

GAZETTE, Wednesday, January 14, 1998



A study by Felicity Cormack of Faringdon, one of four graduates of the Cheltenham College of Art whose work is on show at the Bampton Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

The Gallery, Town Hall, Bampton:

Tuesdays-Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm, 2-4pm,
Sundays 2-4pm. Until January 25, *Four
Painters Argue it out*: Keith Allen, Felicity
McCormack, Jonathan Gooders and Sue
Powell, who all followed the fine arts degree
course at Cheltenham College of Art, present
work done since leaving college.

Four Painters: Bampton



Four young artists who all studied art at Cheltenham College have got together to display their work at Bampton Town Hall.

Despite the fact they shared the same tutors, their work, which they have put together under the title *Four Painters Argue It Out*, couldn't be more different.

Keith Allen is striving to create something he has come to consider as "resistance"; he says his work is abstract but not abstracted from experience. They are huge canvases, in which colours appear to fight each other for position. I am glad he explained them to me, for I was struggling to come to terms with his bold slashes of colour initially.

By complete contrast, Sue Powell, whose work has been influenced by Vermeer, uses tone and colour to create form. Her works are striking, dramatic and superbly executed in oils, with five studies of faces and hands worked in charcoal. The faces suggest more than a class room exercise - indeed one exposes such a distressing amount of pain that it stands out quite dramatically.

Working in charcoal and oils, Felicity Cormack expresses herself on canvas by

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making the folds of fabric her central theme. Her paintings are dramatic and compelling, spoiled only by heavy wooden frames which do not balance well with the work they contain.

Jonathan Gooders's three untitled works are landscapes, but display very few trees, for he is making a statement about the way the natural world relates with the man-made. With the sky the dominant factor in each picture, Jonathan's work is certainly thought provoking.

It's always interesting to see the work of young artists, then watch it evolve over the years. For that reason alone, this excellent exhibition is well worth a visit if you are in the Bampton area up to and including January 25.

Helen Peacocke

Oxford Times.

An artistic view of the world



FOUR artists contributed to the first exhibition of the year at West Oxfordshire Arts Association's gallery at the town hall in Bampton.

Visitors Ray Proctor and Denise Allan are pictured viewing work by Jonathan Gooders from Cheltenham.

He and the other three painters – Keith Allen, Felicity Cormack and Sue Powell – are all former students of Cheltenham College of Art.

They studied at the college in different years, and the exhibition gave them an opportunity to

show the different ways in which they have responded to the challenges of the course.

The gallery's next exhibition will be Rich and Rare, displaying both art and craft work by a number of regular contributors. ZCOTS3782

The Standard.