

ANOTHER ANGLE STUDIO – MARIA MCNEVIN

With 2020 being a difficult year with covid lockdowns, 2021 started with a whimper and not a bang, with closures in the leisure and hospitality sector hampering our initial objectives. The upside was that it gave us time to think, find inspiration and ideas to move forward with the business.

January and February were spent looking back on what had worked previously and what new things we could offer in terms of services, classes and exhibitions.

Wendy Beckham, our photographer, took time to revamp the daylight studio with new backgrounds and a plethora of ideas to explore.

Victoria Swan had been a hit with our Teddy Bear Hospital and her expertise delighted many owners pleased to see their treasured toys restored. The custom-made dolls were also a hit and are unique, and appear in our small vintage shop amongst a range of other items.

Maxine Rudd gave thought to our printing stock and collaboratively we stocked up on inks, rollers, screens, lino and just about anything used to make a mark. This was to prove very popular down the line.

Investment in decorating and professional hanging kit (rails, perlons, hooks and loops) throughout the two floors was worth the cost and effort, displaying exhibition artworks to their best and with more ease.

Late February we joined Suffolk Open Studios - which asked us to add our latitude and longitude and confirmed our status as 'The Most Easterly Gallery in the United Kingdom' (and "situated between 3 Banksy works" was a popular call to action for our advertising). Unfortunately, we sit in neither the north Heritage Action Zone nor the Kirkley southern HAZ (so don't have the same kind of assistance and promotion), but we do like to joke that we are in the Twilight Zone here on the edge!

It was here that we announced our plans for the Gallery exhibitions led by Miriam King who was profiling her 2020 work in relation to characters she approaches in Lowestoft and moreover, a personal exhibition of new work culminating from her childhood experience in Barnardo's homes (both poignant and amusing too). (We met Miriam during one of our rare respite days from lockdown being able to show our work at The Triangle Market, thanks to Lowestoft Town Council providing a free pitch). Miriam's work ran throughout 2021 with some 80+ pictures on show. In particular, The Pancake Race & Triangle Market 2020 were real favourites in our reception.

In March we took part in the East Suffolk Cultural Quarter Virtual Business Engagement Event and Lowestoft Ambassador events.

We ensured that we were open to any and every opportunity that presented itself and looked to Start East to get ourselves on their Directory too: <https://starteast.co.uk/directory/another-angle-studio/>

When news reached us that there was a new project 'Lowestoft Creative Virtual Hub' in hand as part of the 'Lowestoft Story' place-making work and the Town Investment Plan (Town's Fund) we were excited. They have since created a new 'place' website, which includes a section targeted at the creative community. Our Another Angle Studio listing can be found here on the site: <https://thinklowestoft.co.uk/virtual-hub/another-angle-studio/>

After a relaxation in Covid regulations, it was finally the end of the hard work and preparation to get everything in tip top condition and in place for our reopening.

Starting with a rebrand! - A new logo and signage to bring together a frontage facelift that has kerb appeal.

We chose to move to a monochrome feel for the main brand to complement the shots of colour relating to the many promotions for products, services and events.

Changing the typography and using curly brackets alluding to the seagulls circling our most easterly gallery location, we feel sends a clear message that we are more than we seem.

To add a touch of seaside jollity and an upbeat feel, our sunflower yellow and white striped canopy provides shelter for our customers to get shade and take a seat outside for fresh air (and covid avoidance!)

Our sunny daisy planters add some cheer to the doorstep too.

Pretty much a huge improvement on a very ugly building which has now become something of a swan (or seagull!)

At the front our colourful designer posters are rotated to show the exhibitions, events and services happening within and beyond.



Pictured: (L-R) Maria McNevin (Creative Director/Digital Media), Miriam King (Artist), Maxine Rudd (Printing/Textiles) and Victoria Swan (Textiles/Print/Teddy Bear Repair/Vintage Dollmaking)

And the summer WAS eventful!

