Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists

Brushstrokes Bulletin

Cliff Vince Autumn 2025

Editorial- Cliff Vince

Hi, welcome to this Autumn edition of Brushstrokes.

As many of you are aware we are currently updating our CWSA website, it will have a new website address and you will be sent all the information as soon as the new site is available. I haven't sent out the proforma yet as I've been waiting for confirmation about image size requirements in order that we don't slow down the website speed. When I get this confirmation, I will ensure members are fully informed.

The speed of the website is very important, as in this world of instant mobile data, people have little patience in waiting for a picture to buffer, this slowness is an instant turn off for visitors. Plus, we need to maximise pixel size in order to get as much detail of any image as possible. I will put a process in place regarding a max and min file size, to help with uploading times. As it is essential to display your artworks to their best, I will be explaining in detail how the process of uploading will work and offering as much help as needed. We want to give the website, a quality feel, so it's important that the artworks are of equal quality.

I visited the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy and I've added a review, it's always interesting of seeing a premier arts exhibition and what works were selected.

Once again if members attend any art events, please do a small review for Brushstrokes.

Thanks Cliff

Local Exhibitions

CWSA Virtual Exhibition online is still running! The link to our CWSA Virtual Exhibition on YouTube is now https://youtu.be/SwbeemOL-4U Please click, watch, share and buy!

If you have visited a recent /current art exhibition, please write a short review and send it to our News Editor, Cliff Vince for the next edition of 'Brushstrokes' Email: 313vince@gmail.com

Exhibitions

Burton Green Exhibition was held 9th-10th August and like last year the exhibition was well attended with a very diverse art content including 2D art, glass, steel and stone sculptures. Unfortunately, HS2 were working on the bridge connecting Kenilworth and Coventry which severely restricted traffic passing the village hall, which meant there was a marked reduction in visitors compared to last year's exhibition, that said there were a number of sales and tea and cakes went down well.

However, we sold a total of £2,256 works and raised for charity (Debra and Acorn) £336 from sales of tea and cakes, plus £132 from the Tombola. All the artists enjoyed the weekend. It's a lovely hall, and we have provisionally booked it again for 8th - 9th August 2026.

COVENTRY ART SOCIETIES EXHIBITION – CASE at the Herbert Art Gallery Coventry

Like last year we will have two large exhibition halls. We are all looking forward to a significant exhibition for our local art societies, every CASE exhibition has got larger and larger and its a great showcase for local art and the support of the Herbert Art Gallery

All entrants must be a member of an art group or art society in Coventry or the surrounding area.

DIARY DATES:

- Completed submission form by post (or hand) 10th January. (Email entries not accepted)
- Selection Day: Saturday 7th February 2026
- Launch: Thursday 19th February. 6pm.
- Exhibition Dates: 20th Feb - 19th April 2026 CASE Exhibition at the Herbert Art Gallery.
- Collect unsold work Wednesday22nd April. 10am - 3pm

Note; (Optional) If you have images of work you intend to submit for exhibition and would like them to be considered for publicity, please email them as jpegs, 300 dpi. Individually - not a group of pictures, as it goes into spam.

Diary

WORKSHOPS

22nd NOVEMBER - STONELEIGH VILLAGE HALL 10 - 4pm
ARTIST: BRENDON MCMAHON - Loose Watercolours
View his paintings: https://brendanmcmahon.co.uk/
Booking form available
£22.members. £28. non-members.

Contact to reserve your place: moyragibbs@gmail.com
31st January 2026 - STONELEIGH VILLAGE HALL 10 - 4pm
DJ - OIL PAINTING. Booking form and more details, later.
If you attend any good day-workshops you can recommend, please let us know.

EXHIBITION FEEDBACK.

GLASS HOUSE EXHIBITION 1st - 3rd August
Feedback: Sales £1,950
We hope to book the Glass House Studio Room again for 3 weekends in 2026.
Some of our members also run excellent workshops and you can contact them for more information.

PAINTING HOLIDAYS

Mark Warner gave us several zoom workshops during Covid.

