



FRIENDS
OF THE
GLYNN
VIVIAN

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GLYNN VIVIAN

Newsletter Winter 2024
Cylchlythyr Gwanwyn 2024

Hello!

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Newsletter.

This season, we're delighted to bring you our Winter 2024 edition of the Friends of the Glynn Vivian newsletter—a celebration of art, creativity, and community.

As always, we encourage you to take full advantage of your membership benefits and invite others to join our growing community. Together, we can ensure that the Glynn Vivian continues to thrive as a beacon of cultural enrichment in Swansea and beyond.

Please send any feedback directly to Alice at contact@alicejonesdesignstudio.com.

If you can spare a few hours a week, we would welcome active committee members to join our team.

Please contact us directly if you would be interested in joining: friendsglynnviv@gmail.com

Wishing you a warm and joyful winter.

Alice Jones
(Editor and Designer)

Cover:
Lucia Jones, *Can't help yourself*
Oil and Acrylic on Board
5 x 7 Inches, 2024

ZENA BLACKWELL

Zena Blackwell was announced winner of the Friends BEEP 2024 prize at the Elysium Gallery, Swansea. The selector was artist Tim Davies.

Zena Blackwell is an award-winning figurative painter based in Cardiff, Wales, UK, working primarily in oil paint and exhibiting regularly both nationally and internationally. She obtained her MFA at Central Saint Martins; BA at Wimbledon School of Art and most recently completed the Turps Correspondence Course. A year after resuming her painting practice following a lengthy hiatus, Zena won first prize at the Cardiff MADE Summer Open 2017, presenting a well received first solo show there the following year. She was also awarded 3rd prize at PS Mirabel's open exhibition 'PAINT' (Manchester) in 2019. Her work is held in the permanent collection of the National Library of Wales and in many private collections globally.

Mae Zena Blackwell yn arlunydd sydd yn peintio'n ffigurol wedi'i lleoli yng Nghaerdydd, Cymru, y DU, yn gweithio'n bennaf mewn paent olew ac yn arddangos yn rheolaidd yn genedlaethol ac yn rhyngwladol, yn ogystal wedi ennill nifer o wobrau. Enillodd ei MFA yn Central Saint Martins; BA yn Ysgol Gelf Wimbledon ac yn fwyaf diweddar cwblhaodd y Cwrs Turps Correspondence Course. Flwyddyn ar ôl ailafael yn ei hymarfer peintio yn dilyn seibiant hir, enillodd Zena wobwr gyntaf yn Sioe Agored Haf MADE Caerdydd 2017, a chyflwyno arddangosfa unigol gyntaf a gafodd dderbyniad da yno'r flwyddyn ganlynol. Dyfarnwyd y 3edd wobwr iddi hefyd yn arddangosfa agored PS Mirabel, 'PAINT' (Manceinion) yn 2019. Cedwir ei gwaith yng nghasgliad parhaol Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru ac mewn llawer o gasgliadau preifat yn fyd-eang.



Zena Blackwell with her prize winning painting, *Average*, Oil on canvas 2024.

“A celebration of doomed romance, tragic events, triumphant reconciliation, love, loss and Tom Jones”

BEEP 2024

PAINTING IN A WORLD GONE MAD



Samples of artwork from the BEEP 2024 exhibition. Image courtesy of Kori Sunter.

Beep 2024 at Elysium Gallery presented a celebration of doomed romance, tragic events, triumphant reconciliation, love, loss and Tom Jones.

Over 300 artists created new work especially for this exhibition, each one responding to a song title from an old rescued 7 inch record. This year's theme 'I won't stay in a world without love' is a lyric taken from a discarded Beatles song. The opening lines "Please lock me away and don't allow the day here inside where I hide with my loneliness" set the

emotional tone for the rest of the song. It paints a picture of isolation and hopelessness, a world devoid of love in which birds sing out of tune and the speaker feels trapped and disconnected, pleading to be shut away from the outside world.

In a world of chaos where it can be utterly overwhelming processing the increasingly uncertain future of our very existence on this planet, painting can offer up a resistance to all this madness. It can present a means of reimagining the world and remind us

of what is good about life.

This exhibition created the connection between music and painting – two forms of art that shield us away from life's realities, move us deeply and 'make it good to be alone'.

