

What happened in deepest Dorset?



Karen and Claire admiring Anne Broome's sketchbook on bees.



Our next tutor is OCA tutor Polly Harvey who will lead students on a day of bookmaking. If you have a question for her, please email her at pollyharvey@oca.ac.uk

Saturday 16th September

September?! Where has the time gone?

Anne Broome welcomed us to her studio space for our meeting and we all admired the fabulous garden, wider Dorset landscape and the peace. The table was set for a bring and share lunch and it soon filled with gorgeous fruit, quiche, home made cakes (where would our meetings be without the cakes?) and bread! Then came the cheeses, the salads, the pasta, the sausages ... a feast to replenish the energy expended soaking up the artistic genius that flew across the studio all day.



Being in such a super studio, we started the day by talking about the fact that artists never have enough space! Neil started the proceedings with a catch up on what he has done since he was last with us in March. We had a second textile day because there were students in the Dorchester area who, for various reasons, could not make it to Bristol. Sue has since written:

"I really appreciated you holding a session in Dorset for us -it was so good to be able to attend. I hope those of you who had to travel a long way got home safe- I couldn't believe how much water was on the roads when we left!" That bucolic setting which had greeted us on arrival, had to be washed away by torrential rains for the afternoon so that we could appreciate its beauty once again afterwards!

Neil's input via his recent work, stimulated and inspired us all. We also had gems of insight regarding how to select our work for assessment.

The first distinction Neil made regarding our submissions was between 'editing' and 'critically selecting' our work. The latter involves justifying how and why you have selected certain pieces and not others, whereas editing involves simply eliminating work without justifying it which will not engage the assessors / tutors because they cannot access your rationale.

Neil then went on to talk about his 'Dreamspace' and the importance of dreaming in his work and of reflecting on things he has not finished, or designed but not made. The dreamscape is also 'that place of not quite knowing': including in your work a level of mystery which will engage the viewer. He also told us of the importance of not being in control of your process of working all the time, of being navigated by our circumstances into different ways and paths, and of looking at obstacles and situations positively.

More of Neil's gems:

- * On the theme of 'personal voice' he said that often we can't see it until we look back on what we have done.
- * * Nothing is ever finished because it could evolve into different expressions.



At the coffee break, I asked those present if they would be participants in a film clip I wanted to make involving cake, prisons and collaboration. I hope to make an edited version of this clip as part of my next assignment! A lot of critical selections are coming my way!

The rest of the day was devoted to looking at the 10 people's work and trying to navigate through their 'stuckness' with each one of us taking away little shards of inspiration for our own work.

Tutor Polly Harvey will be leading on October 14th, 2017 in Bristol.

By popular demand, Polly will be leading our meeting on 'Book making' in October. **Please note that the scheduled date has changed.**

The day will be organised differently as it will be devoted entirely to book making. I am sure that, if there is a need, that Polly will look at work which students bring along to be discussed.

I shall not be there as I have a family wedding to attend so Jacquie Franks has very kindly offered to stand in for me.

Times: 10 - 4pm.

The venue will be St Elizabeth Hall,

Hambrook Lane,

Bristol, BS16 1RT

There is parking on the road next to the church.

The cost for the hall is £30 which is to be shared among those attending. - please give your money to Jacquie.

There will be tea and coffee available - please give Paddy £1 for all day hot beverages.

This is our last scheduled meeting for the year. The final event being the week-long exhibition in Wellington

Our Autumn Exhibition:

The space is found and booked!

The 21 exhibitors have stepped up to the plate!

The publicity is ready to go!

The opening party needs to be organised - any takers?

We need more stewards: **many thanks** to Paddy, Allan, Anne D, Jesse A, Eliza, Dorothy, Claire P, Karen W and Jane C who have volunteered to steward but **we need stewards for** :

Wednesday 22nd November from 1 - 4pm;

Thursday 23rd November, morning and afternoon;

Friday 24th November, morning and afternoon.

Those exhibiting should make sure that they get their work to the venue or to me by 15th November as we have a team of people hanging the work on 16th and 17th.

If your work needs to be displayed using bulldog clips or any other means, please provide them.

Next year's programme

I am delighted to tell you that we have a terrific group of tutors who have agreed to do a session next year. The proposed schedule is attached below.

I have recently applied to OCASA for funding for those sessions and await their response in breathless anticipation!

We have two new tutors: **Brenda Miller** in textiles and **Stephen Monger** in visual communication, and one visiting photographer: **Helen Sear**.

Please check out the websites of all our leaders if you are ever in need of inspiration! They are brilliantly diverse.

OCA South West: 2018 programme

	Time	Tutor	Topic	Venue (TBC)
Jan 13th	11 - ?	Students	Work in progress	Paignton
Feb 10th	10 - 4pm	Helen Sear	Photography	Bristol
Mar 10th	10 - 4pm	Doug Burton	Creative Arts	Plymouth
April 14th	10 - 4pm	Michele Whiting	Drawing	Bristol
May 12th	10 - 4pm	Michele Whiting	Professional practice and curating	Bristol
June 9th	10 - 4pm	Brenda Miller	Textiles	Bristol
July 14th	10 - 4pm	Steve Monger	Visual communication	Plymouth
Aug 11th	10 - 4pm	Neil Musson	Textiles	Wellington/Dorchester
Sept 8th	10 - 4pm	Jesse Alexander	Photography	Plymouth
Oct 13th	10 - 4pm	Polly Harvey	Book binding?	Bristol
Nov 19th - 25th	11 - 4pm	Exhibition	Work in progress	Wellington

If you would like to put your names down for any of the meetings, please let me know & I shall start attendance lists.

As you can see, the January slot is an informal get-together at my house and everyone is invited - students and tutors - to catch up on news and discuss some work. There is no finishing time because, to quote Neil Musson, "Nothing is ever finished because it could evolve into so many different expressions."

Our meetings in 2018 will take place on the SECOND Saturday of each month.

This will allow students who normally attend TVG to attend ours and vice versa. Please make a note of this.

If you would like to suggest some speakers / tutors for our 2018 meetings, please let me know as soon as you can.