

additional strand to A Rocha support. Art residencies / bursaries and Art based holidays are all part of the plan, as is an international agency to provide a market for A Rocha Artists to sell their work and for the organisation as a whole to reap some benefit". www.enviroartgallery.com

So what is Enviroart Gallery?

It is a web based showcase for artists who are in sympathy with the A Rocha vision to sell their work. It is effectively an Art agency for which A Rocha receives a commission on all sales.

Artists need encouragement like everybody else, and when one manages to sell some work it is a real spur to do more. Also, those of us who share this passion for God's creation can gain a lot from having the work of other members of the family in their homes. It all has great potential to improve the international sense of belonging within the A Rocha family.

Programme for 2008 (provisional)

Saturday 19 th April	Wildlife on the Grand Union Canal in London. A day on the A Rocha "Living waterways" floating classroom.	Cost £22.50 Contact person Grace Kimble
Saturday 14 th June.	Painting on the South downs. A day at Steyning in West Sussex, based on the Wiston estate..	Contact person Rachel Esdail Woods
Saturday 6 th and Sunday 7 th July.	A Rocha Chiltern Gateway project. A weekend hosted by St Mary' s church Lewknor. Overnight B&B available from Church family.	Contact person Jane Pendleton
Saturday August 24 th to 31 st .	A week in the Camargue. This is based at "Les Tourades" the A Rocha centre in the Vallée des Baux, Arles, Provence, France. (space is limited!)	Contact person David Coleman
Saturday 11 th and Sunday 12 th October	A weekend on the South Coast marshes hosted by David Coleman and Awbridge Parish Church in Hampshire.	Contact person David Coleman

An information sheet on each item will be produced in due course.

If you are interested in attending any of the above events please will you contact David Coleman direct on David.coleman@arocha.org or through the Centre in Southall. 13 Avenue Road, Southall, Middlesex. UB1 3BL Tel 0208574 5935.

Vvisit www.enviroartgallery.com and send us your comments on the contact page.

If you are interested in organising a further event in the North of England your help will be greatly appreciated.



A Rocha UK Art Group.



UK Reg Charity No 1089276

January 2008. Welcome to the first edition of A Rocha UKs Art Group newsletter.

Those of us in the A Rocha family who are swept up by the need to express our passion for God's world through visual art share something of John Busby's sentiments expressed in his article below. Art is about creating something, and is an expression of God given gifts which are extremely deep. Often, however, art is only seen as an end product: but in fact the process of struggling with deep emotions, to produce something that reflects this beauty is just as important if not more so.



Wigeon on a winter roost.
An oil painting by D Coleman

A Rocha Art group has emerged as artists with all degrees of ability have sought to meet together and share the journey of discovery together. With many converging reasons for doing it, the enthusiasm which has been expressed for embarking on the quest is inescapable.

Some thoughts at the A Rocha art week at Kincausie. By John Busby RSA. SWLA

On the Peterculter bridge over the Dee- a watercolour painted by John Busby



What is a drawing?

An attempt to show someone else what you can see?

A search for the unexpected - a new discovery within oneself - eye, hand and thoughts breaking new ground?

Do artists see differently?

Children play seeing games; "I spy with my little eye.....something?"

Too vague....something beginning? .(That could describe a drawing exactly).

Something beginning with.....(a clue at last!)

In the woods at Kincausie:- "something blue" "The sky"?

Yes, but not the whole sky, just the part seen through branches; the sky that belongs to the tree,and to the eyes that see it.

"I spy something beginning with M"?

The river bends through the landscape; it too is blue, reflecting the sky. Looking down it is deep brown. It runs at different speeds - slow near the left bank - fast and turbulent through the arches to the right. It carries the pressure of all those miles of gathering energy from its beginnings in the mountains.

Only a small boat house on the bank has no movement at all.

A cloud shadow rides these contours and disappears.

A heron stands motionless in the shallows, saving energy for that sudden fish-snatching stab.

Trees sway in the wind. They are growing imperceptively.

