

TAKING LONDON BY STORM

Despite the prophets of doom and gloom in the London art world the success of our two galleries, Marine House at Beer and Steam Gallery at Beer, continues to grow for the eighth successive year.

The response to our stand at the October Affordable Art Fair in London's Battersea Park, where we exhibited artists included John Hammond, Tina Stokes, Mike Bernard, Martin Procter, Tina Morgan, Mary Pym, Jo Dixon and John Harlow was astonishing. Fifty-two paintings were sold, breaking our all-time record.

The next London Affordable Art Fair will be March 15th - 19th, 2006.

ANDREW MACARA, RBA, NEAC, AT MARINE HOUSE



Reflections, Sidmouth, 36 x 40 inches

I've always been an enormous fan of Andrew's work since buying two large works in the early '90s, one a beach scene in France, the other of children playing in the Indian sun. His work draws more comment and pleasure from house guests than that of other artists and indeed we are responsible for at least six subsequent sales!

Andrew's work observes people enjoying themselves be it on beaches, kids playing football in the West Indies or sledgers in the Dales. There is a sparkle to these oil paintings given his skill in depicting the light of the location so well, intense in India, softer on English beach scenes and dazzling on the ski slopes.

Andrew has been elected to the Royal Society of British Artists and the New English Art Club and exhibits regularly at the Royal Academy Summer Show. He started showing a selection of his work for the first time in Devon at Marine House in December.

Mike Lambert

ALTERNATIVE CLOCKS FROM ROSS EMERSON

Working from his remote cottage 800 feet up in the Blackdown Hills north of Beer, Ross Emerson crafts the most intriguing clocks from clay. While he creates other pieces such as candelabra and teapots his flagship work is his clocks which since their conception twelve years ago have attracted buyers worldwide. These clocks are different. They have personalities; they touch on the surreal; they are individuals finely constructed and beautifully decorated. Ross says "They're intended to be fun, not specifically humorous, but they bring a smile to the face. When I try to make them humorous it doesn't work - you can't force these things. The painting and decorative extras bring the clocks to life"

Ross's work which now command prices between £600 and £1400 can be seen on our web site and in Steam Gallery.



STAY IN TOUCH!

Have you moved or changed your e-mail address? Please take 2 minutes to let the gallery know by e-mail, phone or letter so that we can keep you informed, send new catalogues, invitations, etc.

ELECTION SUCCESS FOR TINA STOKES

Tina Stokes, one of our most popular artists, has been elected to the Council of the Society of Women's Artists. The society celebrated its 150th anniversary this year and at the open show at the Mall galleries in London there were over five hundred submissions from around the world. The president of the society selects 'the most outstanding work submitted in her view'. Tina won this award, presented by the Duchess of Kent, who also owns her work.

Tina lives overlooking the Exe estuary, where the ever-changing light is reflected in her work, a classic example of which is shown below.



IN ANTICIPATION... MICHAEL MORGAN, RI, THE SHOW OF THE YEAR

New work by Michael Morgan



When Marine House at Beer opened on April 5th 1998 we had a small selection of West Country artists whom we had met in our travels round the area. One of these was Michael Morgan. It was very apparent on visiting his studio that he had evolved a totally new approach to painting with water colours which created an enhanced level of intensity to the image. This was further reinforced by Michael's boldness with colours to emphasise the drama of a scene. While his pictures were relatively small and remain so to this day, they always demand attention, often drawing viewers away from much larger adjacent pictures. This power and innovation was not going to go unnoticed for long by the art world and buyers alike. His evocative imagery of upland scenes or Tuscan landscapes all noticeably

without animate objects offered an exciting route by which viewers could transport themselves to the calm and reflective settings Michael created.

Success followed success; he won the award for the most outstanding work by a non-member at the 1998 RI open show and was subsequently elected to this prestigious body which has less than 70 fellows and whose patron is the Queen.

Since that first meeting Michael has held five solo shows at Marine House, his chosen gallery. The anticipation by collectors for these new bodies of work is such that the majority of the paintings always sell from the catalogue before the show.

Michael's next show, his first since 2004, will start on Saturday 16th September 2006. He has been painting for this exhibition for some time and he hints at some intriguing new images in this set of 50 works.

If you are interested in acquiring his paintings and do not possess one at present, please contact the gallery to ensure a priority catalogue and an invitation to the private view.



Winding Path.
A classic Morgan image from his 2004 exhibition at Marine House.

PETER LAYTON - GLASS TO CHERISH

With an international reputation, Peter Layton is widely considered to be Britain's leading glassblower, with a particular flair for the use of colour, form and texture. After studying ceramics at the prestigious School of Art and Design in London, Peter chanced upon glassblowing while teaching in the US, and has not looked back since his return to the UK in the late 1970s.