Jonathan Powell 2024

The 2024 panel of judges were Nelson Diplexcito, Ann Jones and Bronwen Lewis. The joint winners of the Beep prize were:

Susan Adams and Charlotte Brisland

The BEEP exhibition of record covers is moving to Aberystwyth.

13/01/25 – 04/04/25

Ar agor | Open

**Dydd Llun-Dydd Gwener, 10yb – 5yh
Monday-Friday,
10am – 5pm**

**Am ddim | Free
Oriol Ysgol Gelf | School
of Art Gallery**

**Prifysgol Aberystwyth
University, Buarth
Mawr, Aberystwyth,
SY23 1NG**

“Gypsy Jacques are steeped in 1930s traditions and have been wowing audiences with their indelible brand of hot swing and jazz”

GYPSY JACQUES



Gypsy Jacques are a 5-piece acoustic swing jazz band from South Wales who combine traditional gypsy music and the music of Django Reinhardt with the energy of a rock band, and their own brand of mischievous humour.

Gypsy Jacques are steeped in 1930s traditions and have been wowing audiences with their indelible brand of hot swing and jazz.
- **Scott MacKay (Manager, Elysium Gallery, Swansea)**

Gypsy Jacques formed in 2023 when friends Roger Forsyth (vocals, sax, accordion), Dusty Kennedy (bass, vocals), Larry Richmond (violin), David Williams (lead guitar) and Timmy Jones (rhythm guitar) met at jam sessions in the pubs of

Swansea and discovered a shared passion for 1930s swing jazz and traditional gypsy music. They started playing open mic sessions immediately, and within a couple of months were getting gigs at venues around South Wales, including the Elysium Gallery, Swansea. The band took their name from a colloquial term for Swansea residents, who are known as "Swansea Jacks".

The band members each brought a wide range of previous experience and musical influences including: classical, traditional Irish music, folk, funk, heavy metal and punk rock; which, when combined with the soul and passion of gypsy music and 1930s jazz, has enabled the band to develop its own unique sound.

The festival kicked off in style with you guys, fantastic set and a great night - Richie Saunders (Manager, Gower Cider Festival)

To the uninitiated, Jazz can sometimes seem to be



impenetrable, old-fashioned, and take itself too seriously. However, jazz was originally meant as good-time music for the masses.

By combining virtuoso musicianship with humour and energy, Gypsy Jacques are succeeding in their mission to help a new audience discover and share their passion

for classic tunes which were written nearly a century ago; and their gigs are renowned for their party atmosphere where an ever-increasing number of fans of all ages from 18 to 80 come together to clap, sing, and dance along with the band. The band keep their performances fresh and exciting by frequent collaborations with local celebrity guest musicians including: Martin Sutton (clarinet, sax), Andy King, and Jac Bradford (guitars).

Your music is different: So lively... Can't stop dancing... Can't wait to see you again - Nadia (Fan)

Gypsy Jacques have residencies at Gin & Juice, Mumbles and Noah's Yard, Uplands. They will be spending February and March 2025 in the recording studio where they will be recording tracks for a forthcoming CD. After this brief break, they will be resuming their busy schedule of live performances and festivals, starting with a performance at Gin & Juice on 17 April 2025.

Follow Gypsy Jacques on Facebook: Gypsy Jacques

Images: Gypsy Jacques playing at Elysium (above) and Jam Jar (left). All images courtesy of Gypsy Jacques.



THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN SWANSEA

Patricia Mckenna, Ruth Ibarra, Patricia Rodríguez-Martínez Jones



Member of the Latin American community with a self portrait. Image courtesy of Patti Mckenna.

For the last few years Patricia Mckenna has had the pleasure of delivering craft workshops for the dynamic Iberian and Latin American community (ILA-WALES CIC) here in Swansea. Once a month for the past 2 years the group have met in the Glynn Vivian workshops to create, chat and make friends. Co-artist Ruth Abreo provided children's activities in the next room so that parents could really get involved in making. Aply assisted by Vivienne and Ana, the community have tried everything from hand-made books and animal-masks through to monoprints and portraits. A selection of this impressive body of work will be exhibited until January 2025.

