

**1. South West Forum**

- 1.1 Falmouth Art Gallery was asked by the Heritage Lottery Fund to address the South West Forum – the regional voice of the voluntary and community sector at a conference held at Alverton Manor, Truro.
- 1.2 The conference was held on Tuesday 6 November under the banner 'Challenging poverty and disadvantage – a celebration of voluntary and community activity in the South West'. Falmouth Art Gallery contributed by talking about some of its projects, including the stained glass project with Carrick, MENCAP and Education Out of Schools. The curator also ran a workshop for delegates to participate.

**2. Markey & Friends Exhibition**

- 2.1 This exhibition proved extremely popular attracting 7,600 visitors and 1,178 educational visits. The sponsors, Hine Downing, Solicitors, Falmouth, generously purchased three automata and a painting by Peter Markey for Falmouth Art Gallery's Collection.
- 2.2 For many years Peter taught art at Falmouth School, where he was very popular with pupils, many of whom attended the exhibition. Peter is considered 'the father' of the Falmouth automata makers. Having encouraged or inspired many in their careers.

**3. New Acquisitions**

- 3.1 Grace Gardner has generously donated an oil painting *Dream Catcher* to the gallery. The painting was extremely popular at her recent one person exhibition in St Ives, and she decided that she wanted to add it to the important gifts she has already made to the gallery in the past. Grace commands considerable respect in the art community and has been exhibiting constantly since 1966. When she came to settle in Cornwall from Chicago in 1984 she was already a distinguished artist, having exhibited internationally for nearly twenty years. Her work, including paintings from Falmouth's collection, was recently featured in the book *Portscatho – portrait of a Cornish art colony* by Chris Insoll.
- 3.2 Chris Insoll has kindly donated *Lemon Green Still Life*, 2007 to Falmouth Art Gallery. The painting is one of the best of an important series of 'white' still lifes. These were admired by the art critic Peter Davies, in his new book *St Ives 1975-2005 Art Colony in Transition*. The painting donated to the gallery was also a favourite of the painter, Rose Hilton.

- 3.3 Jo Willis has donated in memory of her father, five rare topographical prints of the Falmouth area. Included is *The Carnival*, 1910 an atmospheric etching showing Church Street, Falmouth by Fred W. Goolden.
- 3.4 The distinguished ceramicist, Eric James Mellon NDD Hon Fellow CPA, has donated two more paintings by his wife Martina Thomas (1924-1995). Her painting *Parrots at Birdworld*, donated in 2004, proved an instant success, selling well as a postcard. The two new donations depict peacocks and animals at a zoo. Martina Thomas was a star pupil at the Royal Academy Schools. She came to Cornwall most summers to paint the scenery here. Two of her Cornish views can currently be seen in the *Fish & Ships* exhibition at Falmouth Art Gallery.
- 3.5 The internationally acclaimed sculptor, Laurie Burt (born 1925), has given four works to the Surrealist collection at Falmouth Art Gallery, including two important sculptures, a drawing and a self portrait. Laurie taught for a period at Falmouth Art College before becoming principal lecturer at Cardiff College of Art in 1964. He worked for a period in Cyprus, where he gained a distinguished reputation. He has exhibited widely, winning a number of prizes and is represented in the Tate Gallery and the Arts Council Collections.
- 3.6 Dr Peter J. Jackson has generously donated an oil painting, *Vera Ikonica* (a true likeness) by the St Ives artist Sven Berlin (1911-1999). The gallery does not possess a work by Sven Berlin, so this is a particularly useful addition. He was a founder member of the Crypt Group, which included Peter Lanyon, Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, John Wells, Guido Morris, Patrick Heron and Bryan Wynter. Sven is represented in public collections such as the Tate Gallery, the V & A, and the British Museum.
- 3.7 The Falmouth Decorative Fine Arts Society have donated a highly important work for the Children's Illustration Archive. It is original artwork for *The Eagle* by Frank Hampson (1918-1985) creator of Dan Dare. Frank Hampson is one of the most revered of all comic illustrators, and his original artwork is extremely rare as much of it was destroyed. His work is avidly sought by collectors.