Peter produces individual items of decorative glass, with each piece free blown, ensuring uniqueness. "Each piece represents an adventure, a challenge to control

form and colour while allowing the fluidity of the glass to contribute its own characteristics", he comments.

An inveterate beachcomber, his work is often drawn from some aspect of nature. The Ebb Tide collection, for example, takes the visual drama of lowering skies and the undulating surging movement of luminous blue-green seascapes. The Mirage collection is inspired by the desert city of Petra.

Steam Gallery always has a selection of Peter Layton's work, which can also be viewed on Steam Gallery's website.



Peter Layton, Mirage Collection

ANNUAL REPORT

2005 was a successful year for Marine House and Steam Gallery with record levels of business maintaining continuous growth since Marine House opened in 1998. We held four major solo shows for John Piper, Andrew Coates, John Hammond and Mike Bernard which were all sell outs – or very close, plus a ceramic show by Amanda Popham with her astonishingly inventive figurative work.

We also added new artists. We take care to only select new artists if their work complements the look, feel and style of the galleries. We receive scores of requests from artists hoping to exhibit, and constantly research the art market ourselves, but we aim to introduce only four or five annually. Newcomers who made their mark in 2005 include Meg McCarthy with wistful, some say magical, scenes of gardens and games, Jim Farrant, who will be holding his first ever solo show with us in April 2006 and his father, the well-known David Farrant.

From December we started to hang the work of Tony Williams, the North Devon landscape oil painter, who won the 2005 prize at the South West Academy Open show for the best picture in show. We were also thrilled to receive work from leading English painter Andrew Macara. On the applied arts front we have worked closely with Peter Layton, possibly Britain's top glass blower, and we now have a selection of his work in Steam Gallery.

In contrast Steam Gallery is showing fine

oak mirrors lightly inspired by the shapes and styles of great church windows. Beyond the sheer craftsmanship of the



carpentry, the quality of the glass that Tobias House uses makes it apparent that there are mirrors and there are mirrors. Tobias is happy to consider commissions, so if a special mirror appeals talk to the staff at Steam Gallery about it.

Finally our attendance at the Affordable Art Fairs in London in the Spring and Autumn, and the Bristol Fair in May allowed us to take our top artists round the country with hugely successful results. We've added the Edinburgh Art Fair, which opened for the first time in November, to the list.

Mike & Rosemary Lambert

BUYING FROM THE WEB

Less than ten years ago Amazon.com pioneered selling off the web. More and more business sectors have begun trading this way, but can the web make it easier for you to buy objects with a high emotional and subjective content like paintings and crafts? Here are a couple of customer comments which relate to our website.

“I live in Northants and love John Hammond’s work. It’s a treat visiting Beer from time to time, usually for private views, but it’s three and a half hours drive. Having tested buying from the web site I’m now hooked, as the images I view are close enough to the original to enable me to buy without qualms.”

“The trouble with depending on visiting the galleries and at that specific point in time finding THE picture is statistically lower than regularly scanning the site and responding to the newest work. It’s a pleasure as well as creating a sense of anticipation.”

These people express two key sentiments, confidence and advantage. With our site being always up to date and designed so that you can access the heart of the matter – what is actually for sale – plus fast access using broadband, you can achieve two key things from your home. Firstly you can browse. If something catches your eye from an artist with whom you are already familiar then like many people you will find that the web imagery is sufficient to decide whether to buy or not. Secondly regular checking of new works by your favourite artists gives you a competitive advantage over everyone other than our physical neighbours in Beer! At worst you can phone and hold the work then come and see it in the flesh.

Mike Lambert from Marine House says, “With customers buying work at art shows we attend in London, Bristol and Edinburgh, and two thirds of our customers living more than 20 miles from the galleries, this technology is rapidly changing buying habits”. Both galleries are sending more and more works procured via the web not only throughout Britain, but worldwide.

**www.marinehouseatbeer.co.uk
open 24x365!**

NEW LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

We have just released four new limited editions by **MIKE BERNARD** and two from **JOHN HAMMOND**. Only 99 signed prints are available of each image, taken from their recent solo shows. Contact Steam Gallery or order from the web.



Riomaggiore, Cinque Terre



Coast Road, Rosscarbery,



Fisherman's House, Cinque Terre



London Reflections, St. Martins Place



Summer Sun, Beer Beach



Ultramarine, Benodet

FAMILY FAVOURITES

The distinguished artist David Farrant (picture below left) is father of the equally talented Jim Farrant (picture below right). David has chosen Marine House to show his new work, decidedly a case of quality rather than quantity, with just a few works available for sale each year. If you are already a collector of David Farrant’s paintings, or if you’d like to acquire one contact the gallery, or watch the website, and we’ll let you know when work becomes available.

