

PRESS RELEASE

FORTY YEARS ON NEWPORT 2024 EXHIBITION

AT NEWPORT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
JOHN FROST SQUARE, NEWPORT

FEBRUARY 3RD TO JUNE 1ST

I want to bring to your attention a really exciting and totally unique Arts project. To my knowledge, this is a first on this scale and to this standard.

It has involved curating a fascinating show, bringing together for the first time in forty years, a large and diverse group of my fellow students and staff from the Internationally renowned Newport College of Art.

The exhibition was due to take place in 2020 but the Covid Pandemic had other ideas! This was followed by a period of closure due to building work at the Museum but finally here we are in 2024.

There are 36 exhibitors in total with work ranging from animation to sculpture.

The majority of us graduated in 1980. The show will look at how Art school training and experience at Newport enriched our lives over these past forty years and led us in many different and exciting directions.

Each of us has submitted a piece of work which represents what we are about, what we have done, and are still doing, with our lives.

There is an exhibition booklet of the 36 exhibitors and their assembled biographies, to give visitors fascinating insights into what each of us has achieved and how our early beginnings at Newport have influenced our way in the world.

We have an animator, Graham Bebbington who left college to work at Siriol in Cardiff on the animation series SuperTed. Since then he has been a special effects artist on many well known movies including Disney's Fantasia and the Warner Brothers film Space Jam. Graham worked on the 1982 film The Snowman and in 2012 The Snowman and The Snowdog, two movies thirty years apart!

Julia Wolton began her career working with young people at The Winchester Project in 1981. After 30 years of being dedicated to helping youngsters in very challenging situations, she became the London Regional Development Manager of the Brathay Trust. She led a team of twenty two people delivering frontline, targeted, youth-work and a range of gang-intervention programmes across London.

Since February 2012 Julia has been a Consultant with 'Mobilise' in London, a social purpose business created to reshape the relationship between citizens and their public services.

Bari Goddard left college and in London, formed his own band, 'KNIVES'. He was a vocalist with Then Jerico and he toured the world playing major venues. He sang with Jimmy Sommerville of The Communards and supported David Bowie in Paris. Bari has performed with Madonna and is now a successful photographer and filmmaker who has exhibited work at The Louvre.

Cathy Cooper is an award-winning travel photographer who has taken her cameras trekking in the Himalayas, got up close and personal to bears catching salmon in British Columbia, kayaked in the Arctic Ocean and flown along glaciers in The Yukon. Cathy has a love and passion for her subjects and she has reached a very high standard of achievement with work being shown in prestigious London galleries.

We have a superb maker of Welsh Stick Chairs in Philip Cumpstone and highly successful photographers who trained at Newport. As a cohort, we have spread out far and wide with a painter in Norway and a photographer on the West coast of Ireland.

Tutors involved include the well known writer Gillian Clarke who was the National Poet of Wales from 2008 to 2016, world famous sculptor David Petersen who worked on the sets for the epic movie '2001 A Space Odyssey' and created the dragon memorial at Memetz Wood, and the one that tops the National Museum building in Cardiff. Professor Gerda Roper who is one of our finest painters here in Wales and who is also a very distinguished Art Educationalist. We will also be featuring work in special tributes to tutors Terry Ilott and Philip Muirden who sadly passed away in March 2019 and February 2023 respectively.

Dr. Peter Wakelin a highly respected writer on art and a curator of notable exhibitions has kindly agreed to speak at the opening.

The exhibition will run from
3rd February to 1st June 2024.

I hope this project will be of interest to you and also the wider public. It would be wonderful if we could encourage the youngsters of Newport to go and engage with this project. I would be very happy to provide you with more details and imagery.

