



**Chairman's
Comments
Dr. Michael Rowe**

Slowly, the Gallery is moving towards normal functioning.

Private Views of exhibitions have recommenced even if they must be pre-booked and limited numbers are allowed in at any one time.

The upper gallery opening is dependent upon the availability of volunteers but the changing exhibitions downstairs are open Tuesday to Sunday and still require pre-booking through the Heritage Services website.

We do not yet know when complete freedom of access will return.

Friends' Grants

During lockdown, the Friends continued to make grants for purchases and conservation while the council budgets have been frozen and to date, around £30,000 has been given to support the Gallery in these difficult times. The Friends assisted the purchase of a Kurt Jackson painting from the successful *Biodiversity* Exhibition earlier this year. We will continue to offer help while the Council struggles to recover from the financial calamity of the pandemic.



Foxgloves and Whatnot 2017 Kurt Jackson Mixed media on wood panel, 60 x 60 cm

Heritage Services

On the last day of September Stephen Bird, Head of Heritage Services, retired following more than 30 years of service looking after the Gallery along with the Roman Baths, the Assembly Rooms and the Council archives. He has attended most of the Friends Trustees' meetings and has been an enormous support to us in so many ways and guided us through endless administrative mazes with patience and good humour.

Your committee of Trustees in return supported him at a party in the Gallery given for his friends and associates and have presented him with an Honorary Life Membership of the Friends.

We look forward to working with Stephen's replacement, Rob Campbell, who amongst other experiences oversaw the representation of Stonehenge.

Katharine Wall,
Collections
Manager,
Victoria Art
Gallery

Sickert

I recently visited the Liverpool Walker Art Gallery's exhibition *Sickert: A Life in Art*, which includes 5 works lent from our collection. It lives up to its title, tracing Sickert's entire career from beginning to end. Music hall,

Dieppe, Venice and other key themes of Sickert's work are covered – fascinatingly and comprehensively. Photographs of Sickert bring the exhibition to life, making him a vibrant presence. Our paintings are all beautifully displayed and play a significant role, with *London Street*, *Bath* the last work that visitors see as they leave. This enjoyable, informative exhibition is a pleasure to visit.



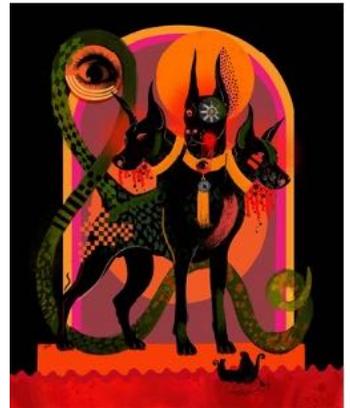
Sickert: A Life in Art. Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

Forthcoming
Exhibitions

Myths and
Monsters

Get ready for a winter full of fun, frolics and (very mild) frights, as from November 27th, to February 27th 2022, Monsters and Mythical beasts are taking over the Victoria Art Gallery. From the Gruffalo to Greek myths our family-friendly exhibition of storybook monsters in art has something for everyone.

Myths and Monsters will once again link the worlds of literature, art and myth with some of the very best (and worst) you could expect to meet. Star contributors range from Axel Scheffler to Michael Foreman, and from Cressida Cowell to Victoria Topping.



Cerberus. Victoria Topping

Williams-Ellis

To partner the above exhibition, contemporary and local ceramicist, Bronwyn Williams-Ellis has responded to the themes of mythological bestiary with lively and colourful beasts painted onto ceramic dishes. These ceramic pieces will be on display and available to purchase in the Small Gallery.



Small Black Horse. Ceramic charger Williams-Ellis.

Events Marian McNeir & Sally B Jones

Lectures

Covid restrictions have posed many difficulties for the hosting of events and we thank everyone who has supported us through all the rescheduling of the Gallery lectures.

We have been delighted to launch our Zoom Lectures with two very interesting international speakers: Pierre Vasarely joined us from Aix-En Provence to talk about his famous grandfather, Victor, and Op-Art; and Dr Agnieszka Bagińska, curator at the National Museum in Warsaw, delighted us with her lecture on Anna Bilińska, which marked the occasion of the loan of our Emmeline Deanne portrait of Anna to the National Museum in Warsaw.

Owlpen

In September, we enjoyed a visit to Owlpen Manor with a fascinating tour by the owner Sir Nicholas Mandor. The sun shone for us and the visit included a delicious lunch in Owlpen's new hospitality barn.



Christmas Party Monday 6th Dec 6-8.00pm Upper Gallery

At the time of going press we are still hopeful of hosting our Christmas Party. By popular demand we have the return of Viv's Picture Quiz. Please join us for an evening of fun, liquid refreshment and a raffle. Please email fovagevents@gmail.com stating the number of tickets you require or book by post at the address overleaf. There will be a small charge of £5 to cover costs, refundable if a change in Covid rules forces a cancellation or postponement. (See payment details overleaf)

Christmas Tree

We are hugely excited to announce that Candace Bahouth, the Somerset artist celebrated for her exuberant mosaic works, will be creating the decorations for this year's Christmas tree in the Gallery foyer. Her beautiful, decorated, mirrored icicles will be on sale for £5 each (for collection when the tree is taken down).

Christmas Gift

Are you looking for an unusual Christmas gift for an art loving family member or friend? Have you thought of a copy of one of FoVAG's images booklets?

At the beginning of the Covid lockdown, our Chairman Dr Michael Rowe decided to send twice weekly emails, describing items from the Gallery's collections, to keep Friends in touch with the Gallery. After the first 50 were published it was decided to issue them as a printed booklet. The lockdown went on longer than expected and a further 75 pictures were emailed and subsequently made into a second collection. The booklets are printed in full colour at A4 size; they can be ordered from fovagmembers@gmail.com or by post from the address below at £15 for Book One and £17.50 for Book Two (includes postage).



Images:Book Two

Payment details Christmas Party and Booklet Purchase

Payment should be made to Friends Victoria Art Gallery at NatWest Bank Sort Code 56-00-34 Account number 00254053 or by cheque to Hon Treasurer, FoVAG. 74 Cedric Road, Bath. BA1 3PB

Headline Images: Ceramic chargers by Bronwyn Ellis from forthcoming exhibition.

