

As Five See

An exhibition in August at the Nottingham Society of Artists

By Steve Brazier



STEVE BRAZIER

Most Park News readers will know the Nottingham Society of Artists (NSA) gallery in Friar Lane. It is open most days and the exhibitions change every week or two. They nearly always feature local artists and work is very reasonably priced. Dating from 1880, it is one of the oldest art societies in Britain. Its first President was the photographer Samuel Bourne, who lived at what is now Adam House on Clumber Road East.

Dame Laura Knight, probably its most celebrated member also lived in the Park on Lenton Road.

I had a very successful one-man exhibition at the NSA in 2015 and wrote a short article for Park News explaining how, as someone who is registered as a blind person, I have managed to return to painting. Joining the NSA, which I walk past several times a week, seemed an obvious first step. I have found membership a great help. As a relative beginner ten years ago, the daily free painting groups open to members offered me encouragement and friendly advice in a welcoming setting. Formal tuition is only occasionally available but there are rich networking possibilities and information. I quickly found an excellent watercolour tutor. And more recently an oil painting portraitist running courses in the education space above the gallery, below the top floor studio.

As a hobby, painting need not be a challenge. The quality of the results is secondary to the satisfaction of developing a new form of self-expression. Just slapping the paint on the paper and messing about with pens and pencils is surprisingly therapeutic. It may transport you back to the messes you created at nursery school. It can be totally absorbing: I introduced a friend to painting at an NSA half-day workshop. A few months later, emerging from a class together, she said that while her Mindfulness sessions at a meditation centre were worthwhile, two hours of painting was just as relaxing and a lot less boring.

Together with four other local painters, I have another exhibition from 22nd to 28th August, 2019 entitled "As Five See". My co-exhibitors are:

Pat Baylis: after qualifying in art and textile design, Pat was a clothing, fabrics and lace designer. She has studied Chinese art and creates atmospheric landscapes experimenting and improvising in watercolour.

Ann Clay: Ann has a first class degree and an MA in fine art and has taught art in schools and colleges. She has

AS FIVE SEE



EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY:

ANN CLAY STEVE BRAZIER STEPHEN REID
SALLYANNE JOHNSON PAT BAYLIS

AUGUST 22 – AUGUST 28 2019
OPEN DAILY: 11am – 6pm

NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY OF ARTISTS GALLERY
71 FRIAR LANE, NG1 6DE

exhibited widely and has work in private collections in the UK, Holland and Australia.

Sallyanne Johnson: qualified at De Montfort University after retirement. She is interested in modernist styles, working in oil, acrylic and mixed media. Most of her work is abstracted, using bold colours.

Stephen Reid : paints clothed women in motion and has created large metallic abstracts drawn from his subconscious. He uses oil, acrylics and mixed media. He says "Every painting must have a sense of passion and/or a sense of drama"

Steve Brazier : atmospheric watercolours, acrylics and oils, usually of figures in urban settings.

I hope you will come along to the gallery in August to see our work and have a chat.

And for anyone thinking of taking up or returning to painting or drawing, do contact the Society. Its website is excellent. You will find an application form, forthcoming exhibitions, courses and an online gallery with lots of examples of members' work :

<https://www.nottinghamartists.org.uk/nsa-main/>

Or you can phone me (0115 9475481)