



# NEWSLETTER

Friends of Harlow Sculpture and the Gibberd Gallery

Number 32

Winter 2019

## This year's Open - for this time only, the Open Open!

This year's Open will be completely different from our usual exhibition. It is designed to celebrate the launch of a new and improved sculpture map that will make it easy for users to design their own tours. A new Sculpture Town app and website will follow in autumn 2019.

Kate Harding, the Artistic Director of Harlow Art Trust explains:

Where something is placed always has an enormous impact on how we perceive it. The site of each of our 90 public sculptures is just as important as the thing itself. Imagine if Henry Moore's Family Group was in your back garden, rather than the foyer of the Civic Centre. As a post-war new town, Harlow itself was also meticulously planned by Sir Frederick Gibberd. The Open Open is about intervening in this environment and seeing it afresh.

Entrants should make a temporary creative intervention somewhere in Harlow, take a photo, and send it via email to the gallery. The intervention could be a painting, a sculpture, an object or something that defies easy

categorisation: the important thing is to think outside the box. The submitted photographs will be printed and curated to demonstrate the breadth of creativity that the town can inspire.

A special guest panel of independent judges will award prizes to the four best submissions at the opening of the exhibition on Saturday 27th April. Prizes are generously sponsored by Astro Lighting, a lighting design company that has been based in Harlow for over two decades. The Gibberd Gallery will run a programme of free tours that look afresh at Harlow's sculptures and their sites for the duration of the exhibition.

These activities form part of Harlow Art Trust's 2019 Access Harlow Sculpture Town project, supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Entrants to the Open Open exhibition should visit:  
[www.gibberdgallery.co.uk/  
openopen](http://www.gibberdgallery.co.uk/openopen) for the full brief, FAQs, and conditions of entry.



Raffle Prize  
Winner;  
Mary Brown.

The winning ticket for our latest raffle prize 'Beer Cans' by Martin Leggett was drawn by Cedric Christie at his Private view on 24th January, and was won by Mary Brown. The next raffle will be announced soon.

## Harlow Art Trust launches ambitious new Sculpture Project

In 2019 the National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund (formerly HLF) will be funding repairs to some of our most at-risk open air sculptures.

We are now looking to build a new team of Guardians that will be champions for these pieces. Our Guardians will tell the stories of the artists who created the sculptures, learn conservation skills and enable all ages to discover more about how and why the works came to Harlow.

No previous art knowledge is needed and training is all part of the programme. There are many opportunities for you to be involved for only a day, a few hours, or to make a regular commitment. Contact the Gallery for information regarding the training.

Here is your chance to take part in building and shaping our public art.  
Catherine Mummery

# COLOUR HAS NO WORDS

Cedric Christie's solo exhibition, 24th January – 6th April 2019



Cedric Christie is One Of Our Own, and this is the first in a series of exhibitions showcasing the extraordinary talents of Harlow-born artists.

Christie's practice is predominantly sculpture, exploring a broad range of cultural and art historical references, often using humour and irony as subtle vehicles of communication. Colour Has No Words is a solo exhibition of new and developing work exploring the question that underpins his practice: what is colour?

Related events include 'Dinner Over Art' on Thursday 21st February. 6.30 to 9 pm

Come along and join Cedric and talk about art over dinner. Catering is provided, tickets are £3.00. Buy on line at [www.gibberdgallery.co.uk](http://www.gibberdgallery.co.uk) or get your tickets at the door.

## Future events

**Dinner over Art:** Thursday 21st February 6.30 to 9pm £3. Tickets from the Gallery.

**Film of Harlow sculptures** when newly installed: Screening Saturday 23rd February. Free at the Gallery

**Introduction to Sculpture Conservation:** Saturday 23rd March at 2pm. Free at the Gallery - drop in.

**Chess Club with Cedric Christie:** Saturday 30th March 1-4pm, with refreshments. Free .

**Open Open** Private View Saturday 27th April: The four winning entries will be announced at this event.

You will hear more about these events soon.

## Cultural Tours 2019

The dates for our Cultural Tours of the Sculptures have been arranged for this summer season. The dates are as follows:

Thursday 25th April, May 30th, June 27th, July 18th,, August 22nd, ending on September 19th.

We have had to increase the charge for the tours as many other costs have also risen, but at £35.00 per person they are still good value for a good day out. This year we will be including the Museum Gardens as well as our new happy sculpture.

We will also be arranging special tours at various times for other groups coming to Harlow for the day or even local groups for just half a day.

If you would like to join us in hosting the tours, or even to book one, do please contact us by email at Friends of Harlow Sculpture and Gibberd Gallery.

Jenny Lushington



# Sculpture Town Artist in Residence, Paloma Proudfoot

The artist residencies are awarded to recently graduated MA students from the Royal College of Art, supported by Harlow Art Trust, Pearsons, Public Monuments and Sculpture, ACAVA studios and Harlow College, to produce work which relates to their experiences of the Town and its community. Paloma was drawn to examples of local Metropolitanware in Harlow's Museum, made in the 17th century for the domestic market in London. The distinctive dark brown body of the earthenware with its honey-coloured glazed

squiggles is a decorative motif used in the poster design for her show. The Museum kindly lent some of these ceramics for the display.

