
Summer Edition!

Exciting news and updates from The Art Yard Gallery.



Words by **Stan**, Pictures by **Forbes** on July 2025

Welcome to the new edition of The Art Yard newsletter. As always there is a great deal to report. If you want to find out about any of the specific events and activities we have planned, go to our website. You should also head that way if you're interested in joining us as a volunteer. You can be sure we will give you a warm welcome and regular cups of tea and coffee! Why not pop in, have a look around and chat with one of our resident artists or volunteers?

Email: infoartyard@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.mfaa.co.uk/contact>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theartyard/>



THIS EDITION'S
TOP STORIES

Congratulations!



Words by [Stan](#), Pictures by [Forbes](#) on July 2025

Our Resident artist, Martyn Harris, recently had a portrait, entitled 'Memories', accepted for the Herbert Smith Freehills Portrait Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, in London . The portrait of Gillian, our oldest volunteer at TAY, certainly caught the eye of the judge and Martyn won one of the three major prizes for his work. One unexpected

outcome of the competition was that Gillian, Martyn and Harry, were invited to go along to The National Portrait Gallery to see the work.

The exhibition runs from 10th July until 12th October. So if you find yourself in London in the next couple of months why not pop and have a look.

The National Portrait Gallery:

<https://www.npg.org.uk/>

Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer Portrait Award 2025:

<https://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/exhibitions/2025/hsfk-portrait-award/prize-winners>

Gillian's big trip to London:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DMJNKX1IMku/?igsh=YzMwejd4dmlqOTB5>



Working in the Community - Bulls in the City



Words by [Stan](#), Pictures by [Forbes](#) on July 2025

Earlier last month two of our artists, Mark and Natashaia, were involved in a community project in Birmingham, working with disadvantaged children. The project, organised by the 4 Community Trust, provided the opportunity for the children to design and paint their own bull, as part of a much bigger, Birmingham and The Black Country, project. You may have seen on BBC local news recently a 'gathering' of the bulls on Central Station Birmingham. It is hoped that the bulls will go on display in a variety of community venues including TAY. We'll keep you posted on the date.

Bulls in the City Project 2025:

<https://bullsinthecity.co.uk/>



.....

PoArtry - Creative Partnerships



Words by **Stan**, Pictures by **Forbes** on July 2025

Our PoArtry group goes from strength to strength. Currently we have over 30 poets regularly attending our bi-monthly meetings. In May we launched an exciting new pilot project. Can you imagine what a poet and an artist might produce, working collaboratively, when asked to create a shared representation of an idea or object? Well, that's the challenge we have set for those involved. The hope is that we will be able to present the work created in September/October. The next step after the pilot project will be to look for funding for a larger collaborative project.

PoArtry at The Art Yard:

<https://www.mfaa.co.uk/poartry>



Artist in Focus - Gerry Stokes



Words by **Stan**, Pictures by **Forbes** on July 2025

In this edition of the TAY newsletter we are featuring the work of one of our Volunteer artists -Gerry Stokes. Gerry generates work of high quality using a variety of different media. One of his recent works, submitted for an RBSA competition, gained a 'highly commended' award. Gerry enjoys working in charcoal, but as you can see from the images below, his paintings demonstrate his creative abilities and artistic skills. You can contact Gerry through our website, There are normally examples of Gerry's work on show in most of our monthly gallery exhibitions.

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/stokesgerry_art/



.....

New Classes

Learn to Paint!

Words by [Stan](#), Pictures by [Forbes](#) on July 2025

If you are a regular peruser of our Facebook page, you will have seen the range of groups and classes we offer here at TAY. Recently we have started two new classes both aimed at 'beginners' exploring watercolour and the use of acrylic paint. On top of that we continue to offer classes and groups - including life classes, portraiture, an art club, and needle felting.

Art Sessions at The Art Yard:

<https://www.mfaa.co.uk/art-classes>



.....

Monthly Exhibitions at TAY



Words by **Stan**, Pictures by **Forbes** on July 2025

Don't forget to tell people about the monthly exhibitions of art and crafts we hold at TAY. One of the key objectives in setting up TAY, was to give local artists the opportunity to exhibit their work. It is also important to remember that we welcome contributions from individuals with a variety of skills and experience.

You can find details on submissions and hanging fees on our website.

The Art Yard Exhibitions:

<https://www.mfaa.co.uk/exhibitions>



Other Events & Activities

For up to date information on all of our events and activities please visit our website and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



The Art Yard Gallery & Studios
19 - 20 Upper High St
Cradley Heath
B64 5HX
01384 910968