Very best wishes
Neil Carroll
Exhibition Curator

Contact: Neiljamescarrollartist@gmail.com

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Graham Bebbington
Newport College of Art
1976 – 1979

Graham Bebbington

As a freelance animator and supervisor, Graham has gained vast experience in animation. He specialises in 2D effects animation and has become world renowned in the field, moving from FX specialist on the 1980s TV series SuperTed in Cardiff to an FX supervisor on Space Jam in London (Premier Films for Warner Brothers) to being recruited as a journeyman animator on Fantasia 2000 for Walt Disney Feature Animation in Los Angeles.

He has been credited on films by Walt Disney (LA and Paris), Warner Brothers, Amblimation (Now Dreamworks), Fox Pictures, Richard Williams Animation, Film Four Productions and Columbia Pictures. He has also worked on TV series, TV shorts and title sequences for TVC, Sirlol Animation, Grand Slamm Animation, Passion Pictures, Nexus Productions, Tandem Films and Lupus Films, among others.

In 2012 he was invited to animate on The Snowman and the Snowdog 30 years after working on the original Snowman, and 36 years after starting his degree in Graphic Design at Newport College of Art in 1976.

‘Newport gave me the space to explore a new world of art. The College showed me different ways of seeing through drawing, painting, photography, calligraphy, typography and, more importantly for me, the moving image. Excellent tutors and a group of very creative and supportive students during the three years there gave me the passion, curiosity and perseverance to pursue my dream.’

‘In a highly specialized industry, Graham is a professional of rare ability’, John Leatherbarrow (Premier Films)

‘His extraordinary abilities and dedication really impressed me’, Uli Meyer (Uli Meyer Features)

‘Graham displayed a rare talent and uniqueness of vision’, Ian Cook (Warner Brothers Feature Animation UK Ltd)

Examples of his work can be seen on:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/Bebbingtoons>

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Cathy Cooper

Cathy is an award winning travel photographer. She has taken her cameras trekking in the Himalaya; through swamps of rotting salmon in British Columbia; kayaking in the Arctic Ocean and flying along glaciers in the Yukon.

In 1968, she left home at the age of sixteen to study Fashion and Textiles at Newport College of Art and four years later got a job at Strads International, a clothing manufacturer in Caerphilly, as assistant to the Designer/Pattern Cutter.

She always had a camera with her during her college days and one of her images of Woody aka Joe Strummer at a student party has been included in music magazines and books.

Cathy eventually moved to London in 1973, freelanced for the National Film School and then embarked on a long career in broadcasting, first at London Weekend Television and finally as Head of Music at GMTV.

After retirement in 2011, she resumed her passion for photography and enrolled on a two year course at her local college.

Since then, she has travelled the world. Her images have been published extensively in newspapers, magazine articles, books and on websites, and exhibited in many galleries.

Cathy also loves photographing a travelling circus and has an exhibition every year in the Big Top of Zippos Circus.

In 2019 she had her first solo show – Life Through a Lens: 60 Years with my cameras – at Orleans House Stables Gallery in Twickenham.

“Newport College of Art set me on a path of creativity. It made me strong and resilient, and open to every challenge on the way. It also ignited my love for photography and added a new dimension to my later life”

<https://cathycooper.photography>

Cathy Cooper



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Bari Goddard

Once upon a time there was an ugly little Welsh boy who wanted to sing beautiful songs and create beautiful images but sadly, he was told he could only do one because that was the way of the world .. so he thought about this for a while and came to the only conclusion he was happy with - 'I will show them all'.

After leaving Newport in 1980 with a BA in Graphic Design I drifted through various design and arts jobs all the while persevering with my love of music until 1983 when I moved to London and joined my first 'real' band 'KNIVES'. From then until I 'retired' from music in 1996 I sang, performed and appeared with artists as varied as Jimmy Somerville, Cliff Richard,



Then Jerico, Banderas, Horse, Sex Gang Children, Madonna, Southern Death Cult, The Cure and Scary Thieves. Highlights included supporting Bowie in Paris in 1994, performing at the premiere of Pedro Almodovars 'High Heels' in London in 1991 and spontaneous unannounced appearances doing backing vocals for Lily Savage as her 'chav' nephew Stu Savage whilst Jimmy Somerville in drag performed as her 'slut' neice Jessie Savage.

