

CHASE

FEATURE

Art

for art's sake

LEIGH DE VRIES of ROAR (Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance) meets artists who are contributing to a fascinating exhibition in the heart of Rotherham.

THROUGHOUT human history, art has proven to be a powerful tool that can stimulate our minds, challenge our perspectives, and evoke emotions we didn't even know we had.

Whether it's through paintings, sculptures, music, or literature, the arts have a unique ability to transform and enrich the human experience.

The impact of art goes far beyond mere entertainment, as it has the power to connect people from different backgrounds, inspire creativity, and foster empathy and understanding.

ROAR, a non-profit organisation based in Westgate Chambers in Rotherham town centre, are committed to harnessing this power by promoting and supporting the arts and creative practices in our town.

They believe that creativity is a fundamental human right and a key to inspiring change.

Through their innovative and inclusive grassroots projects, they strive to engage the community and transform the cultural life of the town through creative expression.

One of ROAR's exciting initiatives is the thirdspace gallery at Rotherham Market, a vibrant and dynamic creative hub that provides a platform for local and regional artists to showcase their work and connect with the community.

The gallery hosts a range of workshops, exhibitions, and events that cater to various interests, from visual art to music, poetry, and photography.

ROAR's latest exhibition, Curiosities, at thirdspace gallery, features the unique and unconventional works of our talented Rotherham artists Amanda Daley (Minx Designs), Chris Bilton, Margaret Hall, Ken Horne, Alan Jackson (CuSi Sounds), and Lombutroup.

We spent some time getting to know each of the artists and their distinctive pieces in this interesting exhibition that guarantees to leave you mesmerised, featuring eccentric sculptures, mind-bending paintings, and thought-provoking installations.

If you're looking for a thought-provoking and immersive art experience in Rotherham, the Curiosities exhibition at the thirdspace gallery is not to be missed. Take some time to explore the works of these talented local artists and discover the power of creativity to inspire, connect, and transform.

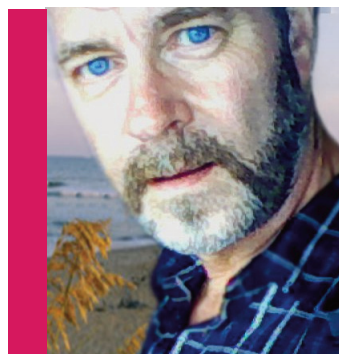
Located at Unit 50-51, Rotherham Market S65 1EL, from May 9 to June 2.

ROAR invites you to join them for the grand opening on May 13 from 10am to 2pm, free of charge. Guests can enjoy drinks, snacks, and an interactive creative workshop suitable for all ages.

So why not take a trip to Rotherham Market and immerse yourself in the creativity and inspiration of the thirdspace gallery?

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MEET THE ARTISTS #1: Chris Bilton

Chris Bilton is a multi-talented artist whose expertise spans across various mediums, including oils, watercolour, acrylic, pencil, pen and ink, pastels, film, photoshop, collages, abstract and fine art. Chris's works often capture the essence of his surroundings, particularly woodland views and countryside collages, which evoke a sense of calmness and tranquillity.

Chris's skills extend beyond traditional art forms, as he is also a skilled sculptor who works with a range of materials such as stone, wood, metal, and mixed media. His pieces have been sold worldwide, showcasing their ability to connect with diverse audiences across the globe.

With a 1:1 BA in English Literature and Theatre Studies, Chris is qualified to teach and mentor in the written word. As a published writer, Chris has written short stories, novelettes, poetry, and 12 plays that have been performed professionally on stage.

His diverse range of experiences and expertise provide a unique perspective that informs their approach to art-making.

Chris's submission to the exhibition is a testament to his interest in contemporary art and his ability to perceive the world in a unique way.

Artist links:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/biltonwords

Instagram: www.instagram.com/chrisbiltonart



MEET THE ARTISTS #2: Minx Designs

Amanda 'Minx' Design is a self-taught mixed media and textile artist who has a deep love for fabrics and embellishments. She enjoys integrating these materials with recycled and repurposed objects to create unique pieces of art.

Over the years, Amanda has been committed to learning new skills and techniques in different mediums, which has helped her to develop and grow her work.

Amanda's work serves as a form of protest against the political and social injustices that impact people's lives on a daily basis. She is motivated by the desire to make a difference and hopes that her pieces will spark discussion and dialogue. For Amanda, if her work makes people stop and think, then she is satisfied.

