

OXFORD MAIL

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32p

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Art lovers prepare for six of the best

SIX artists are coming together to stage an exhibition of their works at West Ox Arts Gallery next month.

They have been selected by the administrator of West Oxfordshire Arts, Abigail Ballinger, who was looking for a group of artists who could offer a diverse range of work.

Her aim in bringing them together is to stage an exhibition at the Bampton-based venue which

shows the standard of art being produced by West Oxfordshire artists.

Potter Juliet Dyer, pictured second right, from Kingston Bagpuize, will display a new and colourful collection of clay cats.

Another potter Maureen Wilsker, second left, from Witney, uses clay to create garden ornaments she colours with a translucent glaze made from broken glass.

Gunnel Rosengard, right,

from Bampton, is a photographer, working in black and white to create imaginative architectural abstracts observed during her travels round the world.

Artist Shirley Davies, left, along with Maggie Fitzpatrick and Louise Rice, will offer a selection of watercolours, oil and acrylic paintings.

Ms Dyer, who exhibits frequently in Oxfordshire, said: "The exciting thing about showing the work of

six artists all producing quite different works is that the exhibition is sure to offer something for everyone who visits the gallery."

The show, called *6 in September*, opens on Sunday, September 8, and runs until Sunday, September 22.

The gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday, between 10.30am and 4pm, and on Sunday from 2pm to 4pm. Admission is free.

Picture: Antony Moore

The Oxford Times

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

WEEKEND

Art

SIX IN SEPTEMBER, TOWN HALL, BAMPTON

Cats stalk the West Ox Arts Gallery, Bampton. They are purring, curling, comfortable cats. Some stretching out for the butterfly they will never reach, other simply casting a watchful eye over the visitors as they walk from exhibit to exhibit.

Their fluid, economical lines have been created by sculptress and potter Juliet Dyer, one of six Oxfordshire artists exhibiting their work at the gallery until September 22.

The cats play among Maureen Wilsker's superb ornamental ceramics, which, like the cats, are as happy outside in the garden or indoors. Maureen has also included some of her ceramic flowers among her unusual handcrafted wall plaques. Like the plaques they have been finished in part with a translucent green/blue glaze obtained from coloured glass which always heightens the allure of her work.

This exhibition is about pictures too, with three artists — Margaret Fitzpatrick, Louise Rice and Shirley Davies — showing their works along with photographer Gunnel Rosengard, whose dramatic use of black and white highlights ordinary objects in a quite remarkable way.

Water features in many of Margaret Fitzpatrick's watercolours, either as lakes or rushing streams falling dramatically over stones and rocks, whereas Shirley Davies gives us scenes from the Languedoc in gouache and pastel and views from South Africa, where penguins walk the shores and Zulu warriors dance through the night.

Louise Rice offers a mixed bag of mainly unframed oils, which include titles such as *House of Dreams*, *Angel Cake* and *City Sleeping*.

And just as you are about to go, you will see more cats, again by Juliet Dyer, who is not content to stick with three-dimensional figures, when she can place swirls of playful, catlike features on canvas too.

This is a colourful little exhibition and a nice example of six artists working together to offer an exhibition which caters for all tastes.

Helen Peacocke
