

Ligne et Couleur

newsletter April 2014

.....a totally inspiring day @ Dundas Street Gallery, Edinburgh

SSAA **Spring Exhibition** "Ligne et Couleur" opened on Saturday 5th April with the Society's 2014 AGM and our first "members' gathering". A larger number than usual convened for the AGM and numbers grew throughout the afternoon as guest artists spoke giving a pleasant and animated atmosphere. It was also encouraging to see new members attend the AGM.

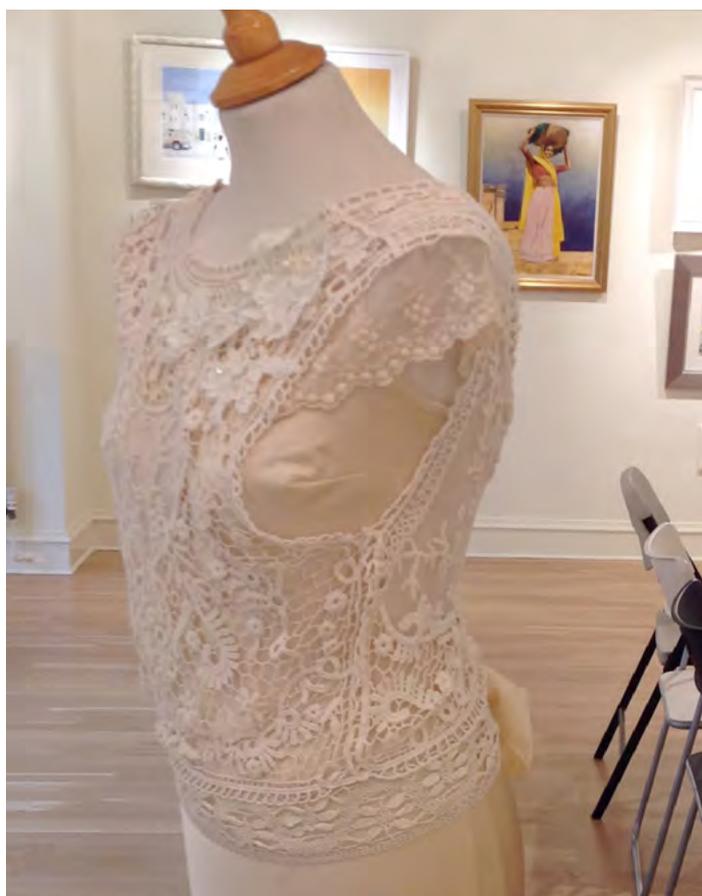
The short **AGM** reported on a year of increased activity while recording a slight and disappointing drop in numbers of "paid-up" members. The group discussed several options for attracting new members and students and the committee outlined Future Strategic Objectives for the Society particularly in relation to the forthcoming Scottish "Year of Architecture 2016".

Architect and Artist Felicity Bristow launched the afternoon proceedings by illustrating how her passion for sailing informed colours and textures in her early paintings. She clearly traced her artistic progress inspired by the forms and landscape characteristics around her Borders homeland, and how this led to setting-up But'n'Ben Bindery in Maxton near Melrose. She enthused her audience with her 'hidden doors' festival project where the drama of the arches and their surface textures were delightfully absorbed into her paper and book art.

Russian architect-artist Natalia Misslin transformed the gallery by presenting her team of manikins sporting stunning designer bridal wear. Enamoured by Edinburgh on a musical tour she chose to stay and following difficulties with UK architectural registration she has spent two decades building a successful fashion practice. Referring back to Felicity's observation that "...once an architect, always an architect..." Natalia recalled a business adviser on finding her working long evening hours exclaimed "...you really cannot do good creative work when you are exhausted!" She noted that "ambition reflects personality" and discussed her fascination with transparency, layers and light fabric; and her enthusiasm for "swing music" and the culture of the 1930's. Her fashion design extends to Raku Ceramics, Silversmith works, and fabrics which try to express "what music looks like".

Distinguished artist Kate Downie RSA spoke passionately about her fondness for bridges and the immense delight of being suspended in space where it becomes possible to see the 'impossible view'. Kate has made extensive studies of 'transitions' in China, and is Artist-in-Residence celebrating the Forth Road Bridge, which she observed is now elevated as a destination in itself, rather than a transition between places! A scary 'selfie' at the top of one tower showed the artist's courage and the sheer drama of the man made structure. Speed sketching on the back of an envelope from a fast ferry passing below the bridge inspired a moving work featuring only the crossings, and not the land. Inevitably, becoming intimate with the Bridge she considers the structure supporting the road as a spider's web and the expansion gaps in the road surface with vehicles clattering noisily over them as a 'barcode'. Kate showed her shed in the Forth where she will be based for this commission and invited brave artists to join her on the strictest understanding that they too will be working hard!

Awards: **Kate Downie** was invited to reviewed the exhibition and select two Prize Winners. Works by Mick Duncan were chosen as "the Best Group" winning him the **SSAA Award 2014**; and the **Donald Webster Prize** for the best piece was awarded to Chris Souter for "Seaside Showers, Hopeman"





Above: Felicity Bristow described her route to artist and architect and described inspirations leading her to starting But'n'Ben Bindery
Below: rich diverse work by architect-artists on display.



Above: The Donald Webster Prize by Chris Souter;



Below: Natalia Misslin presenting her very different type of 'architecture'

.....other news.

Our next Exhibition: SSAA **Summer Exhibition** is planned to take place in **Glasgow** during the Commonwealth Games and it is proposed that we will focus on a theme of "Sport; Glasgow, or Commonwealth". - or all of above! The exhibition venue will be **Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's**, 240 Nithsdale Road, Glasgow South Side G41 5AD and provisional exhibition dates are 21st - 29th July 2014. The Commonwealth Games **Rugby 7's** will be held close by on 26 & 27 July and **Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's** is planning to use the whole of that week for events to welcome visitors during the day and evenings with coffee and refreshments. The events will be publicised in the official information and parking for those coming by car will be on the doorstep. SSAA will call for entries at the beginning of June and will circulate Pre-registration Forms with details and Conditions of Entry.

Artist Course: **Kenneth le Riche** is currently launching his new venture in France. As a good friend and excellent tutor of the SSAA it has been suggested that we may wish to organise a group to visit Studio Berry in the Spring of 2015. Studio Berry France lies on the outskirts of the village St Benoit du Sault, in the south of the Loire Valley, roughly 330 km south of Paris. **Costs for week course likely to be c. £900 per person**, (comprising: Art Courses: £300 + >£300 for accommodation, +travel from Edinburgh.)

Members keen to participate in a Studio Berry Course should contact: Stuart@trinitygrove.demon.co.uk tel:0131 552 2620

THANK YOU: SSAA is extremely grateful to Heriot Toun Studio for the provision of folding chairs for our 'gathering' in Dundas St Gallery, Edinburgh on Saturday 5th April www.heriot-toun.co.uk/ **Heriot Toun Studio** is a self-catering creative studio space for hire in the Scottish Borders designed for artist led projects and workshops.