



John Spielman takes a shot at June's long textile work
Photo: June



HVAF Artists Photography Workshop 19th January 2008

John Sparrow took us most expertly through the complex maze of taking pictures of our work in the best possible way, whether a faithful capture of a 2D image, or a more creative interpretation of 3D work.

The three basics:

The first – lighting

The second – the camera

The third – the position/environment in which the work is displayed.

Having established that natural light is not ideal, particularly for 2D work, as the light source would not always be behind us, we explored what happens when we set up halogen-quartz lighting directly behind a 2D unglazed piece of work, and whether one could get better results with just the built-in flash on the camera.

We discovered how to photograph glazed and reflective pieces with 2 light sources at 45-degree angles from the work so as to eliminate glare and reflection, the lights being alongside the camera not behind it. With 3D work different lighting set ups proved useful to emphasize/eliminate shadows, highlighting different planes/aspects of the pieces.

We learnt how our cameras work! The white balance on most cameras can be adjusted to suit different lighting scenarios. We all feverishly hunted through our camera instruction books – some of us hadn't done this before. We were told that zoom lenses distort straight lines, and if they are used

they should only be set in the middle of their range.

We experimented with depth of field effects with 3D work to create images with areas out of focus, using the camera on manual setting with a large aperture (a small 'f' number). We also tried over exposing images to lighten images. We learned that ideally the slowest shutter speeds one should use are 1/30th when using a tripod and 1/60th when the camera is hand held.

The background/set up proved equally as important – larger 2D work was placed on easels. Photographing work in landscape rather than portrait position enables one to make the image as large as possible in the shot, which can be rotated later. We made sure both the artwork and the camera on a tripod were level (using a camera mounted dual spirit level), and the two parallel. Smaller pieces had a white sheet behind them laid in such a way that there were no hard edges in the background. A useful tip - a background that contrasts with your work makes it easier to crop the image later. We explored the use of a white tent like structure lit from the outside to photograph 3D work, minimising shadows.

All in all we had a very informative and instructive day. A big thank you goes to John from those of us who benefited from his knowledge and expertise, and for his hard work in setting up such a successful workshop, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

June Faulkner



Photos: Top right and all three above, during John Sparrow's workshop, taken by John Spielman

SOUTHERN PAINTERS NEWS

15 members attended the Southern Painters Group 'New Year Gathering' on 4 January. Plentiful supplies of food and wine helped us to welcome in 2008. Our numbers are growing and we have several ideas for new projects in addition to the Exhibition in Radlett planned for the whole of April.

Painting can be a lonely existence so the group meets monthly to talk, share experiences and to support each other. If you would like to join us call Susan Llewelyn Elvidge on 01727 863432 for details of the next venue. You will be made very welcome.

URGENT REQUEST FOR OFFICERS

Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary are needed. Anyone interested should contact Barbara Woolner, New Membership Enquiries join@hvaf.org.uk or telephone 0208 3869428.

ENQUIRIES:
By Email:

 Use the links at www.hvaf.org.uk. Contacts page

By Post: HVAF, P.O. Box 894, St Albans, Herts AL1 9EG

By Telephone:

New Member Enquiries	0208 3869428
Change your membership details:	01582 766624
Create or update a page in the web gallery	07949 312054
Send news for the website or newsletter	01707 650356
Open Studios Coordinator:	07813 100651
Sculptors Group	01992 581688
Painters North Group (Indigo)	01462 624027
Painters South Group	01727 863432
Lens Based Media Group	01442 877402
Textiles Group	01442 401795
Ceramics Group	01727 860615
Creative Herts Associate M/ship	01763 231522
Credit Card Facility	01462 450393
General Enquiries: -	0208 4419805

 For all news, contacts, information & opportunities - go to www.hvaf.org.uk

HVAF SPRING MEETING

27th February 2008

 The first main meeting of 2008 will be on **27th February starting at 7.30pm** in the **University of Hertfordshire, Room A161 LINDOP BUILDING.**

 Three artists will talk about their work and how they use and are influenced by **Light.**
Helen Robinson is an established Stained Glass Artist whose work is entirely inspired and dependent on 'Light'. She works on both modern and historical pieces, for Churches, and for private and public patrons. Her enthusiasm and knowledge of the history, techniques and possibilities of glass will be of great interest to all artists.

Barbara Weeks is a Textile Artist who will speak about her own work and the 'Glass' Quilt project that she has worked on with another English Textile Designer and a Swedish Glass maker.

Claudia Brown graduated from the University of Herts this year with an honours degree in Applied Art. She specialises in creating unique hand-formed and etched Perspex sculptures and jewellery. She is inspired by the idea of drawing with light. Her sculptures can be seen in St Albans Abbey.

Each artist will speak for about 15 minutes with a little extra time for questions afterwards.

 This is a good reason to leave home on a cold February evening to bring some **'Light into your Life'!**
SEE YOU ALL AT 7.30pm
Room A161, Lindop Building, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB. Parking available.

GALLERY PAGE INFORMATION

You can supply either a) digital images or b) hard copy photographs or slides. (Do not scan photos yourself, we will do this).

