

our art website: <http://www.kalitheafreeuk.com>  
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## SUMMER SOLSTICE - EDITION #2

21<sup>st</sup> June 2021



"I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,  
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,  
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine."

William Shakespeare - 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

With summer here at long last, we welcome you to the  
Summer Solstice edition of our Newsletter.

### Exhibition time again

Perhaps, like us, you were wondering if our British weather would ever cheer up; but here we are on the longest day of the year and the sun broke through the gloom this week. (Although - as I write - I've just had to put a thicker shirt on!)

Doubts, too, about whether we'd be able to go ahead with our annual 'open studio' art exhibition have been cleared up and we are now fully compliant with government Covid-19 regulations for visitors to our garden studio.



This year there are fifty-five artists and makers opening their studios all over the Forest of Dean and Severnside.

Here's the link to the week-long event - you'll find us in *Studio 12*.

[www.faropen.co.uk](http://www.faropen.co.uk)

The event is entirely free for all to come and look at what we've all been getting up to over the past year (or two years in this case) - taking advantage of lockdown to devote a little extra time to our artistic pursuits.

There are no admission charges and you just drop in during each studio's opening times.



Here's the link to our own opening times:

<http://www.kalitheafreeuk.com/artnews.htm>

Drinks and nibbles too, of course! So if you can make it, we'd love to see you here.

### New work - from Carmen

In addition to painting, I've been busy as ever making frames and designing a range of greetings cards, postcards and decorative gift bags for the 'gift shop' aspect of this year's show - more on that in a minute.

I'll be showing my latest water-themed works together with earlier work we haven't shown before. Our regular walks at Cannop Ponds - one of the Forest's beautiful amenities - with a camera round my neck has inspired me to add waterfowl to my

pictures as you will see. The large ponds are well stocked with mallards and the exotic mandarins. (Just as an 'aside' the Japanese, Koreans and Vietnamese see the pair of birds - which mate for life - as a symbol of love of devoted couples.)

So here are two examples of the originals I'll be showing this year. Both are painted in oils (my favourite medium as you've probably noticed!)

The picture of the riverside in the autumn dusk is of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire and was painted by me some years ago and is being shown for the first time.

There'll be a selection of my greetings cards where I have chosen works by me and Stuart. The cards are blank on the inside so can be used for any occasion.

There will also be some attractively decorated gift bags. These lovely bags which have long been accumulating in the back of a cupboard, with the good intention of re-using one day, have now been given a new lease of life, with selected images of our artwork.

So now with our studio's re-fit nearing completion and all the exhibits selected, arranged, labelled and listed we're almost there!



A devoted pair of Mandarin ducks at Cannop



Bourton-on-the-Water



Our cards - in all shapes, subjects and sizes

## New work - from Stuart

You may recall from our last newsletter that I've been working on gouache portraits and they form the bulk of my pictures in the exhibition.

I've been asked about the style I've been using. I'm not sure it has a generic name but a style similar to it became popular way back in the Sixties with what became known as 'pop art'. Actually what I do is not exactly 'pop art' but is an adaptation of that genus. I use blocks of light and shade rather than line-drawing or the more traditional blending of colours and shades.

Of course, painting portraits of well-known or famous people is dependant upon original photographs - after all, the subject is either dead or not prepared to sit for hours for next-to-nothing just to suit me!

So photographs it is; and there is a wealth of imagery available if you know where to look.

All visual art is a form of interpretation, imitation and copying and so that's what I do: I copy pictures of people in my own style.

### What about a portrait of you, your daughter or son, grandchild, wife, or parent...?

Well yes, **I am taking commissions** to paint unique head-and-shoulders portraits in monochrome of anyone.

Now, in case you're thinking that the photograph has to be professional studio quality, let me disabuse you of that notion. Any picture (in any setting or background) provided it is well lit and shows facial details faithfully will do the job.

### How do I get a bespoke portrait painted and what does it cost?

It's very straightforward.

1. Just send me (ideally) two or three pictures (JPG or any common picture file format) of the person you want painted. Send files as an attachment to an email.
2. I'll choose the image that I think will work best, crop it to show you how the layout will look.
3. If you agree the price I'll go ahead.

### Price of personal, bespoke portrait prints.

I'm trying to keep the cost as low as I can - (bear in mind it takes two or three days to paint each picture) - so, delivered by post - for you to get framed yourself - £120. Or, fully framed, delivered and ready-to-hang £175. (Look at bespoke portraiture on the web and I think you'll find these are pretty fair prices.)

So, if you're interested in a quotation, email me with 2 or 3 pictures and I'll get back to you.

[kalihea@freeuk.com](mailto:kalihea@freeuk.com)

### An example of a personal, bespoke portrait...



The original photo of a five-year-old sent in by her parents.



Finished monochrome painted portrait print shown in a blue mount (size approximately A4 plus mount/frame)

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### Other portraits...





All these are available as prints, either mounted only and delivered... £45  
Or framed, delivered and ready-to-hang... £65.

See/order these and more on our website  
<http://www.kalitheafreeuk.com>



So for now we wish you well, have a happy summer, look after your health and, even if you can't get to our exhibition, follow and love the ART!

Till next time...

Carmen & Stuart

