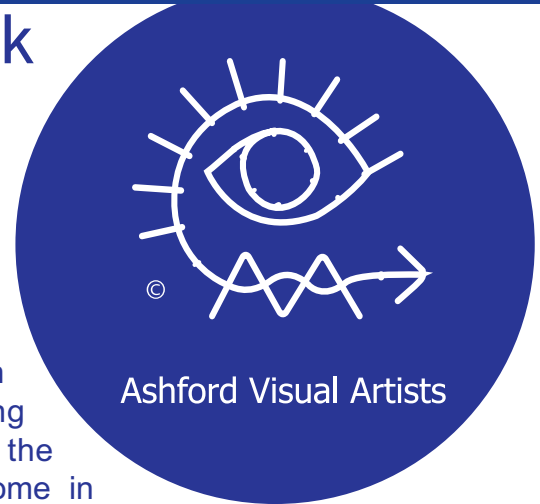


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OPEN STUDIO and GARDEN PARTY by Mary Sampson



Now that I have a studio in the garden I am taking part in the SEOS at home in Hythe for the first time. I

have been moving more towards doing more sculpture in the past year and am now making ceramic pots based on tulips and other organic forms. As ever there is always an AVA member on hand to advise when you stray into an art form that's new, or in my case a bit dusty and I recently spent an enjoyable day at Neville Langley's talking

pots and ceramics. It is great to have someone to call on when you need to trash things out and experienced Open Studio artists Vikky Furse and Mandy Munroe have also been giving me the benefit of their experience in true AVA style.

To celebrate the completion of the Journey Exhibition and the start of the South East Open Studios Ron and I will be holding an AVA Garden Party on Sunday June 4th from 12md- 3pm.

As many members have asked about our trip to China last year which included a memorable visit to the Terracotta Army, we are doing a Chinese theme and Noodles and snacks will be served, all are welcome. Liz Garnett will be having her Open Studio preview in Brabourne Lees on the same day from 3-5pm so you might like to call in on the way back. Out of Your Hands at St Leonards Church Hythe. From July 1st -29th. As part of the Hythe Festival Week Mary's hospital photographs printed on cloth will be hung in the church and the exhibition will continue until the end of the month. To accompany these images a new series of Mary's White Flower images

of tulips and lillies will also be on display. The church is open from 10am-12md and 2pm-4pm daily and the Crypt with its famous bones is open during the afternoon session so if you visit its worth looking in on the Crypt as well.



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Ashford Visual Artists invited to Bonanza European Party

Ashford Visual Artists (AVA) were invited to the bonanza European party organized in Boulogne last weekend, to celebrate the ceremonial handing over of the European flag to the town of Boulogne-sur-Mer.

Twenty European countries took part, and artists from AVA and South East Open Studios (SEOS) had 3 of the 30 stands in the European Market. Leading the AVA team were chairman Mary Sampson, French AVA committee member Caroline Hilde, and Vicky Brand. Chris and Vikky Furse were also on hand. As well as selling their pictures, postcards and pottery, the team handed out invitations to their exhibition currently taking place at the Art Centre in Whitstable, and the new SEOS 2006 Guides. Caroline Hilde lives and works in Ashford, and edits the AVA newsletter. She grew up in

Boulogne and 6 members of her family visited the stand to celebrate her birthday with her and the AVA. She did get one commission from a French client during the fair.

AVA Artist Lee O'Connor had a stand selling her paintings and jewellery. She said: "It was a great weekend, as well as jewellery I sold a large abstract painting to a French couple, who say they will visit my studio during SEOS in June".

Jane Richardson SEOS, was selling her pottery. She said: "It was very interesting: the French all loved my ceramic chickens, whereas in the Farmers Market in Egerton my blue pottery sells best".

Lynn Docker of Bosco organized the UK participation, aided by the Discover Folkstone team. Eurotunnel provided free crossings.



Photos by Vikky Furse



The Art of Euro Star

This month First Class & Business passengers leaving from Ashford International, will find their Lounge already full of people. A young man with tattoos, a Spanish dancer, a person with a leaf on his head, nine in all. But no-one need call Security: they are the latest Euro Star exhibition - paintings by artist Vikky Furse.

“What is really rewarding about exhibiting with Euro Star is how helpful and interested the staff are. When Les Lawrie (who arranges the exhibitions) and I put the pictures up, there was a lively debate as to which were the best, and why!” Vikky says.



Painting by Vikky Furse 'Man with a leaf on his head'.

Cllr Lawrie, who is an artist himself, has a long list of artists from the borough he invites to take part. Each artist has a month long solo exhibition.

“I last showed here in 2003. A Belgium couturier bought one of the works from that exhibition. I delivered the painting myself via Euro Star, and she gave me a tour of the avant garde fashion scene in Brussels. It was a great day. Later she came over to visit us during the annual South East Open Studios fortnight.”

Vikky Furse is a member of the Ashford Visual Artists (AVA). She has also been selected to show at the Society of Women Artists exhibition at the Mall Galleries, The Mall, London from May 31 - June 11. Her exhibition at Euro Star is on now until Sunday 4 June.