For a new page you can have up to 60 words of text with the first image and 30 words of text with all subsequent images.

Add details of all your images, i.e.a title, medium and dimensions. If possible, supply your text as a Word document on a disk.

Whether digital or hard copy, choose images with sharp, clear definition, good contrast and colour, as your images need to read well at thumbnail size for the gallery index page. If sending more than one image, please

indicate your preference for the index page with a star (?).

a) Digital images should be in .jpg format, at the required size of 600 pixels for the longest side of your image. The resolution should be 72ppi (dpi). Please remove unnecessary backgrounds by selecting "crop", and cropping your image.

b) Photographs to be supplied as 6" x 4" (min) glossy prints, or as slides.

Pack your slide or photo/s carefully, labelled with your name, title of image, and indication of which way up the image should be. Do not write directly onto the back of your print, use an adhesive label.

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 For more information please visit www.hvaf.org.uk

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR HVAF OPPORTUNITIES!

THE DEADLINE FOR BOTH 2008 HVAF MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS & YOUR OPEN STUDIOS ENTRY IS MARCH 31st

Your forms are enclosed OR you can also find them on our website & email them there!
HVAF Membership Subscriptions: There is a small increase in HVAF subs this year, partly to cover some exciting developments for our web site, but there is still a discount if you renew your membership before May 1st. If you have not renewed by June however, we have to take you off our mailing list!

 Membership of HVAF has many benefits, including the quarterly meetings and different art form groups for networking, the newsletter and our more and more interactive web site with opportunities, information and your chance to have your own page in the member's gallery. We bear in mind the need for professional development and have corporate membership of Creative Herts (see www.creativeherts.com). If you are an HVAF member and register your interest with Sue Hartga (see contacts list), you get discounts on their events.

Then, of course there is our always popular Open Studios event, even better at the moment because of the development opportunities resulting from the current grant from Arts Council England.

Open Studios Entry: This year's Open Studios event will take place from 13th September - 5th October. Lots of choice, so start making your plans. Follow the enclosed Guidelines carefully so that you can participate.

 If you want to enter Open Studios but do not have suitable premises, why not share facilities with another member or a group? We are having 2 Meetings to talk to people with queries & for artists wishing to share a space on 6th & 8th March. Come with ideas for possible venues. If any other members have ideas for venues to share, please let us know. For further information & to put your name down for the Information & Sharers' meetings, or for general queries about Open Studios 2008 please contact John Higgins on 07813 100651, or email openstudios@hvaf.org.uk.

John is our new Open Studios coordinator & needs lots of help from volunteers, so please offer to help on the Open Studios entry form - area co-ordinators or general help with administration or at meetings, or just helping with a mailing - all needed & very welcome! If you have a special skill, good at marketing, using databases, writing press releases, talking to people - here is your chance!

YOUR ACTION NOW:- Plan your dates and venue, with anyone else you want to exhibit with. Enter up your annual HVAF membership data form, then your sub on the combined payment slip. If you are taking part in Open Studios, add your Open Studios entry fee, fill in the entry form, find your image & write one cheque - all to the same address.

INSPIRATIONS: An exhibition by three local artists, including our member **Kathy Foster**. Watford Museum, January 31-March 15 2008 (Thu-Sat 10am-5pm) www.watfordmuseum.org.uk

Kathy creates figurative and semi-abstract images, 'portraits' in oils of worn and used everyday objects that relate to the human body.

2008 NEW OPEN STUDIOS & COMMUNITY PROJECT COORDINATOR

Open Letter to All HVAF Members,

On the 22nd January, 2008 I took over the coordination role for this year's Open Studios and Community Projects, something I do with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. Excitement, because I have always believed that Open Studios has enormous potential to benefit artists, communities and tourism throughout Hertfordshire. Trepidation, because of the effort it requires from such a dedicated group of supporters. I was the Dacorum area coordinator for three years so have a good idea of how it works for artists but I still have lots to learn about other ways in which HVAF can support artists.

Much of this year's Open Studio's event is already well in hand. However I would still urge all HVAF members to email me at any time with ideas on how we can improve the success of the event, this year and in the future. I would also like you to send me any ideas you may have for other ways in which HVAF can support the Arts throughout Hertfordshire. The success of the event very much depends on the active support of the artists.

The support for the event received from the Arts Council, the County Council, District and Borough Councils and the Lottery Fund demonstrates the importance of the event. It is up to us to ensure that it goes from strength to strength.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all during the coming year.

John Higgins
 coordinator@hvaf.org.uk

Saturday 23rd February - "Coach Trip - to the Henry Moore Exhibition at Kew Gardens". Coach will leave UH Hatfield, College Lane Campus at 9 a.m. arriving back at UH 6 p.m. Cost: £20 per person. Concessions £18 (over 60), includes travel, entrance fee and gratuities. Please make cheques payable to John Spielman and post to 21 Vicarage Lane, Waterford, Herts SG14 2QA. LIMITED SPACES - Ring John on 01920 461625.