

Robert says hello to you all (photo attached)

I hope you, family and friends are all keeping safe and well in these unprecedented times and are keeping active during the lock down with all sorts of creative activities that keeps the rust off the those special skills that all the tutors at Higham Hall have been teaching you over the years.

My wife Lisa and I moved recently to a new home in the country on 9 March. It has always been keen ambition of ours to have a 'country home' so, to leave the great metropolis of Leeds well behind us and to move to the conservation village of Nunnington in North Yorkshire is like a dream come true.

The new studio refit in the home is the perfect place to be thinking up new ideas and to be continuing in practice with all my expressive art techniques with different media, (pushing my own creative boundaries constantly to the max) so what I learn and discover successfully I can teach you all in future art courses at Higham Hall.

Needless to say the beautiful landscape all around us now in North Yorkshire in the Hambleton District close to the North York Moors and a stones throw away from the East Coast too is wonderfully inspirational but nothing really beats The Lake District now does it! I have plenty of Lake District mixed media paintings to finish created as demonstrations for you all at Higham Hall so, over the coming weeks I'll be sharing these with you as each and everyone gets finished and the 'how to' processes that created them also. This Coronavirus won't stop us being in touch nor keep us creative inactive - in fact, quite the reverse!

In August at Higham Hall Lionel Playford and I will be having a great joint exhibition of our joint paintings and drawings sharing the wonderful exhibition spaces around Higham Hall. So, I have something to aim at to get many finished. Lionel's work I admire greatly so it is with much enthusiasm that together we are having this join show together of our exciting paintings. If restrictions are lifted of course come August then the timing of our show could not be better places - a fresh start at Higham Hall with 'back to business' with vigour and energy, not just from our joint paintings!

There may be a 'painting challenge' or two over the coming weeks from me so you can paint along with me as it were and we can share our paintings on social media in your very own virtual gallery and share comments with each other.

Wishing all students at Higham Hall the very best in these unprecedented times. I will keep featuring a few 'sneak peaks' of the August exhibition and other creative news, hints and tips to share with you as promised and to keep you inspired too whilst working from home.

Keep safe and well everyone.

Photos: (at bottom)

The local fields at Nunnington,

The village main street

The studio at home showing Lake District mixed media paintings on the go

The studio 'sorted' (one cannot work in a mess!).

The Artist magazine and some of the drawing media that created the drawings within. I think the first one is best!

Kind regards,

Robert Dutton

The SGFA (Society of Graphic Fine Arts) Exhibition 2020

The drawing which I took away with me when teaching last at Higham Hall HAS been accepted with with two other expressive drawings for the next SGFA (Society of Graphic Fine Arts) Open Exhibition at 'The Mall Galleries' in London later in the year. No dates as yet but likely to be much later in the year, probably the Autumn. What makes this especially important and exciting is that due to these accepted works and a run of successes over the the last consecutive two years with entries, I have been invited to join as an Associate Member of this most prestigious well respected society.

The SGFA are at the forefront of promoting good solid contemporary drawing with many different and diverse styles from all its members. Several of my Lake District paintings and Northern Pennine works have caught the judges eye and in fact I won an award for one 'Best Monotone' for another Kirkstone Pass mixed media drawing.

The three new drawings accepted (with those from previous years accepted submissions) will be prominently featured in my new book which is now to be launched in November by Search Press. For more info. about that book and to pre order copies students can follow this link.

<https://rdcreative.co.uk/shop/drawing-dramatic-landscapes-publication>

Read all about it!

I have had another article printed in 'The Artist' magazine recently which features another of the drawings created with students when out and about drawing and painting at Honister Pass. It is one of my favourites and includes the use of Liquid Graphite, ink, charcoal and pastel in combination.