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He has a holiday workshop in the UK and abroad
Contact Mark for more information : mark@brushmark.co.uk

DEDHAM HALL
Norfolk - there are a variety of holiday workshops
Membership to CWSA is free for students aged 16-21, so if you know any young artists, do encourage them to join and take part.
(Adult membership is £15.pa)

TANYA KOZIN. Email: tatiana.kozin@gmail.com
A variety of classes and groups in Earlsdon and Coventry, including
Life Drawing, Sculpture on Wednesday mornings, and Portrait Workshops on Friday mornings.
Autumn term is about to start and I am happy to tell you that I have a couple of portrait classes on offer at GIlbert Richard's Centre, Earlsdon.
Portrait Drawing in the morning and Portrait sculpture in the afternoon.
Portrait drawing workshops (no tuition provided),
Duration: 5 weeks/10hrs Fee: £40
Venue: Gilbert Richards Centre, Broadway, Earlsdon, Coventry. CV5 6NT.
Starts: 3 October 2025
Time: Friday *10.30 - 12.30*
Portrait sculpture – portrait of a man (tutored)
Duration: 8 weeks/20hrs+ Fee: £96
Venue: Gilbert Richards Centre, Broadway, Earlsdon, Coventry. CV5 6NT.
Starts: 15 October 2025 - 10 December (no class on the 26thy of November)

Time: Wednesday *13.30 – 16.00 (tbc) 10.30 - 13.00 (possible)*

Please contact me to book a place via: tatiana.kozin@gmail.com
02476 673179 www.tanyakozin.com

CLIFF VINCE - STONE CARVING WORKSHOPS

Location - near Welford upon Avon.

My apologies for the ongoing delay in these workshops and this newsletter as there have been numerous distractions with being a carer for my 94-year-old step farther, retiring from my normal work and being headhunted to do more Electric Vehicle design work, too many things to mention.

I will be running Relief Carving workshops in November and December, plus in the spring, these will be limited to 5 people. I will produce a flier with the details when I've firmed up on dates.

Contact Cliff: email 313vince@gmail.com

Tahmineh is a new member to CWSA. Her home country is Iran.
She creates beautiful **'Iranian' embroidery** and would like to organise a workshop group in Coventry.
If you are interested or know anyone else who would like to do embroidery,
Contact Tahmineh: email tahmin100@yahoo.co.uk

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Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy Part 1

I usually attend the Summer Exhibition quite regularly, but since the pandemic I haven't been, so I'm getting back into going again. I've applied a few times but have been unsuccessful, but it is difficult to get selected, and they have made it even more tough now they have added digital selection into the process. You have to go through 3 selection levels, digital, judging panel and the one that is unexpected is; does it fit with the curators' vision of how the gallery wall should look, so keep the picture smallish! That said, then you have the academicians who are allowed display 6 pictures each, these tend to standout as they tend to be a lot more expensive. But I tend to think that the quality of the academician's work can be quite low and detract from the genuine quality of the other exhibits. I'll try in later Brushstrokes to explain why I think this, I do try to understand what works sell. What work sells? this is always an interesting question and looking at the hundreds of works sold, I did do a quick review and here's a summary; out of around 60% of works sold were pictures of animals and birds, with Owls, Crows, Rooks, dogs and cats prominent. The artwork below was striking it was a combination of installation and taxidermy, a large number of white rat skins lined with gold in concentric circle. I had to ask myself who would buy such a piece? Or is it a statement piece by the artist, sure is an expensive statement piece at £30,000!

Now this wasn't the only piece to ask the question why?
This next piece called 'Mouse' was a dead mouse, 3D printed made of CJP powder and superglue. Quite a few were made and sold at £300x9=£2700 this is where technology meets art. If you find a dead mouse, 3d scan it then you can reproduce them infinitum, paint them with acrylic paint. I would think they use the superglue to seal the 3d plastic powder, give it a porcelain effect. I think securing the piece with staples adds to it as well, it'll send your cat mad.

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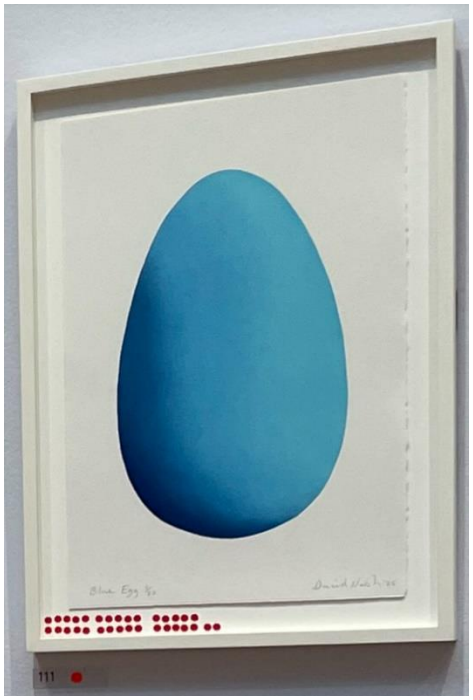
Then I spotted a local artist, George Shaw with one of his enamel paint paintings and I instantly recognised the scene as the Oak Tree in Floyds Field called 'Survivor 1' £60,000. The Oak tree had been attacked and burned, it was attacked around 15-20 years ago, but still survives! It was my personal highlight; I've added a photo of the scene in summer not so brutal!



