she is a member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen. Her creative mastery has attracted many collectors and the price of her work continues to rise reflecting her expertise and high levels of demand.

Her modesty through this success shines through, "I'm not really looking for fame, which seems rather empty. I just want to make good work that talks to people."

Amanda Popham's work is always on display at Steam Gallery.



New Eating in Beer – Steamers

Having worked for some years to encourage people to discover and rediscover the delights of Beer a further enticement has been added with the opening of a new restaurant and wine bar called Steamers. You'll find it directly behind Steam Gallery (previously The Old Steam Bakery, a restaurant of some repute).



Steamers opened 4 months ago. It's informal with Mediterranean overtones and is open every day for most of the year. There's excellent morning coffee, lunch specials, a la carte dinner, or American style



Sunday Brunch – papers and all!

So the idea is – buy your art in Beer and celebrate at Steamers! 01297 22922 is the number for

Proprietors - Mike and Rosemary Lambert

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SHOWS & ART FAIRS IN 2004

The first day of each Beer show (marked by an asterisk) is an invitation-only private view. To request catalogues and private view invitations, or free or reduced price tickets for the art fairs, please contact either gallery.

Mar 18 - 21 – Affordable Art Fair, Battersea, London

Marine House and Steam Gallery will exhibit work by Andrew Coates, Janet Duncan, Siddy Langley, Michael Morgan RI, Julie Oldfield, Mary Pickering and John Piper.

Mar 27* - Apr 9 – John Hammond SWAc

'Travelling Light' solo show at Marine House at Beer. Over 50 new works from his 2003 European travels, including studies of Paris, Provence, Venice and South West England. John is recognised as one of Britain's leading acrylic artists.

May 21 - 23 – Affordable Art Fair, Temple Meads Exhibition Hall, Bristol

We will exhibit work by artists including Mike Bernard RI, John Hammond, Michael Morgan RI, Tina Morgan, John Piper, Martin Procter and Tina Stokes.

Jun 26* - Jul 9 – Mike Bernard RI.

A solo show at Marine House at Beer of 45 new works including Mike's renowned collages of Italy, Cornwall and the Devon coast.

Oct 2* - 15 – Michael Morgan RI, FSWAc.

This solo show at Marine House at Beer is Michael's first since spring 2003. The event of the year. 42 new works from one of Britain's most celebrated artists.

Oct 21 - 24 – Affordable Art Fair, Battersea, London

Marine House and Steam Gallery will exhibit work by artists including Mike Bernard RI, John Hammond, Tina Morgan, Martin Procter, Tina Stokes and Philip Vanier.

Oct 29* - Nov 12

50 New Works at Steam Gallery from Tina Stokes, the very popular Lymptone-based artist, and John Harlow with evocative depictions of English uplands.

Late November – Art Ireland, RDS, Dublin

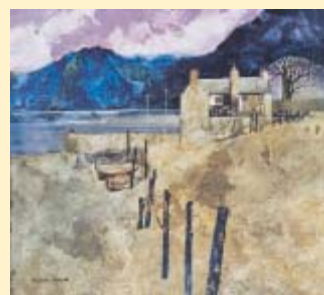
Our third year at this art fair, we shall exhibit work by artists including Mike Bernard RI, Andrew Coates, John Hammond, Michael Morgan RI, Tina Morgan and Tina Stokes.



John Piper



Mike Bernard RI



Michael Morgan RI



Tina Stokes