Durante los últimos años he tenido el placer de impartir talleres de artesanía para la dinámica comunidad iberolatina (ILA-GALES) aquí en Swansea. Una vez al mes durante los últimos 2 años, el grupo se reunió en los talleres de Glyn Vivian para crear, charlar y hacer amigos. La coartista Ruth Abreo proporcionó actividades para niños en la sala de al lado para que los padres realmente pudieran involucrarse en la creación. Con la hábil ayuda de Vivienne y Ana, la comunidad ha probado de todo, desde libros hechos a mano, pinturas de animales, collages,



Collection of artworks by the Latin American community. Image courtesy of Patti Mckenna.

monoimpresiones y retratos. Una selección de este impresionante proyecto se exhibirá hasta finales de enero de 2025.

Patricia Mckenna (Lead Artist ILA-Wales CIC Creative workshops in Co-Production with GVG)

It was a great and fantastic opportunity to introduce the children in the artistic way. I love to work with children and seeing them engaged. They bring out their feelings through art techniques we used. What seems to be simple and little, turns into a great experience for them and for me.

Fue una gran y fantástica oportunidad para introducir a los niños en el camino artístico. Me encanta trabajar con niños y verlos comprometidos.

Sacan a relucir sus sentimientos a través de las técnicas artísticas que utilizamos. Lo que parece simple y pequeño, resulta ser una gran experiencia para ellos y para mí.

Ruth Ibarra (Artista, talleres creativos de ILA-WALES CIC en co-producción con la Galería Glynn Vivian)

Indeed, these last few months have been particularly creative. Both workshop leaders and participants have been working hard to produce an impressive range of art and craft which can be seen in Room 1 of the Glynn Vivian Gallery until the end of January 2025. So, come and visit the Exhibition to see the work of ILA-WALES members up close. We offer special thanks to Daniel McCabe for his fantastic support in this co-production!

Congratulations to you all! De hecho, estos últimos meses han sido especialmente creativos. Tanto las líderes de los talleres como los participantes han trabajado intensamente para producir una gama impresionante de arte y artesanía que se puede ver en la Sala 1 de la Galería Glynn Vivian hasta finales de enero de 2025. Así que animate a visitar la Exposición para apreciar de cerca las obras de l@s miembros de ILA-GALES. Agradecemos especialmente a Daniel su fantástico apoyo en esta coproducción. ¡Enhorabuena a tod@s!

Patricia Rodríguez-Martínez Jones Directora de Patrimonio y Comunicación

COME AS YOU REALLY ARE

15th February - 27th April 2025



Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, alongside award-winning artist and Spider-Man enthusiast Hetain Patel and Artangel, is delighted to present Come As You Really Are | Swansea Open 2025.

'Come As You Really Are' is open to anyone who lives, works or studies in the City & County of Swansea (SA1-SA9) and is a celebration of hobbies as a demonstration of innate creativity and a vehicle for self-expression. The exhibition will run from the 15 February - 27 April 2025.

As in previous years, the exhibition is open to disciplines from painting, sculpture, ceramics and drawing to jewellery, metal work and textiles. This year the invitation is extended to include a broader spectrum of crafts and hobbies that could include cosplay, collecting, candle making, book-binding and much more.

Whatever your passion, the Glynn Vivian want to hear from you! Please visit the gallery [website](#) for instructions on how to submit your work. The deadline is 25th January 2025. The exhibition will be curated by artist Hetain Patel with Glynn Vivian Art Gallery and input from the gallery's learning community groups.

Hetain Patel also presents work as part of the exhibition. A new film by Patel, co-commissioned by Artangel and partners, which explores the outstanding creativity and passion that people put into their hobbies, adopts the artist's trademark style of combining high-end cinematic production with scenes from the everyday, to showcase ephemeral pastimes and handcrafted objects in a visual language usually reserved for Hollywood films and luxury advertising.

Also featured in the exhibition are rarely presented objects from the Glynn Vivian's permanent collection including collections of pug snuff boxes.

LUCIA JONES



Give 'em the old razzle dazzle, Oil and Acrylic on Board, 5x7inches, 2024. Image courtesy of Lucia Jones.

Lucia Jones is a painter based in Wales. Since graduating from Falmouth University, she has exhibited globally in solo and group exhibitions including BEEP Painting Prize 2018. She has also been long listed for a number of art prizes such as John Moores 2020, Jacksons Art Prize 2022 and 2023. Her work is currently held in private collections in Australia, Austria, Hong Kong, Mexico, UK and USA.

