

**NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012****Dear Members,**

I hope you are all having a happy, if rather wet summer and if you have had a break after the hard work up to and during Open Studios you are ready to start thinking about picking up a pencil again.

The AMA has its first morning meeting this coming **TUESDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER** at 10.00/10.15 am at the Baptist Hall in Chandos Street. Please use the side entrance.

If you should find you arrive a little late, please ring the bell, we have a buzzer and will come down and let you in.

*I know some people will be away so I am asking you all if you possibly can to please make a special effort to come and to bring your friends.*

The Speaker will be **JAN FREEMAN**. Jan did her art training in America. She produces landscapes, seascapes, sculpture and some wonderful, character full, figurative paintings which I am really looking forward to hearing about. She also holds classes at her studio in Harbury.

October is our AGM and this is always followed by a talk from one of our members. This year **Len Mackin**, who is one of the Committee members, will be talking about his paintings and probably telling us all to make better use of our computers as well!

I am most excited about the Speakers we have lined up, I feel that each one is someone I would be extremely sorry to miss. During Open Studios the Committee visited artist etc. who we thought might make good speakers and our programme is made up of people, who we are sure you will find really interesting and informative.

**Evening Meetings** – we have been to look at various venues and we think we have now found one which will really suit the Association. Again we have a list of Speakers, who have said they would be willing to speak to us, so it is a matter of putting the dates, the venue, and the speakers together. We hope to have an evening meeting in the second half of October. We have a Speaker, who has said she can speak in October but seems to be away at the moment. So I am afraid it will have to be a question of watch this space!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Tuesday for an interesting start to the season.

Regards

Julia Hayes. AMA Chair

**MEETINGS.****MORNING MEETINGS.**

10.00am. Baptist Hall, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa. Upstairs room via the side entrance. If you are late and the door is locked please press the bell. The meetings normally finish at approximately 12.15pm. Car Park opposite the Hall.

**4th September. Jan Freeman.** Artist showing and discussing her work

**2nd October AGM**  
**Len Mackin, AMA Member.** Talking about his paintings

**6th November. Brian Clarke.** Paintings and gouaches of landscapes Inhabited by ephemeral objects which articulate notions of space, reality and memory.

**4th December. Portland Painters.** These are two sisters who work individually and in collaboration. Inspired by nature and the built environment, the work is abstract to representational.

**January '13. No Meetings.**

**5th February '13 Teresa Wells.** Mixed media tableaux inspired by the Questions 'How do humans behave'. And 'Why not celebrate the Domestic'?

**Evening meeting schedule and guest speak list to follow.**

## Future AMA Exhibitions

Exhibiting – We have been invited back to Foster Frames in Stratford from the second half of October and we will be sending out the details for this in due course. I noticed last time that the small works hung high up could not be seen that well so, I think while some very small works look nice in the window, we might be better to put in more medium size works as well as some larger.

We have several ideas for exhibiting which are still at the committee stage. We will be talking about these at the these and keeping you informed through the Tuesday meetings, our newsletter and email.

**We would be really pleased if you can think of places for us to exhibit, particularly somewhere which can show large works and sculptures. Just email me on [juliahayes@btinternet.com](mailto:juliahayes@btinternet.com) with any ideas of venues, large or small and we can look in to them or you can phone me on 01789 731237**

## COVENTRY OPEN EXHIBITION. The Herbert Art Gallery.

Congratulations to **MARC BEACHAM**, his photograph of red shoes in a shop window, which was much admired in Stratford, has been hung. I was hoping to get to Coventry before writing the Newsletter to see if any other members had work hung but have not yet been able to make it. I am sure lots of you will be wishing to visit the exhibition.

**HOWARD WATSON** has an exhibition in Fred Winters furniture/department store in Stratford on the Top Floor (click here). A lot of Howard's work is inspired by Mark Rothko. There are some 30/40 works in oils and soft pastels and they are inspirational. The colours are bright but they don't shriek, they sing out to you, the blending is superb and you can loose yourself in the emotions the colours produce. I also loved the simplicity of the charcoal drawings on paper with their meaningful message.

The exhibition is on until 30th September, so do find the time to go and see it, whatever type of work you produce, I am sure you will also find this inspirational. Howard joined the Association last year and it good to know this is the work of one of our members.

## Have you visited the AMA website recently?

The screenshot shows the AMA website homepage. At the top left is the AMA logo with the text 'Association Of Midlands Artists'. To the right are navigation links: HOME, MEMBERS, NEWS, EVENTS, ABOUT. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'PASSION ENJOY VIEW' and a quote 'Art is about exploring what it is to be human'. Below the banner are three columns: 'Recent Work' by Tammy Woodrow, 'Highlighted Member' Helen Bone, and 'JOIN' with a call to action. The footer contains links for Login, Accessibility, Contact, and Copyright © Association of Midlands Artists 2012.

The website can be found at [www.midlandartists.co.uk](http://www.midlandartists.co.uk) and is updated regularly with latest news and details of events. If you are an AMA member we invite you to take advantage of the opportunity to upload images of your work and a biography to a complimentary secure web page.

## Reviews

### Jenny Saville's work - in pictures at Modern Art and Ashmolean Museum, Oxford 23 June- 16th September 2012



This is your last chance to see a unique collection of Jenny Saville's challenging but superbly executed large format, figurative paintings. Surprisingly, this is Saville's first solo show and brings together a large body of work stretching over two decades. Her most recent work, a very personal depiction of motherhood, was hung whilst the paint was still drying just before the show opened. Oxford is a fitting venue for this show as Saville has a studio in the city.

Saville studied at the Glasgow School of Art from 1988-92; going on to post graduate study the following year at the Slade. Her entire postgraduate

show was purchased by Charles Saatchi who became a strong promoter and patron of the artist. She was catapulted to fame through as one of the YBA through the Sensation Show in 1997. Often referred to as the heir to Lucien Freud her skill in painting nudes, portraits, mountainous flesh, twisted and entwined often in menacing and disturbing poses, on a grand scale can both shocking and beautiful in equal measures.



As a further tribute to her talent, two of Saville's works can be found in the Ashmolean hung between paintings by Veronese and Titian's 'The Triumph of Love'. A daring move by the Ashmolean but they 'work' extraordinarily well against the old masters. I encourage you to make the trip to Oxford to catch this extraordinary show.

Fiona Metcalfe

<http://www.modernartoxford.org.uk/>

**Would you like to contribute a review, have you some news to share or wish to advertise an 'art event'?**

**Contact Len ([len.mackin@ntlworld.com](mailto:len.mackin@ntlworld.com))**