

# GALLERIES

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ANTENNAE

## ARTIST FAIRS

That might seem like stating the obvious but, until very recently at least, the Battersea Art Fair long remained about the only truly artist rather than dealer led fair of its kind in the country. Things are definitely shifting now however, with two happening in the South East alone this month. First up there is the **Wimbledon Art Studios Art Fair** (26 to 29 November), a massive event showcasing the work of the 100 plus artists currently based in the huge studio complex, reputedly the largest of its kind in Europe, situated not far from Earlsfield Station and the Wimbledon Stadium in South London. With a cafe, free car parking and credit card facilities, this is by no means just your standard open studios set up but a proper fair where all the money goes to the artist and there's no entry fee! Artistic standards are high too – what more could you ask?

Slightly different, in that it does include a certain number of dealers, the **Windsor Contemporary Art Fair** (15 to 19 November) is, nonetheless, still very much an event for individual artists, nearly 100 in all, a good proportion of whom are comparatively recently qualified, some even from Europe. Plenty to choose from as well as plenty of related interactive events and all in the distinctly spacious surroundings of the Royal Windsor Racecourse.

## KYFFIN'S LEGACY

The late Kyffin Williams was an extraordinary man in every way, with

his legacy to the arts in Wales, and his native Anglesey in particular, still felt far beyond the massive body of paintings that have so coloured everyone's perceptions of its rugged beauties. It was, for example, his passionate advocacy of the natural history artist Charles Tunnicliffe, a long time resident of the island, that led to the saving from the saleroom of his huge, unique archive in the 1980s and now displayed regularly in the handsome new (2008) gallery that bears his name at **Oriel Ynys Môn**. Now the Trust that also bears his name is carrying out another of his long-cherished wishes, with the establishment of a Kyffin Williams Drawing Prize. He had always nurtured a passionate belief that drawing was a seriously neglected subject in art schools but, unlike so many artists (Hockney for one) who say much the same, he put his money where his mouth was and left a hugely generous bequest, the first fruits of which can be seen in the exhibition now on there – 91 pieces by 60 artists. If the powerful winner of the first prize (£3,000 with £2,000 to the second) by Louisa Theunissen (a Welsh resident) is anything to go by, Kyffin's fears may not have been so well grounded as he perhaps imagined . . .

It is tempting to think that his influence in promoting the visual arts on the island may have something to do with the recent establishment of a splendid new contemporary venue, **Galeri Ianto**, at Beaumaris. Its three

handsome white spaces are home later this month to a promising show entitled 'The Curwen on Anglesey' that includes a strong contingent of Welsh artists and/or works – Kyffin again, Wilf Roberts, Alwen Hughes-Harris and Claudia Williams among them.

## CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS

As always autumn seems to bring with it a whole raft of news relating to the London gallery scene – settling down after the summer perhaps. First the rather sad news that two bad hip breakages last autumn have finally forced octogenarian gallerist Noel Oddy to take a back seat at his long established Highgate Fine Art (a gallery has been on the site since 1952). The good news here though is that the reins have been firmly taken up by his long-time assistant Laurie MacLaren who, following a major redecoration in more minimalist style over the summer, has just reopened as the rechristened **Highgate Contemporary Art**, with a joint show of work by gallery stalwarts David Eustace and Mick Dean. We wish the gallery at least another half-century and Noel Oddy a very happy retirement!

Then there are some interesting developments down in elegant Pimlico where international contemporary specialists **The Steps Gallery** is taking the plunge with a curated show by Iranian-born, London-trained curator Satkeen Azzizadeh of three young Iranian painters. Working with the Assar Gallery in Tehran, this promises a very powerful and fascinating insight into, for us, an almost completely unknown artistic culture.

Finally a Happy 20th Birthday to the **Hart Gallery**, their November show, of painter Nicola Nemeč and ceramicist David Roberts a very typical example of the gallery's always adventurous and happy policy of showing 2-d and 3-d work side by side.

Louisa Theunissen 'Sometimes'  
Oriel Ynys Môn