For further information please call Vikky Furse on 01233 770 360



South East Open Studios

TEN YEARS ON

Open studio events, where artists invite the public to visit their workshops and studios to see art in the making, have been mushrooming up and down the country in recent years. One of the longest-running, and largest, is South East Open Studios, which encompasses the whole of Kent and East Sussex.

South East Open Studios has come a long way since work began back in 1996, when professional painters Bryan Senior and Georgia Hayes started the groundwork with Arts Development Officers Beverley Whittrick of Tunbridge Wells and Allison Wright at Sevenoaks. Today, we take instant communication for granted, but ten years ago there were few databases to be tapped into. After much hard networking and forging of links, 46 artists working in the two areas were brought together, and in 1997 West Kent Open Studios ran for two weeks.

Following on the success of this first event, neighbouring local councils and KCC added their support. A volunteer committee was elected, and to reflect the increased scope of the event, it was renamed South East Open Studios. Entries for 1998 jumped to 130, and year on year numbers continued to rise steadily. Last year there were a record-breaking 248 entries in the guide.

In those fledgling years, the overwhelming majority of artists taking part were painters, and they maintain their prominent position today, but have been joined by a

wealth of artists working in other disciplines: furniture-making, jewellery, ceramics, textiles, photography, sculpture, stained glass and mosaics to name a few. With new artists joining each year, it is a testament to the success of the event that many artists participate year after year - in fact 13 of the studios taking part in 2005 were amongst the original 46 pioneers who opened their doors to the public back in 1997.

This year, South East Open Studios will run from 9 to 25 June. A free, full-colour illustrated guidebook with artists' directory and map will be available from public libraries and tourist offices from May or the website: www.southeastopenstudios.org.uk

Further press information at:

<http://www.southeastopenstudios.org.uk/news.php>

SEOS Press Officers:

Liz Garnett	Tel: 01303 812678	lizgarnett@aol.com
Helen Mayer	Tel: 01303 276 416	hcmayer44@aol.com

**Vicky, Chris, Mandy and Rib invite you to their
South East Open Studio Private View
on Friday June 9th 7pm -9pm.
at
Furse Studios, Hegg Hill
Smarden Bell Road
Smarden, Kent TN27 8NX**

**We will also be open weekends and Thursdays &
Fridays from the 9th to 25 June
From 11am - 6pm, late night Fridays till 9pm.**

Short News for AVA Newsletter.



PRIVATE VIEW for LIZ GARNETT

Open Studio as part of South East Open Studios

Sunday 4 June 2006

3-5pm

6 Mountbatten Way, Brabourne Lees, Ashford TN25

6PZ

Opening Times: 10-5pm on 10/11, 18 and
24/25 June 2006

Cancelled if raining!

www.southeastopenstudios.org.uk

www.lizgarnett.com

www.spice.co.uk/shop151

I am doing SEOS this year. Although I mainly paint portrait commissions, the past year has seen me put together a community art textile piece for St Mary's Great Chart and Singleton Church. The piece was sewn by mums who attend Wednesdays baby and toddler group. Putting it together has been a challenge for me. It has also rekindled my love of pattern and textiles. So on the 18th June I am painting inside the church, next to the hanging textile piece! I plan to be continuing work on a project I have titled 'domestic textiles'

**18th June 2006 11- 5pm. Contact: 01233 646523
info@kaidylewisportraits.co.uk**

www.ashfordvisualartists.co.uk

MA Show 26th August - 9th September

A show profiling work completed by Canterbury Christ Church University's students for the MA programme.

Work will be exhibited at the Sidney Cooper Gallery and Art department sites. AVA associate member Claire Sellers will be part of it.

Mandy Munroe has recently been selected to create a site-specific, permanent installation at Lamberhurst Primary School as part of the Commissioned Art in New Schools scheme funded by KCC. Work has already begun creating the fabrics needed with all of the children. Three pieces will be designed and installed, two by the artist and one using the children's designs. This is Mandy's largest commission to date which she is thrilled about and it is going to take up a lot of her time over the summer!

Watch out for banners along Herne Bay sea front displaying images for the Herne Bay festival on 19th August. Mandy Munroe is working with children from four primary schools designing and making the 14 colourful banners funded by Kent Community Schools and Canterbury City Council.

Caroline Hilde is opening her studio as part of South East Open Studios. It will be the opportunity for AVA members to see her professional portfolio as a graphic designer.

Flat 7, 13 Canterbury Road, Ashford TN24 8LE

Opening Times: 7-10pm week days

11am-6pm week-ends

AVA DIARY

Oct 2005 - Oct 2006

“Colours II by Salon 67” which will be held at The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

9-25 June

South east Open Studios

19-29 May

SUMMER EXHIBITION 2006, Pilgrims Way Artists The Tithe Barn, Lenham, Kent. The exhibition is on for 11 days. Starts Friday 19 May 2006 and ends on the Bank Holiday Monday 29 May 2006.

May 20 to June 20

Vicky Furse exhibits at The Stables Gallery, Hastings

20-23 July

Chris and Vicky Furse are demonstrating at the A&I Exhibition in Islington

5 August

Smarden Elizabethan Fayre

AVA CONTACT NUMBERS

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Membership Secretary: Carol Fulton T: 01233 813672

Newsletter designed by Caroline Hilde T: 01233 633654

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AVA is supported by