Our second artist showing work is the wonderful chap Gary Hogben with his philatelic collage creations – Gary’s work sells across the globe and he has exhibited in an impressive list of galleries and street art shows with avid collectors. We have his large stamp works of Amy Winehouse, Sir Laurence Olivier, Charlie Chaplin, Stephen Hawking, a beautiful large Union Jack creation together with some modestly priced prints. We hope to persuade Gary to let us show his marvellous creation for the Queens Platinum Jubilee this year if we can (before it sells!)



Gary Hogben with poster for his display of philatelic collage artwork at the Gallery

Heritage Open Days

We were absolutely thrilled to be approached for HODS (Heritage Open Days) by the most marvellous Mezzo Soprano, Diana Moore (who takes on the Chair for 2022 events and who turns out was also a huge fan of the Lowestoft artist, John Reay (more on that later!))

Another Angle Studio received a great listing on the national website which helped to put us on the map for visitors and we took part in two great heritage events:

It was all seaside, ships and eventual sun for everyone at Another Angle Studio on Saturday 11 September when we attended the **Maritime Heritage Fair** on the Quay to celebrate the Excelsior's centenary! We were able to showcase our gallery, sell prints, promote our arts and craft classes, and even made a few new friends along the way.



Display and showcasing work at The Excelsior Centenary

And, one week later on the 19 September the superb **Herring and Ale Festival** on the cliffs in Pakefield with the Oddfellows Arms was an absolute delight. Again, a chance for us to be involved and get some audience participation with our printing 'taster' sessions.



Our stand and print taster sessions at The Herring and Ale Festival at the Oddfellows Arms, Pakefield Cliffs

A Class Act! - In October we held our first round of lino cut workshops. Meeting a great bunch of budding creatives we were thrilled at the sense of camaraderie and enjoyment found in the practice and our Thursday night, and Saturday morning events brought the benefit of a new circle of friends with laughs, learning and good conversation.



Art Fair East on 3rd - 5th December 2021 saw Another Angle Studio showcase the gallery at its first major art fair held in Norwich. With current exhibitors Gary Hogben, Tim Oteo, Miriam King on display and our own Maria McNevin selling at the show, the event had value that assures our attendance at next year's event.



Montage of works from Maria McNevin, Gary Hogben, John Reay, Tim Fair (Oteo), (Bottom Row: Art Fair East display)



Maria McNevin sold the artwork Flowerbomb at Norwich's major art exhibition, Art Fair East (Dec 2021)

Moving on to 2022, the dark and cold days of winter led to improving our marketing services and with new clients our design and print offerings held sway until warmer weather galvanised footfall and opportunity.

In March, we were very proud to be asked to liaise and create a video to celebrate **International Women's Day with Lowestoft Town Council**. We have so many incredible women in Lowestoft to celebrate and the legacy of our forebears is truly alive in storytelling and acknowledging the rich

sources that keep this social history alive, whether football clubs, heritage, civic associations and councils with heartfelt dedications to hardworking inspirational women like Sue Barnard.

