



At the art of society

Formed soon after World War II, Richmond Art Society has a long and esteemed history. We spoke to ANGELA KILENYI, from Teddington, who is set to become the group's new chairman as of this month, to find out more about them



One Man Band, Paris by Martin Davison



When was the group started, and who was it formed by and why?

Richmond Art Society was formed soon after the Second World War, when it was known as Richmond Art Group.

What is the main aim of the society today?

We want to bring together all those in the area who are interested in art and art history, whether they are practising artists or enthusiasts. We mount two exhibitions a year of our members' work, in May and October, coupled with a programme of lectures and demonstrations held during the winter and spring months.

When and where do you meet?

We meet on alternate Tuesdays, during the spring and autumn months, at Vestry House on Paradise Road in Richmond.

How many members do you have?

We have approximately 120 members who



Above: *Leicester Square Station* by Anne Swankie
Below: *Jane from back* by Angela Kilenyi



Above: *Celestial Storm* by Paul Douglas
Below: *Ullinish, Skye* by Jim Woodman



are allowed to exhibit – they have to go through a selection process for this – and a similar number of members who attend our art history lectures and other activities.

And are you more Tate Modern or traditional landscapes?

There is something for everyone, although I have to say that figurative art is still in the majority. Having said that, we are keen to encourage more contemporary work and would welcome applicants whose work extends our existing range of abilities.

Do you have any famous artists in your midst?

We have many members who are professional artists and tutors in their own right. Top of the list must be Ken Paine, our president, who is a renowned pastel artist. But we are also lucky to have as members respected artists such as Anne Swankie, Jim Woodman, Freda Anderson, Pat MacLaurin, Eiko Yoshimoto and

many others who exhibit regularly in commercial galleries and art fairs.

What's the most exciting thing that's happened in the group's history?

To be honest, I can't think of any particular event but, suffice to say, we are moving with the times and now all our activities are on our own website (*see below*) and we continue to make our image look more professional. This included the launch of a new logo this year, which was designed by one of our committee members.

And the funniest?

I am sorry but nothing obvious springs to mind... but we often have a lot of humour in our talks such as the one we had called *Great Tarts in Art!*

Do you welcome new members and, if so, what should interested people do?

We definitely welcome new members and urge anyone who wants to join to look at our website and print off the form. We are keen to hear from people who want to play an active part in the organising of the society as the burden of this can often fall on too few people and it means our activities cannot expand as much as we would like!

Tell us about your next exhibition...

It opens on Saturday May 17 and runs through till the afternoon of Monday May 26. We expect to show over one hundred works, at Vestry House, by over 60 of our members. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information on Richmond Art Society, contact Angela Kilenyi on 020 8943 1735 or, alternatively, visit their website: www.richmondartsociety.com