The first *Eagle* comic was available to the public on 14 April 1950 and immediately achieved a readership of 2,500,000. Dan Dare became an instant success and the main talking point in playgrounds around the country.

When the *Eagle* dummies were created in 1949 Dan Dare was originally devised as an Interplanetary Chaplain, although this was dropped by the time the first comic was published. Many of Dan Dare's scientific advances came into being leading to enthusiasts claiming

'Dan Dare got their first'. For example the idea of the shuttle appeared in 1950, his space craft was swing wing – years ahead, and a telesender some fifteen years ahead of '*Beam me up, Scottie*', and details of a space suit were correct ten years ahead of time.

Frank Hampson is described as '*a genius*' by the Monty Python comedian and film Director Terry Jones, who was '*excited by the way he brought film techniques to the world of comic books. I was knocked out by his design and drawing – his complete mastery of his art. They are one of the great creations of 20<sup>th</sup> century imaginative literature.*'

An excellent three page colour feature on the gallery's *Children's Illustration Archive* appeared in the December issue of *Cornwall Today*.

#### **4. Donations box**

- 4.1 The donations box raised £251 in the last two months. This does not include grant aid or cheque contributions.

#### **5. Security**

- 5.1 Due to the importance of many of the loans for next year's exhibition programme the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in London sent their security officer to inspect the gallery's security arrangements. He reported that the gallery has diligently worked on security over the years and that it fully complies with requirements for national loans.

#### **6. Thomas Holgate**

- 6.1 In partnership with Stephen Tyrrell, the publishers Pasticcio and Falmouth Art Gallery we are researching the artist Thomas Holgate (c.1870-1953) with the view to mounting a small exhibition in the permanent gallery in 2009 to coincide with a publication on the artist. The gallery is keen to hear from anyone with information on the artist or those who own paintings. There has been considerable interest in a Falmouth Art Gallery picture by Holgate of the *Cutty Sark* moored at Falmouth, particularly since the well publicised fire on the ship. The ship was moored in Falmouth between 1923 to 1938. and was re-rigged and refurbished by a local Captain W.Dowman.
- 6.2 Holgate was born in Lancashire and studied art under Hubert von Herkomer at the Bushey School of Art. He also studied music, later becoming Professor of Music at Trinity College of Music, London. He was highly respected both as a musician and as an artist, exhibiting at a number of galleries including The Royal Academy, London, the Royal Society of British Artists and the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. He settled in Cornwall in 1932, first living in Constantine and then 4 Stratton Place, Falmouth.

## **7. Loans**

- 7.1 The gallery is lending 41 surrealist photographs by Lee Miller, Roland Penrose and Max Ernst to The Peter Scott Gallery Lowry at Lancaster University. Last summer the Peter Scott Gallery lent Falmouth their important Miro collection.
- 7.2 The gallery is lending *In the Coulistes* by Dame Laura Knight DBE RA RWS (1879-1970) to The Lowry for an exhibition '*Laura Knight at the Theatre*' between 22 March to 6 July 2008, and at the Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Nottingham between 14 July to 7 October 2008.
- 7.3 The Collection, Lincolnshire is borrowing *The Lady of Shalott* by John William Waterhouse RA (1849-1917) for the Alfred Lord Tennyson Bi-Centenary exhibition from 1 June to 28 August 2009. We have also had a request from the Groninger Museum, and the Royal Academy, London for the same painting, but there is current a clash in the exhibition dates, which we hope can be resolved.
- 7.4 Filippo Palizzi's painting of *The Animals Leaving the Ark: Mount Ararat* has safely arrived at the National Gallery, London and is currently on display there until February 10.
- 7.5 The gallery has now administered just over 400 outward loans to public galleries in the past five years.

