

Artists Turning Against Torture

Auction

28 November - 13 December 2020



In aid of the charity **Freedom from Torture** the South East London FFT Support Group have undertaken to raise awareness, raise money and stimulate an artistic response to the pressures that are felt by those who have survived torture and are trying to heal and recover.

Freedom from Torture stands with torture survivors, providing therapy, legal and welfare support and is fighting for change.

This is especially important now in these difficult times.

Woodturning is a speciality of one of our group. Michael Maisey, a member of the Worshipful Company of Turners, has created 25 beautiful pieces that have been given to local artists, with a brief to decorate them as they wish. Bringing together outstanding art with extraordinary craftsmanship has resulted in a unique collection of superb pieces - a rare achievement.

These pieces are being auctioned in order to support the needs of those being helped by **Freedom from Torture**.

The auction will take place online from
28 November until **13 December 2020**



Here are the results along with the artists' comments.

ITEM 1

Meg Dinkeldein

28cm Vase
Oil Paint



Title: 'Wisteria Vase'

'I have always had a keen interest in painting flowers from life, and cascading Wisteria is such a beautiful subject - a symbol of springtime and renewal.'

My Instagram account is 'mdinkeldein' where some of my work is shown.

ITEM 2

Hannah Hansell

36cm Platter
Eggshell and
Acrylic Paint



Title – Murmurs

Murmurs is the initiation of a new body of work exploring the patterns of my immediate environment through gestural mark-making and abstraction. Recording domestic and architectural surfaces, patterns and nuances the work uses materials in my immediate environment such as household paints, marker pens, homemade stencils and the accidental nature of mark making.

Previous work and contact details can be found at www.hwestwood.com (website soon to be updated as this new body of work develops)

ITEM 3

Margaret Higginson

23cm

Natural bowl

Acrylic paint



Title: 'Peckers'

" It was many months of me looking at the bowl trying out different ideas in my head and struggling with it until I finally understood that with the natural bark so thickly left on the outside I could perch a Woodpecker sideways as if on the trunk of the tree. The bulge of the bowl I used to fill out the shape of a flapping wing. The woodpeckers are both European and North American species and I so enjoyed painting them."

www.margarethigginson.com

Title: 'After the Wave'

Hokusai's 'The Great Wave Off Kanagawa' has always been an inspiring piece of artwork for me due to its representation of the sublimity of nature. When I painted my interpretation of his piece it symbolised my anticipation of the dreaded second wave of the coronavirus, a major natural disaster, after the distressing first wave, which we are all now awfully familiar with. Furthermore, the continuity and roundness of the pot signifies, for me, the possibility of the pandemic as never-ending, repeatedly crashing back down on us like waves.

Please feel free to take a look at my photography on my website:

videre.london

Poppy turned the wooden piece as well as painting it. She won first prize for a 'school section' at the Worshipful company of Turners Armistice day exhibition and donated the £100 prize money to Freedom from Torture.

ITEM 4

Poppy Maisey

15cm Pencil case

Acrylic paint



ITEM 5

David Webb

28cm Platter
Acrylic paint



Title : Untitled (red and white bowl)

David Webb is a painter based in Deptford, London. He has exhibited widely in the UK and internationally, including the Jerwood Painting and Drawing Prizes and the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Public collections in the U.K. include The Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge and The National Library of Wales.

<http://www.davidwebbpaintings.co.uk>



ITEM 6

Penny Matheson

20cm Small Vase
Oil Paint



Title : 'Spring'

Penny's practice can be divided into Ancient and Modern. Modern are text work and photographs from her Central St Martins days a decade or so ago; Ancient means more traditional: watercolours and oils, principally flowers because she loves them. They are so beautiful. But also chickens because ,rarely beautiful, they are equally varied and often rather funny. If you want to see more of her work, her website is pennymatheson.com The flowers on the vase are a selection of spring flowers from her garden as they appeared.



ITEM 7

Graham High

20cm Urn



Title: The ivy and the Urn

I'm a member of the Royal Society of Sculptors since 1994, and practice as a sculptor as much as a painter. My response to the contours of Mike's lovely wood-turned 'urn' was a 3D one; I had the idea of ivy following the shape of the urn as it might have done the original tree from which the piece was turned. In this way I thought it would be nice to engage wood with wood; reduction with accretion. Whilst scouring the Norfolk countryside for dry 'seasoned' ivy that actually fitted the contours of the turned wood I enjoyed the conceptual aspects that I felt could be brought to the piece, - ideas about artifice and nature and the contrast of pure and random form. I was thinking also of the traditional symbolic aspects of the urn as a receptacle of life-giving water as well as its use as a vessel for funeral ashes: a reminder of life, death and regeneration. I thought it was interesting to make an intervention that implied the passage of time.

I might add that the ivy part of the artefact is completely desiccated and is quite strong, Even the couple of remaining leaves that venture into the surrounding space are stable and shouldn't break with 'normal usage'.



ITEM 8

Chris Moody

23cm Dish

Gouache on Gesso



Title: 'Imperator' (gouache on gesso ground).

