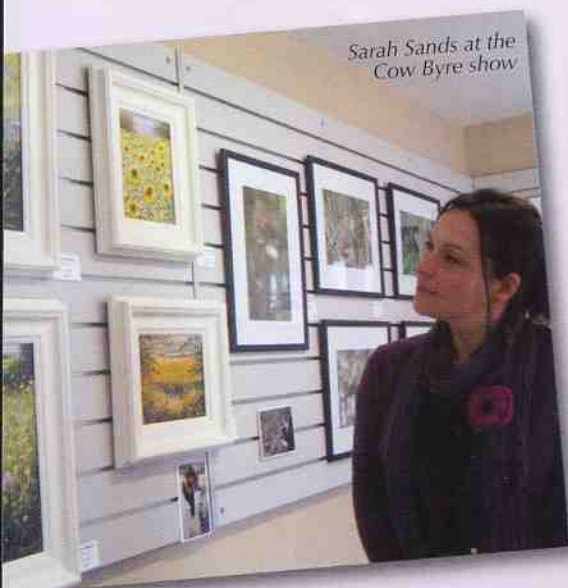




Watford Area Arts Forum



Zooming ahead with a change of focus



Sarah Sands at the Cow Byre show

Adding a second string to her artistic bow has proved extremely rewarding for Watford artist Sarah Sands.

Sarah was already known and admired for her paintings, when she met (and married) wildlife photographer, Andy Sands, and decided to "have a go" at photography.

Her eye for a picture has won her several awards, but the ultimate proof of her talent is now touring the country as part of the British Wildlife Photography Awards show. Sarah's image, *Hanging On*, was runner-up in the Coastal Marine Section.

Possibly influenced by her new-found interest in nature, Sarah also seems to focus more on nature, when she picks up her brush and palette. Her latest work is a wonderful

wildflower meadow, commissioned for College Lake Nature Reserve at Tring Reservoir. The work will be used as a sign for visitors with labels added with names of animals and plants.

The Wildlife Trust, who commissioned the picture liked it so much, Sarah offered the original for the wall in a brand new visitors' centre due to open this spring.

"Sadly when the lady came to pick up the artwork, she reported the bad news that the new building has been destroyed by fire and is now in the process of being rebuilt," said Sarah, when we met at the Cow Byre, where she was taking part in the annual Octavia Art Society show.

But the sign will be on show at College Lake Nature Reserve. For how to get there visit www.bbwt.org.uk



Hanging On - touring the country



Wildflower Meadow - before birds and plants have been labeled for visitor information at College Lake Nature Reserve.

Print ahoy - new role for old star

by John Horsfield

What do a Victorian mangle, a film star and an old Albion press have in common?

The answer lies in an exciting new project, Printmakingafloat, that Lucy and Ben Curnow will be launching later this year.

Lucy, a lecturer at West Herts College, will be offering short courses in a wide range of traditional and contemporary printmaking techniques.

The studio will be their barge, Banstead, which was the star of the 1964 film comedy *The Bargee* starring Harry H Corbett and Eric Sykes.

Ben and Lucy are currently restoring a beautiful 1866 Albion printing press and turning the Victorian mangle into an etching press.

The floating studio at Kings Langley will provide local printmakers with both a much needed studio space and a lovely location in which to work.

*For more information contact mail@printmakingafloat.co.uk or, coming soon, visit www.printmakingafloat.co.uk



The Bargee Movie Old VHS Cover and New DVD Cover, sadly no longer showing the boat!



Banstead 2006



Jodi scales the heights at The Harlequin

Grelle White meets versatile artist, Jodi Phillips, on her way up - the Harlequin escalator

As an artist Jodi Phillips hit a professional high when she was commissioned by the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi to paint ten large pictures for their head offices in London.

About to scale new heights with her first big solo show, at the Harlequin gallery in Watford, Jodi admits she is a great deal more nervous about personal exposure on such a large scale.

"But also very excited. I like to paint big pictures and the Harlequin gallery is a great space to show large canvasses," said the artist, whose work also includes limited edition prints, big and small prints on canvas and paper, printed textiles - and mugs!

The original painting, which features on Jodi's flyer for the Harlequin show, was in Germany, when we met back in March. It had been selected for a new range of art posters by a German company. The original will be back in time for the Harlequin exhibition, Jodi assured us.

The show marks a special milestone for Jodi, who lives at Leverstock Green, where she has a large studio complete with her own giclee printworks.

After working as a graphic designer for 12 years, Jodi decided to turn to Fine Arts full time. She and her

husband, Mish, set up a business with support from the Prince's Trust. Jodi is the creative partner. Mish does the marketing. This year is the family firm's tenth anniversary!

The partnership works. Like most artists, Jodi is almost painfully shy about her creative work. Mish is probably her most ardent admirer and fan. They are both passionate about art.

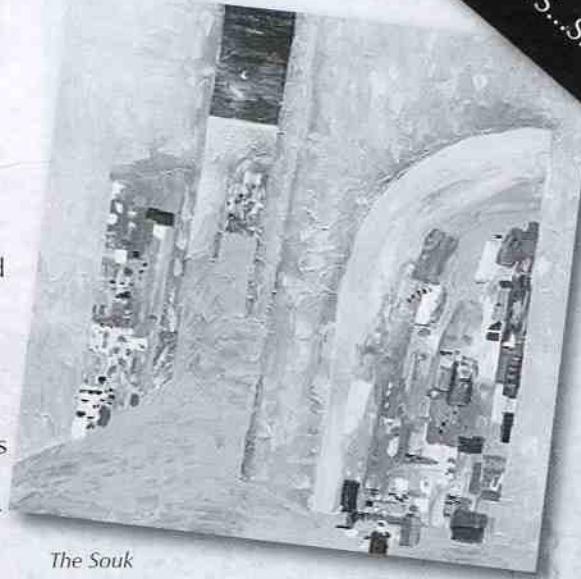
"Our motto is 'Art is for life'. Art raises your spirits and I'm not precious about my work. I like to see it on everyday things such as cushions and mugs and clothes," said Jodi.

Both Mish and the couple's daughter, Ameira, love their painted jeans from a range, Jodi painted a couple of years ago.

"All my paintings are inspired by moods and created with passion," said Jodi, admitting that she has a fairly low boredom threshold and likes to experiment in different media and styles. She has created a small collection of sculpture, has done interior designs and occasionally gives technical demonstrations at art fairs.

All her limited prints are hand embellished.

"Everything I make is 100 percent by me. I like being in control," she smiles.



The Souk
Limited Edition Hand Embellished Print

So much so, she has just built her own website. As well as reflecting her work and personality exactly the way, she wants it, it has the added advantages: "I can change and things whenever I want."

She has also got a "sale" slot, but believes most people still prefer to see the real thing before buying, hence the importance of the Harlequin show, which Mish has arranged in groups ranging from original to inexpensive prints. "Art for all" style.

*Jodi's exhibition at The Harlequin opens on April 17 and continues until April 23. For more information visit www.jodiphillips.com or email sales@jodiphillips.com



Exhibition Flyer



American Smooth
Open Edition Canvas Print



Long Island
Open Edition Poster Print



WAAF Open Summer Exhibition

The annual WAAF Open Summer Exhibition at the Harlequin takes place from July to July 18. Entry forms and rules will be circulated to members and can also be downloaded from www.watfordareaartsforum.com. For further details contact exhibition co-ordinator Evelyn Row on 01442 242618 or email evelyn.row@btinternet.com



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