



Art Week Exeter

22–28 May 2018

The Lonely Arts Column: First Dates are in!

For 2018, Art Week Exeter (AWE; 22–28 May) has organised its own dating service, bringing business together with artists to check out what chemistry develops. The aim is to investigate what a business looks for when it chooses what to put on its walls, what it wants to say about the business and the people working there and, frankly, who makes the decision and how much they can spend. Then we want to understand why it is so many artists don't actively engage with their local businesses: what's the fear factor, is there a kind of snobbery around exhibiting art in a business context?

Six businesses and nine artists stepped up to the plate for the project and you can view the chemistry in person during Art Week 2018. Here they are:

1. The Hotel and Artist Z:

Artist Z said:

“Most of my art is in a graffiti spray paint medium most are made with the use of hand designed and cut stencil format with abstract backgrounds on canvas giving the work a modern urban art feel each piece unique. The use of pastel colours is commonly used on all pieces with free flowing lines and shapes which always gives the eyes plenty to enjoy.”

The Hotel said:

“I think that Artist Z would have great appeal with the bold colours and also Artist Y would have additional appeal as their art is locally specific. In terms of the art work we are able to display – as we are a hotel with a wide clientele base we wouldn't be able to display nudity or anything too controversial.”

View work by Lewis Prints at Jury's Inn, every day during AWE between 9am – 6pm
Western Way, Exeter EX1 2DB

Fully wheelchair accessible and central location. The hotel has a drop off point where people can park for 20 minutes alternatively there is the Triangle Car Park at the rear of the hotel (pay & display £1.10 for up to an hour).

2. The Lighting Consultant and Artist Y

Artist Y said:

“I have been travelling all my life and I record my journeys in sketches and paintings. In this exhibition, I will explore how myth and reality can coincide within the same landscape. With work from different times and places in my life, from Dartmoor and the Exe Estuary to the deserts of Australia, these paintings convey the sense of place and the mystery that we can find there.”

The Lighting Consultant said:

“Artist Y seems to work a bit better for us at a company in that, we at Amos love to ‘support local’ and so appreciated the beauty of this work which not only brings to life the magic of the area in which we live and work but also interesting places around the world. At Amos, we create special and beautiful places with light, while the artist has showcased special places and made them beautiful through his/her sketches and paintings.”

View work by Naomi Hart at Amos Lighting, Dart’s Farm 25th – 28th May between 9am – 5pm

Launch party 7pm on Thursday 24th May with artist’s discussion!

6 Darts Business Park, Topsham EX3 0QH

Limited parking in front, overflow parking at Dart’s farm, bus stop. Paintings on two floors (note first floor only accessible by stairs).

3. The Dentist and Artists X and R (Artist R is also dating The Estate Agent – cheeky!)

Artist X said:

“I am originally from Hong Kong, MA Fine Art graduate from Chelsea College of Arts, University of the arts London. I see making art as a way to communicate with others, through messages and expression. I started with painting, but I also like to experiment with found objects, clay and video. My works are my own life experiences, introspection, interconnectedness between our consumption patterns and environment. I capture my thoughts in everyday life, the ideal and reality while on the path of finding true happiness. Expressing the contradiction on consumerism, love of nature & environmental concerns, I link different ideas from my travels and living. I also like to collect items that are used in our everyday consumption and turn them into an art medium. Extending the original intended use of the item and bringing it a new life. Promoting the idea of reusing and recycling.”

The Dentist said:

“I prefer Artist X because of the simple nature of the pictures and calming colours, same for artist R. For us personally we try to keep our colours calm and avoid reds especially.”

View the works of Winnie Chan and Stella Tripp at Inspired Dental Care throughout AWE at the following times: Tuesday 22nd May 8:30am - 5pm / Wednesday 23rd May 10am - 7pm / Thursday 24th May 8:30am - 5pm / Friday 25th May 8:30am - 2:30pm

246 High Street, Exeter EX4 3NZ

Entrance next to McGaheys Tobacconist and coffee hatch, buses into the high street, train to Exeter Central or city centre car parking. The Dentist is on 3rd floor with lift access.

4. The Solicitor and Artist V

Artist V said:

“These portraits form part of a series titled 8 1/2 Women, which was originally conceived as an exhibition for a cinema (hence the title, which references both Fellini and Greenaway) and so I wanted it to reflect both my love of movies and of portraiture. Each of the images, each of the women in a way, represents for me a different 'genre' yet somehow they all speak to the same overall vision. All the subjects were friends or friends of friends. Interestingly the only one who was also a 'real' model is the one who we see the least of in the images, she's the 1/2 in the title. That wasn't something planned but it just happened that way.