The badly eroded statue of George II at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich is usually neglected in favour of the vista to the Queen's House and Observatory but I have always loved it as a rare English example of the sort of baroque statuary you see much more frequently elsewhere in Europe. So I gave it the central place in my composition with Wren's domes acknowledging it on either side. The airship clouds and shadows are meant to give it a de Chirico flavour.

www.chrismoodypart.com.

ITEM 9

Annette Johnson

13cm Vase

Oil Paint



Title: 'Snowdrops are strong'

Annette, who now lives in Blackheath, started painting whilst living in Boston and has since studied at Sir John Cass College of art, and etching at Morley College. She works as a full time painter/printmaker and runs workshops and painting classes.

www.annettejohnson1@btinternet.com

ITEM 10

Frances Prokofiev

18cm Ash Dish

Oil Paint



Title: 'Tribute Bowl' (decoration of a bowl made of ash wood)

I have painted this bowl as a tribute to the Common Ash (*Fraxinus Excelsior*) which is threatened by Ash Dieback disease that will bring about the loss of at least 75% of the ash trees in this country and is a worldwide threat. In the last few years I have been documenting the ash trees in the area around our barn in Norfolk where we spend part of our time. I want to understand and draw or express the effect that Ash Dieback disease is having on the trees themselves as well as trying to get an understanding of how the landscape will be changed.

It is important that we understand what we are going to lose. For this reason I have also been simply looking at and making artwork about the visual characteristics of the ash. its compound leaves (see the base of the Tribute Bowl); the generous curving habit of its branches which lift up at their end; its pale grey bark which looks silver against a blue sky and the way the smooth trunk of young ash trees becomes deeply engraved in a diamond-like pattern as it ages.

This project is tinged with sadness; it is impossible not to express feelings about loss. This project is a huge one and I expect to continue it for some time. In a broader sense it touches on the ecological state of the world today and the vulnerability of our over-populated world.

ITEM 11

Linda Romano

13cm Small Pot

Gilding



Title: 'I Am Not Broken'

A borrow from the Japanese art of Kintsugi, repairing broken pottery with precious metal. Kintsugi treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object rather than a way of disguising damage.

Linda Romano is a mixed media artist.

Her work is in nine private collections in the U.K. and USA. A selection of her work can be seen on Instagram, Romano9242.

ITEM 12

Deidre Ellis

31cm
Candle platter
Acrylic Paint



Title : 'Calypso'

Candelight can dance on the brightly decorated wooden candle holder - Calypso style.
This wooden form has been turned to the same proportions as a Raku fired ceramic dish that I acquired years ago in the wilds in Canada. I have used oil paints in a free design to enhance this attractive wooden shape.



ITEM 13

Shirley Felts

31cm Large Vase
Oil Paint



Title: A bird of the forest

"I have a degree in Fine Art from the University of Texas. Following studies, I spent 8 years in San Francisco, illustrating for Architects, S.O.M., where I met my husband (to be). Settling in England, I illustrated many books. I was offered Artist in residence with the Iwokrama Rainforest research program in 1996. Four more visits to Guyana and Brazil produced much work and two books of the paintings. My painting on the jug is a tribute to the rain forest."

ITEM 14

Basia Burroughs

28cm Walnut Vase
Oil paint and
Gilding



Title: Golden Husk'

Basia Burroughs is a portrait and landscape artist based in Greenwich. The title of the piece is Golden Husk because the vase is made of walnut wood. The vase was deliberately partially left bare to show the beauty of the walnut. The top edges and part of the husks have been oil gilded in gold leaf.

www.basiaburrough.com

ITEM 15

Sophie Cook

23cm Vase
Oil Paint



*Title:
'Hold on' - Sophie M Cook*

Sophie M Cook is an oil painter based in Kent. Much of her work focuses on florals, she is continually fascinated by their complex forms and how the different colour relationships can inform the idea for a painting. The majestic form of the magnolias seemed the perfect choice for this shapely wood turned vase. The title of this piece draws on the fact that fossil records suggest magnolias were around during the Cretaceous period, making this flower a remarkable testament to endurance and permanence.

Sophie's work is represented by Emerge Contemporary and the Russell Gallery, London.

www.sophiemcook.com

@sophiemcookart (Instagram)

ITEM 16

David Maisey

18cm Bowl
Acrylic Paint



Title: Hope

This painting has barbed wire which represents incarceration and suffering. However the barbed wire is being suffocated by flowers that specifically represent freedom. I have named this piece hope as the flowers are dominant over the barbed wire.

ITEM 17

Anthony Young

18cm Small dish
Acrylic Paint on
Gesso



Title: 'Goldfish'

Anthony Young, previously a consultant surgeon, is now a writer and artist. He shares his time between Blackheath and South West France. He has three Goldfish, Freda, Sushi and Pierre, who live in his garden pond in London.

ITEM 18

Sue Parks

25cm Large Vase
Acrylic Paint and
Ceramic top



Title: 'Antoillier'

Normally my ceramics are Raku fired and often incorporate other materials, rubber tops, wood and fabric. Raku is an ancient ceramic process developed in Japan. This process is risky, pots do crack and break. With paint I have tried to recreate my most popular turquoise glaze and the sort of unexpected and unrepeatable effects of this process. I have attempted to interpret the Japanese method of 'Kintsugi', repairing a special ceramic in the belief that scars should not be hidden.