It's quite amazing how prints really take off in the Royal academy this one 'California Dreaming' an etching on chine colle at £380 per print and £550 for the original, with the amount sold giving a grand total £29,050 Wow!! Absolutely bonkers!

Now the RA academician David Nash sold this stencil print Blue Egg, with a print run of 30, but there were 32 sold, so I presume they sold the artist proof prints as well. This tallied up to £16,235, this was one of 6 prints he exhibited, with one of them being a Red Egg. This is one example of perceived quality; the egg looks like it has been cut out with kitchen scissors and half heartedly shaded to give it a Sudo 3d effect.

Next, I spotted this interesting combination of artwork. 'Renaissance' woodcut with a 51 edition 50 sold plus original (£10,500) then 'Vitamin Sea' screen print (£40), then 'Crime of Conscience or Destructive Criminality' Water colour and Acrylic (£750). Definitely Vitamin Sea missed out here, underpriced plus having no additional edition print run.

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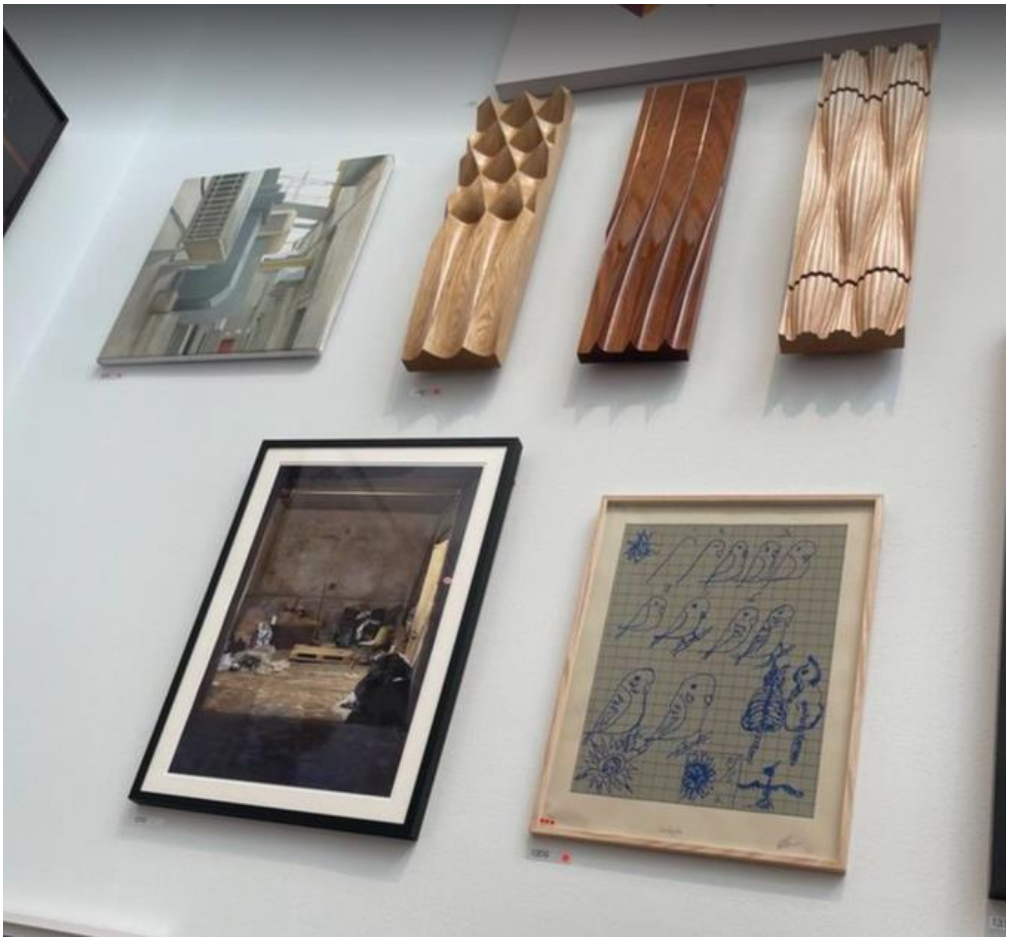