Cross winds send eddies over the surface - a counterpoint of patterns

In contrast, the slopes down to the water seem still. They were shaped by water and ice thousands of years ago, but my drawing hand traces their embedded rhythm onto the page.

M = ? Subject matter is an equation of related ideas.

Q? What did Toulouse-Lautrec mean when he exclaimed to Matisse; "At last I don't know how to draw"

John Busby 2007

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An Art workshop was offered at the A Rocha week at lee Abbey, in the Spring, and in Aberdeenshire in the Autumn of 2007. Rachel Esdaile Woods tells the story.

Visual Art as an expression of worship and as a tool for communicating the beauty of God's creation, and our relationship with Him- some reflections on the Art Workshops at Lee Abbey, and Kingcausie Estate.

We are made by God in His image as creative people, to enjoy our creativity for the display of His splendour. Visual art alongside all other forms of communication belongs at the heart of every Christ-centred worshipping community.

As a God-given powerful form of expression, it can be used individually and corporately to communicate the physical beauty of God's creation and also more abstract emotions and spiritual truths.

For the artist, the week at Lee Abbey was about exploring ways of using visual art to communicate about the beauty of God's creation. We also learned something about our participation, with Christ, in His redemptive plan for the whole of creation.

Involvement in corporate acts of creativity and worship was a new experience for many. For example, we worked together to make a giant earth with hand and foot prints, and collaged animals, birds, insects etc. to express biodiversity. (see Illustration below). Everybody involved said there was something very special about the unity of purpose and expression that was built between people through this shared creative process.

This resulting piece of art was placed underneath the Communion Table and used as part of a corporate act of intercession during the Communion Service at the end of the week. The congregation were invited to take their shoes off and walk in stocking feet, treading lightly on the earth, as they came forward to receive the Elements. It was a powerful and resonant experience for many.

The A Rocha Art Week last Autumn, based on the Kingcausie estate and linked with City Church, Aberdeen, offered further opportunities for involving people in individual and corporate creative worship.

One the Wednesday evening, City Church's mid-week "life- group" activity was given over to a presentation of the A Rocha vision. During that time creative activity focussed on a collaborative effort to produce a collage about God's creation, from Genesis Ch:1. Children, and Adults alike, were invited to make worshipful responses to the messages that came through the A Rocha presentations. John Busby used his incredible visual memory for birds and animals to help people make delightful cut out paper creatures.



Pastel Drawing of Lee Abbey Coastline by Rachel Esdaile Woods



Preparations for communion at lee Abbey Week

On the Sunday the creation story and the collage were used as a focus for the children's church. We read the Creation story slowly inviting children to respond with thoughts, ideas and facts. Wonderful insights inspired the children to make a creative response using all sorts of art materials. Their artwork was then applied to the Creation Story Collage.

Once again the shared creative process built unity of purpose and vision around the theme, encouraging worship, and also expressing something of the mark of God's creativity in us.
RJEW 2007

Some comments from those involved in the Kingcausie week.

It was very good to be invited to be part of what was happening and it was a great opportunity to meet folk from City Church and tell them a bit more about A Rocha. With more planning and organisation in advance we could have involved more people from the local A Rocha group and made the week more 'profitable' for our local efforts. I feel that the link made with City Church and individuals within it has been really worthwhile but that we could have done more to bring in other churches and individuals.

Victoria Beale

Our hosts were marvelous; a great treat to meet them and share their faith and commitment as well as their concerns for the environment under threat on their doorstep.

The City Church service was very uplifting and the way the church supported the A Rocha evening very encouraging - excellent presentation from Victoria & David, & enthusiastic participation from all ages in creativity afterwards. I am sorry I missed the final Sunday, and that I passed my cold on to David

John Busby

I enjoyed the sense of community and friendship between everyone and the lovely evening meals and hospitality of the host families. Also the beauty of the places we were in and went to. It was really good fun. John was totally inspirational.

A Robertson

And 2008 and beyond?

David Coleman says:- " My vision is for an international network of artists in the A Rocha family who can help and encourage each other. I have a deep concern for the poor, and where art offers the opportunity for individuals and impoverished communities to improve their income I am keen to develop this as an