

FROM THE CHAIR



Gail Wareham, GSA and new Chair of the Fine Art Committee (FAC)

“ The Guild Weekend is always an enjoyable event – lots of networking with like minded people (many of whom are now very dear friends) along with the various planned events and fabulous food we get presented to us. However, this year has had a distinct twist for me, as I have been involved in a lot more of the background set up due to taking the position of Chair with the Fine Art Committee at the beginning of this year.

There is a huge amount of work that goes into presenting the Guild Artists Exhibition, not to mention the set up of the various Workshops that go on during the weekend, and of course, the highlight for

everyone, The Master’s Dinner. The Fine Art Committee worked like a well oiled machine this year, and the Exhibition preview, presented in the reception room next to the Ballroom, was put together on the Saturday morning and thanks to teamwork the set up was finished in plenty of time before it was presented to the public at lunchtime.

Of course, this year has also followed on from a previous year of twists and turns, as I found myself on the receiving end of the Best In Show award in 2018, and subsequently, my artwork has been prominently displayed on the posters for the Guild Artists Exhibition 2019, alongside the many hundreds of catalogues that were produced and distributed during the event itself.

Winning the Best In Show award was not only a huge surprise for me (as I think it was for this years deserving winner, Silvia Boev AGSA), but I consider it to be a huge honour. I found it was a way to market my art business in a way that I had never thought about in previous years. It has allowed me access into doorways that would

previously have been closed to me. Also, as a tangible, touchable thing, the award has certainly created a talking point in my Gallery and Teaching Studio, and I find that once people realise that the award was presented by the Fine Art Trade Guild, it helps to cement peoples view of the standard of my work, along with the standard of my teaching.

It was a thrill to be at the Guild Weekend in the capacity of Chair this year. I could see the anticipation building throughout the day – from the set up of the Guild Artists Exhibition early on the Saturday morning and at the Artists Forum which was attended by around 20 of our artists. The Mayor of Stratford topped off our excitement by officially opening the event, and I think that if you were there, you can say the same as me – what a weekend! Is it next year yet? Can’t wait to do it all again... so if you missed out this year, be sure to come along to Stratford for the Guild Weekend 2020. See you there. ”

To learn more about Gail and her art business visit her website www.gailwareham.com



Gail Wareham, Peter Hayton and Mayor, Kate Rolfe



GSA members, Sarah Jane Brown, Gordon King, Tiffany Budd