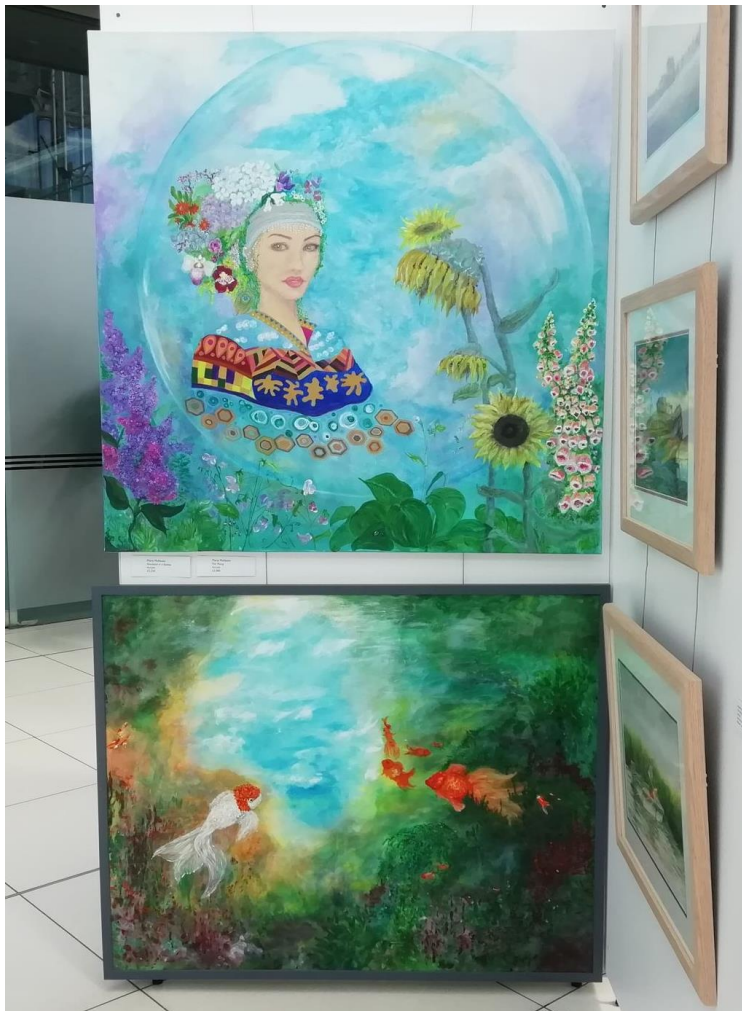
Our modern-day heroines come in the form of Boxing Olympians, FA coaches, International Mezzo Sopranos, the First Mate on rigged heritage vessels and not least the young women setting their careers in STEM with the energy sector, or engineering with the Gullwing bridge and work on the port. Truly we can see momentum in Lowestoft with the #BreaktheBias theme.

The video is available here on the Lowestoft Town Council website:

<https://www.lowestofttowncouncil.gov.uk/news/?start=10>

Making a show of myself!

In April 2022 Maria McNevin, our Creative Director had 2 pieces of artwork selected for The Spring Art Show at The Forum in Norwich. These will eventually be shown at Another Angle Studio Gallery.



Reay of Light

Since working in Lowestoft Library in the late 80s, organising art exhibitions as part of her duties, Maria has always been keen to promote the work of the Lowestoft artist John Reay. "I feel John has been somewhat overlooked in the town and is indeed an artist most worthy of celebrating not only in the calibre and reverence, but moreover to bring prominence to his body of work that rejoiced in the coastal environment where he had settled (in Lowestoft), concentrating on the beach scenes for which he became especially known.

Another Angle studio has applied for consent to have a large artwork piece to show on the side of the gallery, and is in liaison to bring his work back to Lowestoft for exhibition this summer in a show to be called *Reay of Light*.

There are challenges associated with costs for this to happen (printing and transportation of art from the Orkney Isles, but we are encouraged by writing to key organisations and there are signs that support may be fruitful.)

"John Reay was one of East Anglia's most prolific artists and his work is held at Doncaster Museum, British Petroleum, Suffolk County Libraries, Worlingworth Church and in collections around the world. My reasoning is that there should be a place within the town for people to enjoy his art and extend his authentic legacy. John taught in both Denes and Benjamin Britten High Schools and should be an inspiration for aspiring artists locally. We certainly have had some wonderful anecdotes from visitors to the gallery admiring the small collection we currently hold, telling of his warm character and generous wit. Both public and visitors, I'm sure will be attracted and appreciate not only the beach scenes but the social history value of compositions which include life in the town at work (Co-operative Canning Factory, for instance), or at play (Cleopatras Nightclub from the South Pier 70/80s). There is so much to enjoy, I've just got to find a way to make it happen – and it will!"

Watch this space!

REAY OF LIGHT



Celebrating Lowestoft Artist

John Reay

2/10/1947 - 28/1/2011