

ANTENNAE



50/350

Housed in what, at 350 years of age, must surely be one of the oldest spaces open as a full-time public art gallery in the UK, the delightful Jacobean town house that has been home to the eponymous **Guildford House Gallery** for the last half-century, is, this summer, celebrating the double anniversary with a major show that explores the history of the building and its various uses over the years as well as Guildford Borough's own collection, which is also based there. Situated bang in the middle of this lovely old Surrey town's historic centre, it is, if you don't already know it, an absolute must for a visit...

DRAWING TOGETHER

Now in its 9th year, **Master Drawings London** (4-10 July) is, as ever, a splendid showcase for the continuing health and variety of the London market for drawings. Spread across 20 individual premises in the West End, the event has a strength and intimacy that can be lacking in the cramped, often crowded quarters of an art fair proper. New among the participants is **Abbott & Holder** with a display of extremely intimate Keith Vaughan male

nudes, while among the regulars, **W.S. Fine Art/Andrew Wyld** unveil a major discovery, a large, dramatic watercolour of the dormitory of the Ipswich Blackfriars by John Sell Cotman and **Theobald Jennings** offer a handsome group of Kirchner drawings.

GET YOUR SKATES ON

Last call for any artist wishing to submit work for Chichester's **National Open Art Competition** which has this year gone to an on-line selection process. It is in three stages in fact, initial registration (by 24 July), image submission (31 July) and physical hand-ins (12 October regional/19 October Goodwood). With £40,000 of well spread out prize money on the table and an impressive selection panel that includes Gavin Turk and Catherine Lampert, it would seem to be worth the trouble. It's good to see this prize (which *Antennae* takes some pride in helping to develop in its earlier life 5 years ago) now going from strength to strength. For info see ad on p5.

FINE PATTLE

Thanks to the huge efforts of the **Society of Equestrian Artists**, this year celebrating its 30th anniversary, the genre is very much on the up and up currently, as a visit to this month's show at the **Mall Galleries** makes plain. And, while we are on the subject, take a look also at **Gallery LeFort's** 'Horses with Heart' show, featuring Finnish artist Katja Hannula alongside a whole stable of British painters, sculptors and pastellists.

OUT IN THE OPEN

Despite the erratic summers of the last few years the Brits seem to be becoming increasingly partial to enjoying their art out of doors or, at least, in distinctly country settings. The grand daddy of the genre has to be **Art in Action**,

now enjoying the 32nd year of its expanding popularity at its 'home' in the lovely grounds of Waterperry House, Oxfordshire (16-19 July). In 1977 it included just 50 artists and craftsmen, but now makes space for literally hundreds (if not thousands) and not just from the UK either, this year's featured marquee hosting a group of eight from Oaxaca in Southern Mexico - painters, paper cutters, sand carpet designs et al. With the emphasis as much on how to make as the selling side of things, it is a really refreshingly different kind of art event.

Moving west somewhat, the **Gallery at Bevere**, again set in gorgeous park-like gardens, is hosting a really impressive looking show this month - 'Art Europe' consists of displays by leading ceramicists from 9 European countries. Then, going about as far west as you can, to Pembrokeshire in West Wales, you'll find something of a newcomer, 'Art at Rhosygilwen'. Set in the grounds of the eponymous (that word again!) house, this has very much the feel of a Welsh 'Art in Action' about it, with demonstrations and master-classes as much of a feature as sales. With such luminaries as David Tress, Mary Lloyd Jones and our own Caroline Juler among those participating, this is a brave and heartening venture in the current climate and could thus really do with all the support it can get. Finally, moving up North, there is the by now well-established **Newby Hall Sculpture Park** (near Ripon), set up a few years back by owner/curator Lucinda Compton with the principal purpose of showing (and selling) contemporary sculpture. Anthony Caro and William Pye are among the big names, but there are also plenty of up and coming ones among the fifty or sixty works on show, all immaculately presented in the Hall's beautiful grounds.

From top: Juan Alcazar 'Mexican', Art in Action; Cotman 'Ipswich Blackfriars', W.S. Fine Art Ltd/Andrew Wyld