Though I took them a number of years ago now it's always interesting to for me to see them exhibited again because they remind me so strongly of who I was then and so, just as in a strange way they are all united in their diversity, so in a sense each one is a self portrait.”

The Solicitor said:

“Artist Z may be the Banksie of Ballerinas and a reclining Bowie but we have a surfeit of graffiti West of Exe already...

Artist Y had a delightful date with us in 2017 and we would welcome a re-view if she would...

Artist X understands our deep love of text and appreciates detail as well as floating our socially responsible corporate boat.

Artist S hmmm... we may share the LGBT+ love but there the compatibility ends.

Artists R T & W - it just ain't gonna work out between us - we are already pretty busy but your work is busier.

We love the direct female gaze returning ours as captured by Artist V in these portraits. The cropped out stare above the demi-nostrils and lips is just as evident as if it were included in the image. The woman without the pearl earring is no girl. The windswept smoker with upturned collar has no need of anyone's approval as she draws hard on her nicotine fix. These women have a great deal to say about a great many subjects. We would love to get to know them better.”

View the work of Ben Borley at Cartridges Solicitors from 21st May throughout Art Week on the following dates: Tuesday 22nd May 7.30 am- 5pm, Wednesday 23rd May 9am -5pm, Thursday 24th May 9am -7pm, Friday 25th May 8am-5pm, bank holiday weekend to be confirmed – please check with venue.

Private view and launch with artist 5pm Tuesday 22nd May.

Directions: on foot stroll down Fore Street and grunge through Exeter's graffiti tunnels to emerge blinking on the funkier west side of the city or mosey northwards past haven banks or over the big blue suspension bridge on Exeter Quay to gritty St Thomas, still proudly resisting gentrification. Cyclists download the Biklio app to find our spot. See <https://www.biklio.com/> Free parking right outside for 30 mins but please linger longer to enjoy the funky ambience of our independent neighbouring businesses with a lavish free 90 mins in the Cowick St or Exe Bridge precincts. The Solicitor is a member of Exeter Dementia Action Alliance so our reception gallery space is fully dementia-friendly and parking is right outside for completely level access.

5. The Financial Manager and Artist T

Artist T said:

“As for me and my work, all I can say is that I'm a local artist and am absolutely in love with nature, especially the local wildlife, and incorporate that into my bright, colourful, modern pieces of art, which includes acrylic and watercolour canvases, as well as stylish home ornaments made from glass and hand painted for that extra detail. Whenever I have any free time away from being a full time chef, I put it into my artwork.”

The Financial Manager said:

“We have literally no wall space; our new offices are all glass so we’re looking for something a little different and preferably 3D. There’s a strong and quirky connection in the Company to wildlife (we even have one of the Paignton Zoo Charity Rhinos in our reception area) so Artist T seems a natural fit.”

View the work of Nicola Hendry at Cathedral Financial Management’s new offices at a special launch reception on Wednesday 23rd May between 5-8pm.

Ground Floor, Eagle House, 1 Babbage Way, Exeter Science Park, Exeter EX5 2FN. Parking available on notice – contact the venue on 01392 211800 or via website www.cfmltd.co.uk

6. The Estate Agent and Artist R

Artist R said:

“I live in Exeter – pretty close to my place of birth: Taunton in Somerset. But I travelled the long way round – via Israel, Portsmouth, London, and America - making and exhibiting work in all those places, as well as holding many exhibitions here in the south west. Since childhood I have used art to try to understand the world; to explore the nature of reality, both gentle and brutal: the fragility of the world and our engagement with it. The process of creating is important to me: an engagement with the physical sensuality of materials: the alchemy of transformation.”

The Estate Agent said:

“The sense of adventure and playfulness in Artist R’s work attracted us. Also his/her work could almost read as mapping space, which has an obvious appeal to our business. We will be emailing our 14,000 clients to invite them to view the work during Art Week.”

View Stella Tripp’s work at Wilkinson Grant from 22nd to 26th May between 9am and 6pm.

The Old City Library, 1 Castle Street, Exeter EX4 3PT – please use the front door. Disabled parking outside the building and several car parks nearby. Note: there are steps up to the front door (no lift or ramp).

Make a tour of all venues and tell us what you think using #AWExeter #ExeterLonelyArts @ArtWeekExeter

Are you responsible for a business? Tell us what you think of the selection, which artist works for you and why?