Amanda's submission to the exhibition is a series of wire sculptures entitled "The Bride, The Bridesmaid, and Queen of Bloody Everything!" These mini sculptures incorporate recycled and found objects, as well as embroidery and weaving.

Amanda thoroughly enjoys the process of creating these sculptures and loves to see how they evolve as she works on them.

Artist links:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MinxDesignsUK





MEET THE ARTISTS #3: CuSi Sound (Alan Jackson)

You might have read about Cusi Sound in last month's Chase Magazine feature. Alan Jackson started the CuSi Sound project with the aim of building DIY synthesiser modules, noise boxes, and effects units. His ultimate goal was to create electronic music using these devices.

Alan decided to share his journey through the world of DIY synths with a global audience via the CuSi Sound YouTube channel. He has since attracted a large following of enthusiasts who share his passion for experimental electronic music.

The focal point of the CuSi Sound project is the development of the Project XII modular synthesiser and the Modular Nights live studio performances. However, Alan has also embarked on side projects that take a more comprehensive approach to electronic music devices.

CuSi Sound's submission to the 'Curiosities' exhibition features three pieces that follow a common Victorian inventor theme. The Audio Generator Mk1 is a noise box that comprises a voltage-controlled oscillator, a low-frequency oscillator, an amplifier, and a speaker. The Stepping Sequence Control is used to play four-note sequences on the Audio Generator Mk1. The third piece, the Bug Jar, houses a dual oscillator and amplifier with a small speaker. The concept is based on the 'dead bug' technique of building electronic circuits by soldering components directly to the legs of silicon chips, resembling dead bugs. Turning the controls on the top of the jar can produce bug-like chirps and squeaks.

The CuSi Sound project is an ongoing venture, and Alan invites others to join him on his exciting journey through the world of experimental electronic music.

Artist links:

Youtube: www.youtube.com/@CuSiSound

Instagram: www.instagram.com/cusi.modular/

Bandcamp: <https://cusisound.bandcamp.com/>

Handle: @CuSiSound



MEET THE ARTISTS #4: Margaret Hall Fine Art

Margaret Hall is a self-taught artist who has dedicated her life to painting and drawing. Her preferred medium is acrylic, and

she enjoys painting local landscapes of the Dales and the Lake District, as well as scenes from Queensland, Australia in gouache.

Margaret's artistic interests are not limited to landscapes, however; she also creates story pictures and abstracts.

She is actively involved with several artists' groups and has exhibited her work extensively throughout West and South Yorkshire, both solo and as part of a group.

Margaret also serves as the chairman of the Barnsley and District Art Society, where she encourages the local community to engage with their creative side.

Margaret's submission to the 'Curiosities' exhibition features four pieces that showcase her artistic range. The first is a mixed media drawing of a hawk moth, providing a close-up view of the intriguing creature. The second piece reinterprets the Greek myth of Medusa by depicting her as a modern middle-aged woman with snake hair, painted using watercolour and pencil. The third piece is an acrylic painting inspired by a microscope photo of the T killer cell, an essential part of the body's defence against cancer. Finally, Margaret's acrylic painting portrays a young dragon nervously exploring the world beyond its mother's protection.

Margaret's artwork celebrates the natural world's beauty, evoking a sense of wonder and awe in the viewer. Her work invites people to join her on a journey of discovery and creativity.

Artist links:

Web: www.margarethallfineart.com



MEET THE ARTISTS #5: Ken Horne

Ken is an artist who shuns the airs and graces of pretentious hyperbole. He prefers to describe his work simply as "cobbling stuff together". However, if pressed further, he will acknowledge that he uses contrasting textures and materials to create works that convey a message and meaning. And, in the process of doing so, he finds great amusement.

Ken's creative process is a fascinating one. He takes seemingly disparate objects and textures, which to some may seem like discarded remnants of a forgotten era, and combines them in a way that brings them to life in new and exciting ways. His work is a testament to his ingenuity, resourcefulness, and the endless possibilities of art.

One can imagine Ken huddled over his workbench, lost in thought as he surveys the pieces that lay before him. His hands deftly move from one object to the next, carefully considering how each element can be incorporated into his creation. He is a master of layering, building depth and complexity into his pieces that invite the viewer to explore and uncover their hidden depths.

In Ken's world, every object has a story to tell, and he is a masterful storyteller. Through his work, he is able to imbue seemingly mundane objects with new life and meaning. His pieces challenge us to see the world in a different way, to look beyond the surface and to find beauty in the unexpected.