Shown alongside her own sculptural pieces were works by Harlow College art students utilising mould-making



techniques and painted claywork made by primary school children.

She included wall paintings from a fellow artist, Saelia Aparicio, to explore the theme of attraction/repulsion, organic references to the 'magnetic' plan of the Victorian reformer, Ebenezer Howard, the founder of the Garden City movement.

Based on his diagram, her own clover-leaf structure was used as a show table for the children's brightly coloured pottery.

The third resident, Camille Yvert, will be in residence in 2019. She is pictured here with her predecessors Finn and Paloma.

It will be interesting to see what our future artistic generation will make of the Town and its environment in their responses to it.

## A re-appraisal of Elizabeth Frink (1930-93)

Although Elizabeth Frink died twenty six years ago, her work has been shown several times recently. Following the exhibition at the Heoung Gallery in Downing College, Cambridge, the major retrospective 'Humans and Other Animals' at the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia, Norwich, is a wonderful celebration of her life and work (closes February 24).

The larger bronzes, borrowed from the Ingram and the Tate collections, particularly the colossal heads, are truly impressive, as are the malignant and harbinger birds set against the Surrealist sculptures of Germaine Richier and Louise Bourgeois (both influential in Frink's art). The video of crows in the background, by Douglas Gordon, adds to the predatory atmosphere.

In West Walk we have the bronze sculpture of Frink, portrayed when a student by her tutor F.E McWilliam at Chelsea School of Art, showing the craggy expressive surfaces which would influence her future working methods. (His 'Help' of 1977 sited at St John's ARC was created as a tribute to

the Women's Peace Movement of Ireland). Frink's works often provoke a feeling of unease and anticipation. As a child living by the airfields of Suffolk she witnessed air raids and crashes. The themes of falling, flying and running stayed with her.

The Boar, one of her earliest public works, was commissioned in 1957 by Sir Frederick Gibberd for Harlow. It stands leaning in mid-flight or charge in the Water Gardens' pond. She also produced the crucified Christ for the altar of Gibberd's Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool in 1960.

She continued to take on church and cathedral commissions, culminating in 1992's Risen Christ for the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool.

A supporter of Amnesty and a life-long pacifist, Dame Elizabeth Frink is an internationally recognised sculptor, who has kept the figurative tradition alive in her own personal and distinctive style. Lin Hilton



# JENNY LUSHINGTON AND THE MAGIC JUMPING BEAN

Early in October I needed to collect some pills from the new Chemists at Staple Tye. As I walked towards the shop I was surprised to see a tall white thing on the corner of the path. I looked and then burst out laughing, all on my own and feeling a bit silly.

Harlow's newest sculpture is covered in smiles – perhaps I should say full of smiles and smiles are catching. I had caught one that wouldn't go away - it stayed with me into the shop and out again, and to this day everyone I have met by the MJB has been wearing a smile.

On Friday 19th October the new Lister House Health Centre was officially opened. A tall young man was showing the MJB to an older lady. Liz was already there and thought he was the sculptor, so I went and spoke to him and he was,

He was smiling and so was the lady (his Mum) and after talking to him I realised his intention all along was to generate and pass on smiles and a bit of fun and happiness and he had succeeded.

Why MJB? Timothy Shutter, the sculptor, had been inspired by the shape and action of the magic jumping bean toys that children love - their ability to almost balance upright before tumbling over.

Made of white Portland stone the sculpture fits in perfectly with the size, colour and design of the new building. But the beans also resemble capsules that contain medicine to make us better.

These little pills are all happy smiling faces – some with a secret smile, some looking up and some looking down, some with big beautiful teeth (there is a dental practice in the Health Centre too) but all generating and passing on their smiles.

I am sure all the people working in the building start their day with a smile and enjoy their sculpture. Just yesterday I was there again and saw one of the Centre's



staff washing the area with clean water. She had a lovely smile on her face and said the MJB made her feel happy. She loved it and so do I. A really lovely fun sculpture to join the rest of Harlow's collection. May it generate smiles and happiness for many years to come.  
Thank you Timothy.

Jenny Lushington

## MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE.

Membership costs £12.00 for Adults or £10.00 for students and unwaged or £20.00 for organizations.

Name ..... type of membership: £ ..... Date .....

Address ..... Post code .....

Telephone ..... Mobile ..... Email .....

Please make cheque payable to Friends of Harlow Sculpture and Gibberd Gallery, (FoHSGG) and forward to: -  
**The Membership Secretary, FoHSGG, The Gibberd Gallery, Civic Centre, The Water Gardens, Harlow, Essex. CM20 1WG.** Cash payments can be made in person at the Gallery desk.