## **8. Sponsors**

- 8.1 Falmouth Art Gallery has also attracted a new local sponsor to the arts, TMS Financial Solutions, who are generously sponsoring an exhibition entitled *Smell the Sea – Feel the Breeze*, paying for a full colour brochure and additional insurance to enable major loans from public and private collections. As a new sponsor to the arts it has enabled the gallery to bid for the government's Arts & Business, South West grant to support the new arts sponsorship. This we have done and successfully raised an additional £500 to add to the generous support from TMS Financial Solutions. Kirsten Whiting, Business Manager for Arts & Business, South West commented: 'We are delighted to offer the grant of £500 to help develop the relationship with new sponsors, and look forward to working with Falmouth Art Gallery & TMS Financial Solutions to bring an exciting exhibition to Falmouth'.
- 8.2 The exhibition is entitled '*Smell the Sea – Feel the Breeze*' and will feature major works by Charles Napier Hemy RA, Henry Scott Tuke RA. Sir Frank Brangwyn RA, Henry Moore OM CH, Jamie Medlin and Mike Haywood.

- 8.3 Margaret Powell has generously helped fund a full colour brochure on the Falmouth artist, Winifred Freeman, who is known for her sensitive watercolours. The brochure will be the first publication on the artist and will accompany an exhibition in the permanent gallery from 26 January to 15 March 2008. Winifred Freeman was the sister-in-law of Charles Napier Hemy RA and the show will include a number of watercolours of the interior of Hemy's house Churchfield (now the Athenaeum Club).
- 8.4 The London auctioneers have generously sponsored the anniversary Tuke exhibitions in May at Falmouth Art Gallery and the Royal Cornwall Museum to the sum of £10,000. This will be in addition to the £50,000 Heritage Lottery Grant, which will ensure important loans from all over the country, including public collections such as the Tate Gallery and notable private collections, such as the Sir Elton John collection.

## **9. The Art Fund International**

- 9.1 The Art Fund International scheme was been created to allow UK regional museums and galleries to develop collections of non European contemporary international art.
- 9.2 Falmouth Art Gallery made it to the very final stage of the one million pound grant, but lost out in the end to much larger museums at Bristol, Birmingham and Glasgow. However, the Art Fund was impressed with the enthusiasm of the bid and would like to help the gallery in some way in the future. Falmouth Art Gallery was the only representative in Devon or Cornwall to have reached the final stage of the bidding.

## **10. Special Needs Groups**

- 10.1 The gallery is delighted to now be receiving regular workshop visits from special needs students of Falmouth Marine School. The group are particularly creative and their work is of a very high standard. The gallery has regular visits with a number of talented special needs groups including Mencap, Education Out of Schools, Age Concern, elderly homes, Falmouth Stroke Club.

## **11. Plymouth Education Team Visit**

- 11.1 Educational Staff from Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery made a special fact finding visit to Falmouth Art Gallery to see the results of our workshops and to share ideas. Falmouth and Plymouth enjoy a very good working relationship.

## **12. 2008 Exhibitions**

2008 will be an exciting year for exhibitions as it marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Scott Tuke's birthday. Thanks to funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund and Bonhams, a host of key Tuke exhibitions will be mounted by Falmouth Art Gallery, the Royal Cornwall Museum and the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society with important loans from all over the country.

The year's programme is as follows:

### **Falmouth Art Gallery Exhibitions 2008**

Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR 11 2RT

Tel 01326 313863 [www.falmouthartgallery.com](http://www.falmouthartgallery.com)

Open Monday to Saturday, 10 – 5 pm (including Spring and Summer bank holidays)

Family Friendly and Free

Pushchair and wheelchair access via Webber Street

### **Fish and Ships**

until 23 February 2008

This show takes a quirky look at the Cornish fishing industry. There will be masterpieces from the Newlyn School, including Henry Scott Tuke, Percy Craft, Stanhope Forbes and Harold Harvey. Contemporary artists include Julian Christophers, Sara C.Lee, David Buurma, Ian Penna and Pete Collins.

The exhibition incorporates a selection of the finest photographs from the *Newlyn – Fishing for a Living* Arts Council project by top photographer Vince Bevan.

