

EARLY SUMMER EXHIBITION 'Colour and Clay'

6 - 9 June 2008 Open 10am - 5pm
except Saturday when we are open 10am - 7pm

Louise Darby - ceramics & photography, Blake & Janette Mackinnon - ceramic jewellery
Sarah Simpson - oil paintings, Annie Williams - watercolours & etchings
Music by the 'Dali Guitar Quartet' 5 - 7 Saturday evening

At Clay Barn, Redhill, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6NQ
4 miles west of Stratford-upon-Avon on the A46 behind The Stag Pub



Louise Darby – ceramics and photography. Louise celebrates 30 years as a professional potter this year, 25 of those at Clay Barn. Over those years the once disused and tumble down farm building has become this exciting exhibition venue, and Louise's work space for her all-round artistic development. She is joined for this exhibition by four artists new to Clay Barn. Together their work explores - 'Colour' in form, shape, texture and pattern – and 'Clay' as material or subject matter and inspiration. All their work is characterised by the challenge and value of technique, attention to detail, the fine quality of materials used and the finish achieved.

Blake and Janette Mackinnon – ceramic jewellery. Both trained at art school in London, Blake in ceramics and jewellery at Central School and Janette in ceramics at Croydon College. Their joint involvement in ceramic jewellery came about from a fascination with beads, tiny natural forms, shells, beetles, crystals, and an interest in the small precise products of the electro-porcelain industry. It was as a result of playfully decorating a few small alumina tubes that this extraordinary collection of miniature forms and colours emerged, developing a variety of ways of making ceramic beads, and decorating with a colourful range of glazes, enamels and lustres. They have collaborated with The Royal Academy of London for an exhibition of Picasso ceramics in 1998 and again in 2002 for the Chinese Buddhist Art Exhibition. Their work is durable, comfortable, and beautiful.



Sarah Simpson – oil paintings. Sarah studied in Liverpool and London, completing a BA Honours Degree in Fine Art Painting at Chelsea College of Art. Her professional life involved working as an illustrator, before specialising in restoring antique ceramics. Perhaps it was this latter career that leads her to depict ceramic vessels in many of her paintings. In 1998 she returned to her own painting, working from her home in Croydon. She works on canvas with oils, building layers, creating depths and voluptuous three-dimensional qualities in her partially abstracted subjects – from landscape to flowers and objects, ranging from subtle tones to vibrant colours, playing with perspective and dimensions. Her work has "a hint of narrative, a kind of still life with a glimpse of memory, sometimes an air of mystery, of feelings, and of dreams".

Annie Williams – watercolours & etchings. Annie's watercolours are of day-to-day objects, playing with shape, pattern, and colour built up in layers, exploring new ways of seeing what is in front of her. Backgrounds are often based on pages from magazines or sections of old paintings, altered until they are fairly abstract. The etchings are developed from her paintings or relevant drawings but on a smaller scale. They are worked entirely in aquatint - a technique of etching copper with acid to produce the effect of watercolour, and then printed in sepia, before Annie hand-colours with watercolour washes - picking out chosen areas, subtly introducing colour to a flower or vessels. The effect of light and the grouping of the objects are central to the success of her work, she 'captures' reflections and shadows.



The Dali Guitar Quartet, are playing on Saturday evening, 5pm – 7pm.

The quartet was formed three years ago, exploring a diverse repertoire of contemporary music for classical guitar, Latin pieces and percussive elements influenced by drumming. Colleen Billington, Lorenzo Frigerio, Jon Harries and Karen Knott form the quartet. They perform at Festivals including Chipping Norton and Leamington Spa, and charity concerts. Colleen said "we will be playing some of the lighter arrangements in our repertoire, including some Latin and percussive pieces during the Saturday evening of the Clay Barn exhibition".

We do hope that you will be able to come along, meet the artists, and enjoy this welcoming venue.

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