

Colchester Art Society

President: Simon Carter

Chairman: Bryan Whiteley

Ipswich Art Society

President: Jude Lockie

Chairman: Stephen Cassidy

“Borders”: a joint exhibition between Colchester & Ipswich Art Societies 2020

Dear Art Society Member,

The moment has arrived; the Firstsite Gallery will re-open on Friday 24 July 2020 and kicks off with our ‘Borders’ exhibition. The Gallery will be open every day from 10am – 5pm. The exhibition will run until 11 October 2020.

This is great news and we hope that you will all be excited at the prospect of seeing your work hanging at Firstsite as part of the Colchester and Ipswich Art Societies joint venture. The whole event is not quite as we envisaged, but in these very unusual times it is enough that we have made it thus far. We know that some of you only finished your work at the last moment and have not had time to fully appreciate your achievement.

Prior to reopening its doors today, following the relaxation of the lockdown regulations, Firstsite has implemented safety measures to help visitors feel secure and enjoy their time at the gallery. Numbers are limited throughout the day to maintain 2 metre physical distancing, along with a one-way path throughout. Hand sanitiser stations have been installed at regular intervals in the building.

For added health, security and peace of mind for staff and visitors, Firstsite has also installed Perspex screens at the Welcome Desk and shop till. Only cashless payments will now be accepted. Visitors are recommended to wear masks during their visit although this will not be compulsory except in the shop.

It was our intention to have a Private View so that the members of both Societies could meet and exchange views but you will appreciate that in the circumstances this has not been possible at the present time.

We would like to thank Sally Shaw, the Director of Firstsite, for her support for this exhibition as well as Stuart Tulloch, Kirsty White and Lizzie Croucher in the programme team for their help in making the exhibition happen, along with technicians Tom Arnold, Iris Gunnarsdottir and Ed Bennet who installed the exhibition.

We are also grateful to all who have taken part and to those who volunteered to work at Firstsite to unwrap the work and arrange the pictures as they appear on the wall. The spirit of co-operation has been very much appreciated.

We are already looking to next year’s arrangements when the exhibition will be mounted in Ipswich. It is hoped that the Big Draw can take place in May and that Noah will be able to complete the filming. It will also give us time to create the booklet to commemorate this whole event.

Your comments about the exhibition will be most welcome. In the meantime, enjoy the exhibition and don’t forget to tell all your friends and relations; they will not want to miss it!

Best wishes,

Simon, Jude, Bryan & Stephen

24 July 2020