*Sponsored  
Country Picture Framing*

### **Winifred Freeman**

**26 January – 15 March 2008**

Winifred Freeman was the sister-in-law of the country's leading marine artist, Charles Napier Hemy RA RWS 1841-1917. An accomplished watercolourist she raises eyebrows locally by wearing pantaloons, smoking a pipe and cycling everywhere on her own. This exhibition in the 'permanent' gallery features sensitive portraits, landscapes, and coastal views lent from family archives and private collections.

### **Smell the Sea - Feel the Breeze**

## **1 March - 26 April 2008**

AN exciting exhibition to put the wind in your sails - featuring paintings, lithographs, photographs and automata.

Masters of the sea include Thomas Luny, Charles Napier Hemy RA, Sir Frank Brangwyn RA, David Hills, Mike Haywood, Jamie Medlin, Michael Bickford and Benjamin Warner. But beware – you are advised to bring your Sou'wester!

An exhibition to celebrate the Funchal 500 Tall Ships Regatta  
*Sponsored by TMS Financial Solutions*

## **Catching the Light The Sunshine paintings of Henry Scott Tuke 3 May - 12 July 2008**

HENRY SCOTT TUKE RA RWS (1858-1929) stands among the giants of British art. To mark the 150th anniversary of his birth this exhibition looks at the major contribution he made to British Impressionism.

Important loans from public and private collections countrywide make this a show not to be missed. The exhibition concurrently runs with a retrospective show at The Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro and a new book on the artist by curator Catherine Wallace, entitled *Catching the Light: The Art and Life of Henry Scott Tuke*. Signed copies will be available at the gallery from 2 May.

A schools and community educational programme will accompany the exhibition.

*Sponsored by Bonhams and the Heritage Lottery Fund*

## **Africa calling 19 July - 13 September 2008**

CORNISH mining skills have been central to the African economy for nearly two centuries. African art has had a profound influence on Cornish art. For the first time this exhibition will show the best of contemporary African art alongside the best of Cornish contemporary art.

Featured will be work by Julien Sinzogan, Ablade Glover, Emmanuel Taiwo Jegede, Elizabeth Lalouschek, Sandile Zulu, Ben Nicholson, Roland Penrose, Lee Miller, Trevor Bell and David Kemp.

*Mounted in association with:  
The October Gallery*

*Eden Project  
University College Falmouth*

**Tall Ships  
by Henry Scott Tuke RA RWS 1858-1929  
6 September - 27 September 2008**

An exhibition mounted in Falmouth Art Gallery by the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society to celebrate the Funchal 500 Tall Ships Regatta 2008 and the 175th anniversary of the Poly.

Included will be recently conserved oil paintings and watercolours from the Poly's important Tuke collection.

*Curated by John Tonkin and Anthony Phillips*

**Ancient Landscape,  
Pastoral Visions  
20 September - 1 November 2008**

THIS delightful exhibition explores the Romantic response to the British countryside. The show examines the relationships between artists and 'ancient' landscapes from Samuel Palmer and the Ancients through to Graham Ovenden and the Brotherhood of Ruralists.

Featured will be major artists including Graham Sutherland, Paul Nash, Eric Ravilious, John Craxton, John Milton, Annie Ovenden, Sir Peter Blake, Graham and Anne Arnold, Jann Haworth and David Inshaw.

*Curated by Dr Anne Anderson and Tim Craven*

*Sponsored by Stuart Southall and Punter Southall Group*

**Treasures from the  
Wilson Collection  
8 November 2008**

THIS exhibition celebrates the life of Sir Colin St John Wilson, architect of the British library, by showing a selection of works from his personal collection, chosen by his widow MJ Long.

Colin St John Wilson passed away early in 2007, and the last exhibition he saw was at Falmouth Art Gallery – featuring the artists' studios designed by his wife, MJ.

Featured in this exhibition are works by Craigie Aitchison, Frank Auerbach, Sir Peter Blake, David Bomberg, Edouard Manet, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Walter Sickert, Anthony Caro, Le Corbusier, Patrick Caulfield, Anthony Gormley, David Hockney, Paul Huxley, R.B.Kitaj, Claes Oldenburg and Graham Sutherland.

*In association with Long & Kentish, architects*