

Colchester Art Society

President: Simon Carter

Chairman: Bryan Whiteley

Ipswich Art Society

President: Jude Lockie

Chairman: Stephen Cassidy

“Borders”, a joint project between Colchester & Ipswich Art Society

Dear Art Society Member,

We hope that you are all managing to stay well and safe from the coronavirus.

Quite naturally many of you will be wondering what is happening to the events of this coming summer.

We have taken the inevitable decision to postpone the Big Draw at Flatford until such time as we are free to reorganise this event. That may be later this year or rescheduled for Spring 2021.

Obviously, we do not know for sure at this stage that our exhibition will be installed and open by the 18th July. However, we have adjusted our stance and in consultation with Firstsite we have taken the decision to hold a split exhibition of two equal shows at Firstsite although there may be only one Private View. This means that the final decision to hold or to reschedule the exhibition rests with Stuart and Kirsty at Firstsite.

We remain in contact with Firstsite and between our two societies so that we are ready to make decisions about the programme going forward and we will keep you informed of developments if we are unable to open in July.

The most likely outcome will be that the Ipswich exhibition will be postponed until 2021 and we will look for a suitable venue that will allow us to display all of the work. It also means that the film and the booklet, celebrating the project, will also be postponed until 2021 and will be used to promote the Ipswich show.

As artists we are blessed with a talent that can be fully employed at times like this, especially when the older ones amongst us are confined at home. It is disappointing for those of you who would prefer to paint directly from your motif but in these constrained times we can all manage something. Our project will continue and you should aim to have your work completed by the 31st May deadline and ready to submit to Firstsite in June. There will be a further update in May and at that time we will send you the submission form and details of where to send both the form and the image of your work.

Tough times do not last but tough people do so we look forward to meeting you all at Firstsite whenever our exhibition takes place.

Best wishes,

Simon, Jude, Bryan & Stephen

April 2020