In the meantime, if your taste is for the

work of son, rather than father, make a diary date for April 1st 2006, when an exhibition of 35 new works by Jim Farrant will open. Let the gallery know, and we’ll make sure you get a show catalogue and price list, and an invitation to the private viewing.

Of course, you don’t have to choose one or the other. The Farrants would be absolutely delighted if you wanted to own work from both of them!



Ramblas del Flores, 24 x 32 inches



Testing the Water, 27 x 22 inches

SNIPPETS

We sponsor a prize at the annual Open Show of the South West Academy of Fine and Applied Art in Exeter, for the best work in show in the view of the selection committee.



North Devon artist **TONY WILLIAMS** won the £1000 prize this year. His work can be seen in Steam Gallery.

New works from top British lustre ware potter **TONY LAVERICK ARE NOW IN** and we’re also expecting to receive new pieces from **STEVE HARRISON** of his masterly salt glaze work

If you thought we’d fished-out all of the wall mackerel at Steam Gallery fret not. The Mackerel Man is making again!

We now have a wide selection of **ANITA KLEIN’s** fun dry point etchings at Marine House.

ANDREW COATES has painted some more of his small sky mood sketches which were so popular at his last show.

Tokens of various values bought from and redeemable at Marine House & Steam Gallery are proving popular presents.

Getting married and always wanted a fine original painting? We regularly manage wedding lists either for items or contributions towards one large acquisition.

MYSTIC MEG

Last year Meg McCarthy decided to break away from the painting style that made her popular with collectors in London and New York. "I just became tired of painting still lives of flowers no matter how popular they were", says Meg. She decided to extend her canvas into Gardens and Magical moments such as Easter egg hunts or romantic trysts or

summer tea parties; all executed with imagination and acute observation. Meg paints these studies in both pastels and oils. Gallery staff report that purchasers almost invariably say that on first sight the image gave such a thrill that its destiny to hang on their wall is undoubted. A selection of this work is always available at Marine House.



Meg McCarthy, Hide and Seek, 17 x 20 inches



Meg McCarthy, The Old Vegetable Garden, 23 x 30 inches

THUMBNAILS

Just some of the artists whose work is mentioned in this newsletter...



Anita Klein



Mary Pym



Amanda Popham



Jo Dixon



John Piper

2006 DIARY

Wednesday March 15th to Sunday 19th – Affordable Art Fair, Battersea, London Artists represented include Michael Morgan RI, John Piper, Janet Duncan, Robert Freame, Meg McCarthy, Christine Hughes. Contact the gallery for free invitations to the private views or half-price general tickets.

Saturday April 1st to Friday 14th – Jim Farrant 35 new works Jim's first ever solo show with his exciting observations of people doing everyday things meticulously observed and painted in oils (see page three)

Thursday May 18th to Sunday 21st – Affordable Art Fair, Temple Meads, Bristol Artists will include Michael Morgan RI, John Hammond SWAc, Tina Stokes SWA, Mike Bernard RI, Martin Procter, Mary Pym, Tina Morgan SWA, Meg McCarthy, John Piper. Contact the gallery for free invitations to the private view or half-price general tickets.

Saturday June 24th to Friday July 7th – Tina Stokes and Mary Pym Joint show of 50 new works by these popular artists, a contrast of mood colour and structure.

Saturday September 16th to Friday 29th – Michael Morgan RI What anticipation! Michael's first show since 2004. 50 new works. Not to be missed in any circumstances.

Wednesday October 18th to Sunday 22nd – Affordable Art Fair, Battersea, London Artists include John Hammond SWAc, Mike Bernard RI, Martin Procter, Mary Pym, John Harlow, Mark Harrison, Jim Farrant, Tina Stokes SWA and Tina Morgan. Contact the gallery for complimentary or half price tickets.

Saturday October 28th to Friday 10th November – John Piper 50 new works from this iconic artist of Cornwall's westerly reaches. Mood and Drama.

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Great Dining Experiences

There's a very special restaurant in Beer. Not only does it serve superb food, lunchtimes and evenings, freshly made and using the best local ingredients, but it also runs some great special events. Don't miss...

First Sunday Every Month

Jazz Brunch

£ according to menu

14th February

Valentines Day & Candlelit Romance
£ according to our special romantic menu

16th March

Viva Espana, Spanish Food and Wine
Treats • £19.95

26th January

Champagne and Canapés, Hosted by a
Perrier Jouet Grand Master • £19.95

26th March

Mother's Day Lunch
£19.95

23rd April

St George's Day Lunch
The Very Best of Merrie England • £17.95

RESERVATIONS 01297 22922

Check our website for details of other upcoming events
www.steamersrestaurant.co.uk

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