

That's entertainment

Your weekly guide to what's on . . .

Between man and nature

THE display of pictures that go on show at The Gallery, Bampton, this month are best described as an eclectic mix of works, in muted colours, that reflect the relationship between man and nature.

Artist George Fox, *pictured*, is also interested in the concept of time and the process of continuous change.

This solo show by the experienced Wantage-based artist provides the viewer with a remarkable collection of works, painted mostly in oils, though George works in acrylics too, and is working on a series of pictures depicted in acrylic and ink. This new departure might sound like an unlikely mix, but George says the mix of acrylic works well, and provides some really interesting effects.

Some pictures are placed together in one frame to give a series of related works — some painted at different times of the day, to highlight the effect of light as the day progresses.

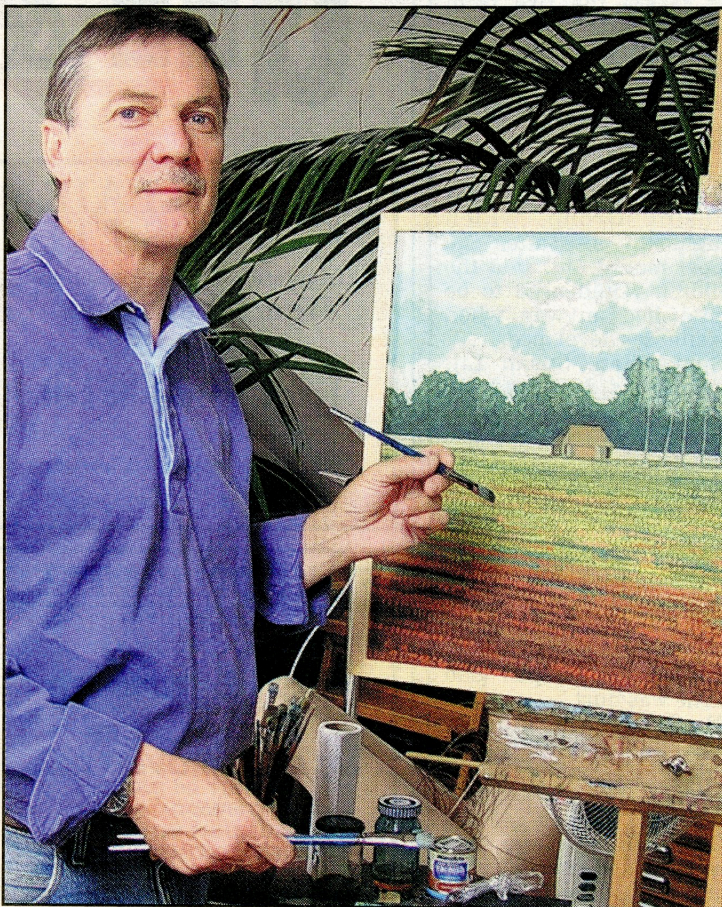
George works out of doors mostly, only using photos he takes of the scene to remind him of the colours when he returns to his studio to finish the picture.

Those visiting his studio will probably be surprised to discover that George has at least four pictures on the go at once.

Having captured that initial moment on canvas, he then takes his time perfecting it. George says that confronting a blank canvas can prove quite daunting — far better to have several works waiting for that final flourish of brush strokes which will complete it.

Some pictures displayed tell a story.

Take those he painted of Dutch windmills. On the face of it they



Under the
spotlight
with...

HELEN PEACOCKE

are just a series of windmills — but underlying the scene is linked with the past, which George worked hard to capture

when he learned that the people who occupied the windmills during the Second World War used the sails to send semaphore messages.

Moments in Time opens at The Gallery, Bampton, on Sunday, until July 16. Opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4pm.

On Sundays, The Gallery is open during the afternoon, 2pm to 4pm.

Review

MOMENTS IN TIME BY GEORGE FOX

George Fox is a gifted, versatile and thoughtful artist who has brought together a fine collection of work. His nostalgic detailed scenes — the old bicycle leaning on *The Wood Store*, *Gate* and *Ripe for Conversation* all describe a less complicated time. In a darker vein, his still-life, emblematic of mortality, is of the skull of a bird, half an eggshell and a branch.

In a darker, quiet mood the squatting *Windmills — Kinderdyke, Holland*, done in pencil, lead the eye away to the muted, misty distance that recalls the work of the Dutch painter Jan van Goyen. In contrast *Winter Beach in South Hams* catches the light of South Devon with the Prussian, cobalt, cerulean blues while the little figure on the sand pinpoints the expansiveness of the big skies.

Conscious of “the changing face of the landscape and man’s relationship with it” Fox painted and held forever the boatyards of *Harbour — Salcombe* before half of them were bulldozed to make room for expensive apartments.

He has homed in on the modern city of Barcelona with his *Diaries 1, 2 and 3*. The changing scenes use, with great effect, the textual surfaces of oil and mixed media to capture a feeling of threat and of danger. There is an edge to the streets and the architecture while *Rooftops Barcelona 1 and 2* also have a disturbing disorganisation which is



palpable. His *Two Pigeons* wait, pale among the leaves on the ground beneath the trunks of the silver birches which thrust upwards from dark to light. Symbols of peace these birds too are disturbing perhaps because of the horizontal orange lines that are lurking behind.

The landscapes frequently come in pairs. *Summer Walk 1* leads one towards brightness and the sea while *Summer Walk 2* takes one back into the darker trees that one left before now lit only by spots of light. All these pictures bring together the traditional and the contemporary, all reflect the artist’s concern for his environment.

If you delight in peacock colours then *Early November 1 and 2* will thrill you with the jewelled scarab green, fuchsia, and shades of delphinium and the three pink blowsy flowers in *Hollyhocks 1, 2 and 3* rise skyward above the leaves in the distance. This is art to brighten any and every place you could imagine.

The exhibition continues until July 16.

Jan Lee