Sueparksceramics (Instagram)



ITEM 19

Theresa Craig

15cm Bowl
Ceramic



Title: "China Made"

For as long as I can remember, I have picked up pieces of blue and white china wherever I walk. I have recently found lots of treasures on the foreshore of the Thames.

I am intrigued with what the small pieces must have been like when complete. To me they represent a bygone age.

Together, the pieces become whole.

ITEM 20

Jackie Field

13cm Bowl
Acrylic Paint



Title: 'A fill of golden light' (From Walt Whitman)

"This is such a lovely wooden bowl--- so I wanted to use the natural grain and markings to influence the painting. The large tree was painted following the exact grain in the wood and I used the natural concentric circles of the grain for the blazing sun."



ITEM 21

Jessica Maisey

15cm Bowl
Acrylic Paint



Title: 'Suka'

"I wanted my painting to be elegant, magical and beautiful so I chose to paint a Japanese cherry blossom tree. The name given to this bowl, 'Suka', is Japanese for 'to bloom' or alternatively 'to smile' which I found it made me do. I felt that by using a Japanese title it would bring the picture to life even further and create intrigue for those who don't know what it means. Numerous techniques were used to create this piece, such as dabbing white paint with a sponge across the front of the bowl to create a canvas but also to soften the background; I continued this layering technique to add colour and tone and used a fine paint brush to add the detail of the cherry blossom."



ITEM 22

Thulani Shuku

18cm Bowl
Acrylic Paint



Title: Nguni Cattle.

“I am a South African painter and worked in Cape Town before moving to the UK in 2005. My work in South Africa mainly focused on portraying the inequalities left by the end of apartheid, particularly in the townships. The paintings on the bowl is a celebration of cattle farming of the Nguni people. Who were the first people to introduce the Nguni Cattle in Southern Africa when they migrated from the North of the continent.”



ITEM 23

Peter Kent

36cm Platter
Pen and Crayon



Title: Greenwich Park with Blackheath beyond.

Living on the River Thames I enjoy spending hours looking out over the water, but I also am captivated by looking behind me at Greenwich Park and beyond to Blackheath - two huge green areas that we are so lucky to be able to enjoy daily.



ITEM 24

Irene Maisey

20cm Square Bowl
Acrylic Paint



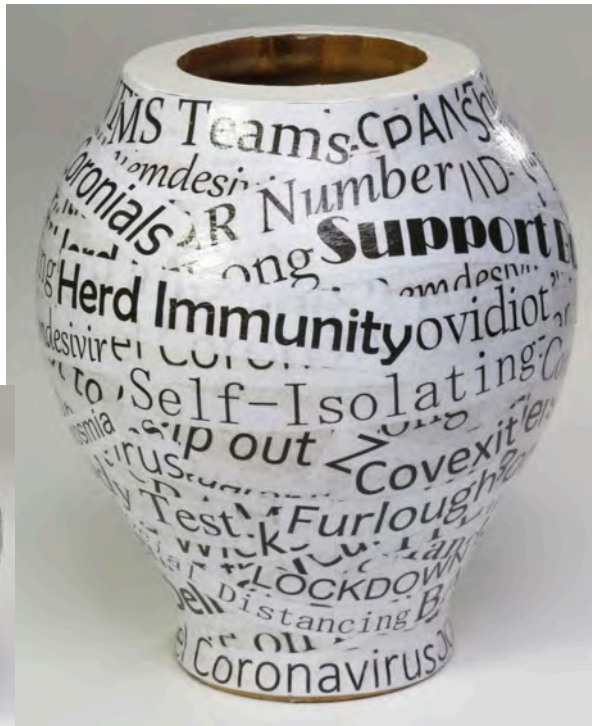
Title: 'Nuts'

"Having not used a paintbrush for many years, I found this project daunting. However as I feel deeply about supporting Freedom from Torture I decided to make my own contribution." "The shape of this turning posed a challenge. Square and containing a bowl--- What to do? I have always been practical so obviously the bowl must have a use. What better than nuts which I love. So this piece is to be used and, hopefully, enjoyed."

ITEM 25

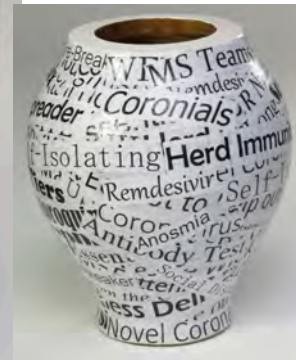
Nick Maisey

25cm Hollow Form
Collage



Title: 'Evolution gone viral'

"I was inspired by how a new language evolved from a deadly virus. A new disease, a new language, a new way of life"



ITEM 26

Ida Maisey

15cm Pencil case
Acrylic Paint



Title: 'Bad Hair Day'

"My piece is inspired by 60's art. I like the simplicity and humour of the art style and the cartoonish look and I wanted to incorporate this into my own piece"