

## Bloomsbury and Beyond

*The Radev Collection: Bloomsbury and Beyond* is the current exhibition at Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, West Sussex until 22 January. The exhibition charts the friendships and interests of the Bloomsbury acolyte and picture framer, Mattei Radev, the music critic, Eddy Sackville-West and artist-dealer, Eardley Knollys. To coincide with the exhibition, author, Virginia Nicholson, granddaughter of Vanessa Bell, will give a talk on *Among the Bohemians: Experiments in Living 1900-1939* on 24 November at 6pm. Tickets are priced at £7.40. Visit: [www.pallant.org.uk](http://www.pallant.org.uk) or telephone: 01243 774557.

## Christmas Fair

Herts Visual Arts (HVA), the organisers of the popular Herts Open Studios, are turning their attention to the festive season with



▲ Vanessa Mooncie *Red Skater*, handprinted, 6×4in. (15×10cm). Create your own Christmas cards alongside Vanessa at Charleston Farmhouse this November.



◀ Sue Wookey *The Indian Tree of Life and Knowledge*, watercolour, 10×10in. (25.5×25.5cm) at the Christmas Art and Gift Fair in Hertfordshire on 3 December

a Christmas art and craft fair at The Old Town Hall, Market Place, St. Albans on Saturday 3 December (10am to 5pm). On sale will be arts, crafts and gifts by artists from across the county. For further details and a full list of exhibitors, visit: [www.hvaf.org.uk](http://www.hvaf.org.uk).

## WORKSHOP

### Christmas cards

Make your own hand-printed Christmas cards alongside Firlie artist, Vanessa Mooncie at Charleston, near Lewes in East Sussex on Tuesday 29 November (10am to 4pm). Vanessa's work is inspired by her collection of vintage treasures. Visit [www.vanessamooncie.com](http://www.vanessamooncie.com) to see examples of her work. You will make a collection of 25 cards from your own designs. The cost for the workshop is £75 to include all materials and lunch. For more information telephone: 01323 811626 or visit: [www.charleston.org.uk/whatson](http://www.charleston.org.uk/whatson).

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Face Britain

*Face Britain* is the UK's largest ever mass collaborative art project. Created by the Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts, *Face Britain* is open to all children and young people aged four to 16 and invites them to create self-portraits that will be exhibited across the country. The self-portraits can be uploaded onto the *Face Britain* online gallery any time from now until March 2012. The portraits will also be displayed on all the BBC Big Screens at official London 2012 Live Sites next year. HRH The Prince of Wales, speaking at the *Face Britain* launch event in September explained: "Everyone aged four to 16 years of age is invited to create a self-portrait in their own personal choice of style. The only stipulation for all participants is that it has to be you – you are Face Britain". For more information visit: [www.facebritain.org.uk](http://www.facebritain.org.uk).

the  
EDITOR'S  
gallery  
CHOICE

## PaintersOnline

This month's choice from our website gallery is by Lesley Birch



▲ Lesley Birch *Frost at Midnight*, acrylic, 11¼×11¼in. (30×30cm)

### Frost at Midnight

This month's Editor's Online Gallery choice is *Frost at Midnight* by Lesley Birch. Lesley, who is mainly self-taught, began painting seriously in 2000, exhibiting with the Cambridge Drawing and Painting Society. She now has work on show in galleries in Scotland, Yorkshire and London. Lesley is based in York where she works from her small studio; visit [www.lesleybirch.co.uk](http://www.lesleybirch.co.uk). Of her painting, Lesley writes:

"This painting was inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge's wonderful poem, *Frost at Midnight*. I studied English literature in the late '70s and there is no doubt that my love of the Romantic poets feeds into my art. Here, I've tried to capture the 'secret ministry' performed by the frost while we sleep at night with the 'silent icicles' forming under the 'quiet moon'. Time and nature have always been dominant themes for me in my landscapes. However, I try not to be too literal. I like to abstract the image. "My paintings evolve over several months and this one is no exception. In *Frost at Midnight*, I applied gel medium with pumice using a palette knife to give the texture I required, and then I built up layer upon layer of glazes to add depth of colour. I then left it for a few months. I don't like my paintings to be too perfect. I want to see brush marks, scratches, scrapes and rag marks; this is what excites me. I love acrylic paint because I can work frantically on several paintings at a time and it dries so quickly. I depend very much upon my sketchbooks, which I was delighted to win in a Patchings Art Competition a few years ago. In these, I note down all my ideas for paintings and make rough sketches from my trips abroad and back to my native Scotland."

● If you would like to comment on Lesley's work or to upload your own images on our online gallery, visit: [www.painters-online.co.uk/gallery](http://www.painters-online.co.uk/gallery). This is a free service.