Jones' practice explores memory and perception of self through the constructs of paint and film. Primarily utilising cinematic source imagery from obscure 1950s-90s b-movies, she addresses the intangible nature of memory and the shifting impressions of lived moments. Re-contextualising women from these sources, the paintings form a series of anonymised figures occupying

fractured and fabricated environments. Liberated from their original medium and plains of existence, they are absorbed into the painted realm developed throughout her oeuvre; their context reconstructed and their world shaped around them, they act as cyphers to the experienced - to be glimpsed and examined.

Jones is also the founder of Occupata, a curatorial service connecting artists with collectors in non-conventional art spaces.

Visit Jones' website: www.ljonesart.co.uk
Follow Jones on Instagram: [@luciajones.art](https://www.instagram.com/luciajones.art)



UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2025

TIGERS AND DRAGONS

A major exhibition co-curated with Dr. Zehra Jumabhoy, *Tigers and Dragons* will explore connections between the Indian subcontinent and Wales, looking at the iconography of both nations and how they have imagined themselves – or been imagined over the years. The show will investigate Empire's continuing legacy and its

contemporary relevance for South Asian and Welsh identity.

While this exhibition takes no sides politically – it seeks to join the dots between India and Wales, to explore imperial connections as well as probe national equivalences between the Welsh Dragon and 'Indian' Tiger. Contemporary works are seen alongside historical works drawn

from major collections, including the works dating back to the 16th century. There will also be number of special commissions including a new performance drawing from the artist Nikhil Chopra and a large-scale tapestry by the artist Adeela Suleman.

23rd May - 2nd November 2025

THINKING ABOUT PHILOSOPHY

There is often public puzzlement about the nature of Philosophy in a way that one does not find with for instance, Physics, Geography, or Chemistry. Why is this? One reason perhaps, is the very general nature of the subject and the kind of questions, some of them admittedly strange, that philosophers ask: What can we know? How should we live? Is there a God? What is the meaning of Being? Are we free? What is the meaning of a word? Questions about the nature of consciousness; about the nature of Art, the conduct of individuals or societies, and many more. A further source of perplexity is the fact that philosophers when asked what they do may give different answers, so that in the absence of a simple definition (as they might get in the case physics) the questioner may remain puzzled.

It is true that philosophy puts itself in question; asks questions about its own nature and methods. But this truth should not blind us to the considerable extent of agreement about what one is trying to do in philosophy. Furthermore, the differences between philosophers is often more a matter of approach, method, style, emphases and expression, than substance. Given the two and half thousand years of written history of the subject in the Western tradition, one should not be surprised that such differences have arisen. Rather, what is remarkable is that one can find a connecting thread of concerns which allow a pre-Socratic philosopher, such as Parmenides to speak to us still, and make his work worth investigating in our own day.

Those interested in philosophy need not therefore be concerned with definitions, even quite good ones, like; philosophy is concerned with the questions which do not have any answers, but instead find their way to it via the classic problems in the works of the great philosophers. It is a difficult subject but it would not have the interest or benefit it has, if it were otherwise. Concerning itself with fundamental questions about the existence of the world, the nature of human

existence in its personal, social and spiritual dimensions, its subject matter is profound. The questions of philosophy, or at least some of them, should interest everyone, in that we all have to live with others, make moral decisions, try to live a good life (however we understand that) and endeavour to make sense of our existence and ultimately face our own mortality.

All philosophers would accept the importance of clarity of thought and the requirements of reason; that a critical and analytical spirit needs to be fostered so we can separate good arguments from bad, the valid from the invalid and discern true from false claims. Finally, we must know too when to suspend judgement in the absence of compelling reasons for any view. There may be things we cannot know, but we may come to know what these are. Few will need reminding of the value of developing such critical faculties in the modern, complex and confusing world of 'fake news', conspiracy theories, polarised politics, and claims that we are living in a post-truth society.

In the sixties and seventies the educationalist, Paulo Freire spoke about the political disenfranchisement of those who were illiterate in the developing world along with the many other disabilities that condition engendered. Today, in the developed countries of the so-called First World, we need another kind of literacy, a political literacy to be taught as part of general education (before voting age) if any kind of meaningful democracy is to be attained. The details of such a course would require careful thought and preparation, with specific reference to the history and the political system of each country. Philosophical thinking could have an important role in framing some of the kinds of discussion that might be relevant; attending to differences between facts and opinions, belief and knowledge, persuasion and argument; the role of politicians and consideration of possible voting systems to enable the best representation, and a discussion of the duties and rights of citizens which ought to be honoured and protected.

This edition of the Newsletter was produced and designed by Alice Jones

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