I was continually painting and drawing through these years and exploiting every aspect of the hedonistic lifestyle that being in a Rock band offered. Exhibitions in London, Paris and Madrid, followed but on leaving my music career after a gruelling 10 month world tour I decided I wanted to try something else creatively, something that demanded a discipline I had never really been capable of - Photography.

So in 2005 I bought a camera, attempted to read a book on photography and, in my naivety and arrogance, promptly disregarded it and thought 'I can do that'. A vast learning curve followed, rejection after rejection as regards exhibitions for years until in 2012 when I was given my first solo show in East London at an Anarchist Newspaper collective.

Since then I have been lucky enough to have exhibited worldwide in the most amazing cities and galleries, one of the highlights being part of a group show at The Louvre, Paris in Summer 2015.

I am currently collating work for my next solo exhibition The Dress in London February 2024.

Recent photographic exhibitions include :

The Dress solo exhibition London February 2024.

13 Group Exhibition, Groznan Croatia 2021.

Resident or Visitor exhibition Athens Greece 2020.

A Portrait in Isolation exhibition London 2020.

52 Years of Pride exhibition London 2020.

13 Group Exhibition, Groznan Croatia 2019.

13 Group Exhibition, Koprivnica Croatia 2019.

13 Group Exhibition, Lauderdale House, London 2019.

13 Group Exhibition, Lauderdale House, London 2018.

13 Group Exhibition, Split Croatia 2018.

13 Group Exhibition, Lauderdale House, London 2017.

Solo exhibition The Sponza Palace, Dubrovnik 2017.

Ode To Life Festival, Montenegro 2017.

13 Group Exhibition, Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in London 2017.

Solo exhibition Dubrovnik Antique Gallery, Dubrovnik 2016.

Solo exhibitions Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in London 2015 and 2016.

The Louvre, Paris 2015.

Cave Gallery, London 2015.

www.flickr.com/photos/g_o_d_photography

www.instagram.com/godphotography

Email - god.photography@gmail.com

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Julia Wolton

We have Julia Wolton who began her career with The Winchester Project from 1981 – 1989.

There she was a Project worker which involved working with young offenders, Residentials – National & International, Youth & Community Work.

Julia became a Senior Youth Worker with Warehouse Youth Club & Profile Youth Clubs in the London Borough of Camden from 1989 to 1996. She was responsible for all aspects of management and the development of Youth Clubs in the Kentish Town Area where Julia created youth-led, performance-based projects “Rap’s New Generation” and “One Step Ahead”.

She was the Producer of a film with gang-affected young people entitled “As the City Sleeps” exploring the issues facing young black people in London including racism in schools; death in custody; rap music; fashion and the importance of Islam. (Winner of National Youth Arts Award 1995)

Julia ran Profile and Warehouse Youth Clubs delivering arts based programmes to gang affected young people from across London.

She then became Brixton Town Centre Team Leader from September 2002 – September 2008. Julia’s role was Management of the statutory sector Youth & Play sites in Brixton including Youth; Detached & Play teams.

She Produced a film with young people called “Pirates of Coldharbour”, and also a Channel 4 Documentary “Not one of the gang”.

Julia designed, delivered and raised all external funding for the X-it (Gang Intervention) Programme (Winner of The Guardian Public Sector for Services to Children Award 2007); “X-it Online” (National Winner of “Actions Speak Louder than Words” Award 2007) (2005 – 2008)

She became London Regional Development Manager of the Brathay Trust from October 2008 – February 2012, there Julia led a team of twenty two people delivering frontline, targeted youth work and a range of gang intervention programmes across London. Since February 2012 Julia has been a Consultant with Mobilise, a social purpose business created to reshape the relationship between citizens and their public services.



Julia Wolton