Now here I was taking a photo of the wood carved triptych ‘London Facade Studies’, which is another one where Technology meets art with these 3 wood carvings being machined on a four-axis milling machine from a computer program £1000

But then there’s the doodle sketches below of birds and cats, named Koteyka screen print at £900 with an edition of 10, I’ll let you rate this one!

There was so much to talk about with the pictures that I took, I will do another article in the next Brushstrokes, this is why I like going to the RA Summer Exhibition it provokes discussion on the art, the construction and the shear range of expression it is infinite!

Cliff

SUMMER ART WEEKS 2025 – Warwickshire Open Studios

Our Summer Art Weeks is now over for 2025. This event was a fantastic celebration of the quality and diversity of visual art found across Coventry and Warwickshire. It included paintings, photography, drawings, ceramics, jewellery, installations, printmaking, textiles, metalwork and glassware. Venues range from artists’ homes, studios and gardens to pop-up exhibitions in churches, cafés, pubs, shops, galleries and other wonderful venues.

PLEIN AIR EVENT 14 SEPTEMBER 2025 – COMPTON VERNEY

This year’s event was in the glorious grounds of Compton Verney – Britain’s leading art gallery in a park. Set within 120 acres of grade II listed parkland designed by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, artists were inspired by the mansion house, lake, coppice, meadowland and treelined avenues.

We had a fantastic day at our fifth Plein Air event, in the glorious grounds of Compton Verney. Over 70 artists braved the weather and produced a collection of wonderful artworks with. Pieces included paintings, drawings, prints, textiles

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Whereas most Plein Air events tend to be restricted to paintings or drawings, we encourage artists to engage in their surroundings and produce a creative piece in response in any 2D or 3D art form. This year it included paints, pastels, pencil, felt, print, photography, textiles, glass and mixed media. Visitors to Compton Verney wandered around and discovered how the art comes to life. At the end of the day the artwork was displayed in a pop-up exhibition and the judges selected their favourites.

The 2025 prize winners are:

- **Katy Walden – Fusion Art Fair Prize (opportunity to take part in a Fusion Art Fair) CWSA Member**
- Popi Koutentaki – Art in the Park Prize (opportunity to exhibit at their 2026 event)
- Susan Watt – LSA Prize (opportunity to exhibit in either the East Lodge or LSA Art Room)
- Ros Spence – San Stae Emerge Prize (£100 voucher)
- Ruth Dunne – Visual Artist Association Prize (12-month premium membership worth £125)
- Angela Webb, Alice Goode, Jan Gay, Shelley Chapman and Claire Henley – WOS Highly Commended Awards (£20 Vouchers)
- Carla Moss – Compton Verney People's Choice Award – Voucher

Broadway Arts Festival at Bretforton Theatrebarn

Drum roll please... Introducing our 2025 Art Competition Highly Commended!
- Matt Williams 'Old Dairy, St Fagans' from Abergavenny, Monmouthshire (SOLD)
- David Gleeson 'Evening Light' from Stafford, Staffordshire
- Louise Regan 'Tonal Hues of London Architecture' from Cropredy, Oxfordshire
- Maya Cook 'The Cotswold Lion' from Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire (SOLD)
- Keith Appleby 'Medullary Transitions' from Sonning Common, Oxfordshire
- Janis Milne 'Kitchen Dresser' from Faversham, Kent
- Diana Sandetskaya 'Night Garden II' from London
- Giles Davies 'Listen!' from Derby

The exhibition is now open daily from 11am-4pm until Sunday 5th October - so come along and see all 150 finalists and cast your vote for Visitors' Choice. (Free entry & free parking)

View all the winners and highly commended at:
https://broadwayartsfestival.com/2025-art-competition.../

Matthew Allton Art

I'm trying something new for my fledgling art business on Saturdays - my first market stall to exhibit and sell my work was at the end of September. All jolly scary but exciting. If you are local and free on Saturday 4th October, pop along to Warwick Market to say hello! Hope to see you there! Matthew.

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