

## ANTENNAE



Mary Follett 'Surface Shadow' woodcut/etching. Winner of the Galleries Prize 'Originals 06' at the Mall Galleries

## WORLD ART IN WALES

Eight finalists, two of them working as a team, are in the line-up for this year's edition of Wales's big biennial art prize, *Artes Mundi*. Examples of their creations, which with one exception are all videos or installations, are on show in the **National Museum and Gallery** in Cardiff. A lot has been made of the competition's global reach, which is meant to stimulate 'international debate and exchange between diverse cultures and countries.' This is a laudable aim but some of the entries seem strangely muted if not obscure. This is not the case with Sue Williams's graffiti-like paintings and sketches which she says, with surely bitter irony, expose the plight of empowered women. There are beautiful moments: Leandro Erlich's piece creates the illusion that you are walking on water and Wu Chi Tsung's *Wire* projects a deeply soothing, moon-like circle on the wall. Five judges choose the £40,000 winner, on 31 March. **CJ**

## AND STILL MORE PRIZES

And, very much a sign of the times – life-expectancy and all that – a prize targeting the older artist! Entitled '50 over 50: Celebrating Age Open Art Competition', it is billed as "the first national visual art prize for artists over 50" and carries prize money of £5,000.

Organised by Arts Council England and showing at the University of Brighton Gallery in July/August as part of the Celebrating Age Festival, the show is to be opened by another art world veteran, ACE Chairman Sir Christopher Frayling. Entries by 28 April, details at [www.50over50.org.uk](http://www.50over50.org.uk).

## FAIR REPORT

Because it comes so early in the month (6 to 9 April) this column covered the **Glasgow Art Fair** last month, though details of what a number of galleries plan to show there are covered in our feature on page 22/23. Meanwhile, much later in the month, the thriving **Chelsea Art Fair** (20 to 23 April), now in its tenth year, has an impressive list of 40 participating galleries, **Salt Gallery**, **Panter & Hall**, **Jonathan Poole**, **King's Road**, **Manya Igel**, **Contemporary Fine Art Eton**, **Lena Boyle**, **Gagliardi** and **Hollywood Road Gallery** among them. With most of the pieces in the £75–£5,000 bracket (though you can spend £50,000 on some of the more important pieces there) this is, as ever, a distinctly friendly and informal affair.

## A MAN OF MANY PARTS

There are few, if any, museum directors I can think of who can make art good enough to merit showing in their own or, for that matter, anyone else's museum but John Butler of the **Burton Museum and Art Gallery** is unquestionably one of them. Art school trained (a rare qualification in itself), his vigorous and sharply observed painted wood-carvings of the human condition, which have recently been winning awards, are currently being toured by Graphicus and come to his own museum on 22 April. Just overlapping in fact with the Robin Wiggins show there previewed in this month's *Thumbnails* (p18).

## ARTISTS FOR ARTBUST

A new organisation for artists, **Artbust**, has recently contacted us in a call for artists to participate in their next project, to take place

this June and entitled 'Notions of Drawing'. A collective of some 65 artists, based in an ex-industrial site on the Copeland Industrial Estate in Peckham Rye and with the use of an exhibition space within the site, they are under the largely voluntary administrative care of a dynamic Berliner Joe Bohne who, by use of the internet, has big plans to grow this project as far and fast as possible. Meanwhile the collective is opening this new project to non-resident artists. They'll need to apply by 30 April: full details on [www.artbust.co.uk](http://www.artbust.co.uk). A report later in the summer.

## SCOTTISH CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthdays to two of Scotland's longer established galleries: the **Riverside** at Stonehaven on the Aberdeenshire coast is celebrating its 25th while **Broughton** down in the Borders mark the beginning of their next 30 years in business . . .

## SOMETHING OF A MENACE

When the Duke of Edinburgh opened the new Cartoon Museum in Little Russell Street WC1 a few weeks back, an alert photographer caught him taking a long, hard look (of recognition?) at John Patrick Reynolds' visually arresting screenprint of Dennis the Menace which forms part of curator Anita O'Brien's lively and eclectic opening display that ranges from James Gillray to Steve Bell. Reynolds is making quite a thing of his Comic Art Prints, sold not only from the Museum's shop but at, among others, **f-art Gallery**, **Modern Artists** and **Fairfax** (in Tunbridge Wells). Further info on [www.thecomixartwebsite.com](http://www.thecomixartwebsite.com). What a hoot! ■

Dennis and the Duke . . . photo © Getty

