

MEDIA RELEASE

March 2013

The Chelsea Art Society announces its 66th Annual Open Art Exhibition for June 2013

The **Chelsea Art Society** is delighted to announce details of its 66th Annual Open Art Exhibition. This welcome, established event takes place this year from **Thursday 20th - Monday 24th June 2013** in **Chelsea Old Town Hall**, its home for more than ten years. **Admission is free** and opening times are from 10am to 7pm daily (Sunday 10am-5pm; final day, Monday 24th: 10am to 2pm).

During the exhibition, over 500 paintings and sculptures from both established and aspiring artists alike are on view. The innovative works cover a wide range of styles including figurative, abstract, oil, watercolour, print and sculpture. The huge variety and the high standard of work on display is reflected in the number of buyers and its prominent position in the Kings Rd attracts visitors from all over the world. They have the opportunity to view and acquire works by well-known artists as well as those of famous names of the future, as the paintings and sculptures are available for purchase with prices ranging from £75 to around £2,000.

Founded in 1910, The Chelsea Art Society is the oldest and sole survivor of the many art groups that blossomed in the area around that period. Rossetti and Turner began the trend to settle in Chelsea in the mid 19th Century, followed by James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Walter Sickert, Augustus John and John Singer Sargent. Amongst the group was Sir James Dromgole Linton, a frequent exhibitor at the Royal Academy and an Honorary member of the Scottish Water Colour Society. He chose Chelsea as the place to found an art group to exhibit annually. The Chelsea Art Society flourished and even survived the disruption of two World Wars, revived in 1946 by Alfred Egerton Cooper RBA. Its current President is renowned artist, **Julian Barrow**, who lives and works in a famous studio in Tite Street, Chelsea. There are currently around 100 members and artists are invited to join the Society through having shown exceptional work at the exhibition over a three year period. Exhibitors are free to apply from all over the UK.

Past patrons have included Lord Olivier, Joyce Grenfell, Lord Thornycroft and Lord Rawlinson of Ewell QC. Present patrons are The Earl Cadogan DL and The Worshipful The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. There are also distinguished honorary members, including Ken Howard OBE RA PPNEAC, Sheila Donaldson Walter FRSA and Hugh Krall.

Julian Barrow, noted: "*The Chelsea Art Society's annual exhibition is the only show where anyone, professional or amateur, can submit work to be considered for exhibition, be it painting, drawing or sculpture. The exhibition takes place in the old Chelsea Town Hall, a beautiful and suitable venue, and entrance for visitors is free. It is an opportunity to see and appreciate a variety of work, all of which is for sale, should you be tempted, at reasonable prices. The annual exhibition is a most popular event during the 'Chelsea Season'*".

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For **details and entry forms**, you can either 1) email your details to: chelseaartsociety@gmail.com 2) contact The Secretary, Chelsea Art Society, 50 Bowerdean Street, London SW6 3TW 3) visit the website at www.chelseaartsociety.org.uk or 4) call 020 7731 3121. (If there is no answer, please leave your name and email address or phone number on the answer machine).

For **media information**, please contact: Karen Pitchford, KHJ Communications Ltd Tel: 020 8292 2862 email: pitchfordkaren@gmail.com

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