



PRESS RELEASE

Abstract and Non Figurative Work - A Different Challenge

**The London Sketch Club
- Spring Exhibition**

**Thursday 21st March 2013
- 6.30pm until 9.30pm
Saturday 23rd March 2013
- 1pm until 5pm**

7 Dilke Street, London SW3 4JE
www.londonsketchclub.com

Image: Frank Phelan, 'Kite'
acrylic and charcoal 101.5 x 137cm



Background: The London Sketch Club has always been the home of professional graphic artists. It has three exhibitions a year, a comfortable mix of figures, landscapes and the decorative commercial pictures of its professional and lay member painters. In an unusual break with tradition, in honour of its current President, the distinguished Irish artist Frank Phelan, it is showing only abstract work by its members. If you are interested in some exploratory and subtle non representational work, and how these generally conservative painters react to a very different challenge please come to the open evening - 21.3.2013 at 6.30pm - This is also a rare opportunity to visit this historic artists' club.

History: The London Sketch Club was formed as a result of a ridiculous row between factions at the Langham Club, another sketching club, which started life in 1830 as the Artists Society in Grays Inn Road. Arthur Rackham, Sir John Tenniel, Charles Keene and others were happy to have bread and cheese with beer in the evenings. However, there was a bunch of upstarts who wanted something more substantial after slaving in a cold studio all day. These included Dudley Hardy, Lance Thackeray, Robert Sauber, Tom Browne and Cecil Aldin, all fine artists, who wanted HOT food. So they left *en masse* in 1898 to form their own club and were soon joined by the great black and white illustrators, Phil May, Bert Thomas, Frank Reynolds and Harry Rountree, John Hassall, the Poster King, H M Bateman, who did The Man Who . . . series of cartoons, William Heath Robinson, The Gadget King, his brother Charles, and another fairy painter, Edmund Dulac.

The Club has been meeting every Tuesday evening since then, through two World Wars, to paint or sketch, followed by food and wine, and neither the format, nor the aims of the Club, has changed in over 112 years. In the intervening years, such luminaries as James Pryde, one half of the Beggerstaff Brothers, George Studdy, creator of Bonzo the Dog, Alfred Leete, of Your Country Needs You fame, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, A P Herbert, and, more recently, Sir Peter Blake, the cartoonists, Jak, Mac, Gerald Scarfe and Ralph Steadman, have passed through the dark green door off Tite Street in Chelsea. The Club thrives today, with a membership comprising professional artists, illustrators, cartoonists, architects and musicians, who meet every Tuesday for life drawing followed by *hot* food.