



Gallery Newsletter
MARCH
2020

In this issue

*Thoughts for a
future
Summer Exhibition
Liz Joss*



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Welcome to our first Newsletter of the whole new decade! We hope it will be the first of many, with encouraging and inspiring thoughts, articles and artwork.

At this time of year, some of us are impatient for the earth to wake up, while for others the desire to hibernate (for maybe more than one reason..) is also strong. But finding energy to be outside in nature to feel the cold wind on my face, being inspired by fleeting glimpses of colour on the ground, on the water, in the sky, continuing to find respect for creatures who weather the storms with no wellies, wooly jackets and such is a constant source of inspiration for me. Endless blues and greys full of colour! We have already had a fleeting visit from 2 male bullfinches in our back garden. Flashes of welcome colour.

The trick is then to find the creative space to translate these inspirations into our chosen medium! For those of us who work as visual artists and makers as well as any of us who aspire to explore our creative energies a little more, the balance of life can so easily be thrown out of kilter. Increasingly western society is re-evaluating how creative energy is intrinsic to us all as well as a nation's economic health.

Thank goodness.

Sheila

PS. If you are looking for something truly original gift, created locally, you are likely to find it here and with spring energy around the corner we will be refreshing our walls soon. If you have had your eye on a painting or piece of sculpture for a while, you might just find it has a reduction in price. Supporting local is one the best ways of keeping our fragile communities alive!

You are invited to submit work for our

Summer Season Open Exhibition '*Coast*'

May to late August. Submission forms are available via email or the website . Please see below.

The title this year is in direct response to the 'Year of Coasts and Waters'. Submission forms need to be with us by 6 April. And we look forward to having work from new artists.

Just to remind us of winter's beauty here is some of Liz Joss' work.



Beech tree ~ ink drawing Bullfinches ~ mixed medium

Our first featured artist of the year is Liz Joss. We have shown Liz's work here in Torridon since the early days of the Gallery. It was the endeavour of Avril Turner which brought such a rich seam of artwork from across the Highlands, to our walls 9 years ago. This included contact with Art Society of Inverness. This has brought us several 'east coast' artists over the years. As Liz mentions she lives in Inverness and has had the encouragement of other artists around her. We hope the Gallery will continue to be a shining light of the evident talent, of both professional and amateur artists. This group of people and their work is ever changing. We reopen for full time hours from 1 April. See below.

AND before then Liz will have more of her work to see here in March, so please come and visit.

She writes....

Most of my current work is in mixed media, but I also paint in oils. Trees and vegetation are favourite subjects and I have always been inspired by the natural world, birds and insects as well as plants. My interests, walking and bird-watching in the area, provide subject matter and lots of photos. I really enjoy plein air sketching in watercolour and ink drawing.

During my years of secondary education at Buckie High School my enthusiasm for painting and Art History was encouraged by an inspiring Art teacher, Bob Batchelor. I decided however to study French Language and Literature at Aberdeen University, and returned to painting on moving to Inverness with the family in the mid 1970s. Becoming a member of Art Society of Inverness soon afterwards, I gained a lot from workshops and classes organised by ASI, participating in their annual show, and I continue to participate in workshops given by some of the many artists resident in the Highlands when the opportunity arises.

Regular stays in the West Highlands and trips to southern France, and sometimes Spain, provide new inspiration, and usually better weather for outdoor work! On these trips I am fortunate to have the company and encouragement of other painters who live like me in the Inverness area. We exhibit together annually as the Redcastle Art Group.