

PRESS RELEASE



The Dog Rehoming Society

Paintings by Sophie Barber, Jeb Haward and Kath Thompson

Phoenix Brighton

2 June - 7 July 2019

Open Wednesday - Sunday 11 am - 5 pm

Free entry

Preview: Saturday 1 June, 5 - 7 pm

Exhibition tour: Saturday 1 June, 4 - 5 pm

Three artists, born decades apart, are unified by a direct and uncompromising approach to their work. They have formed a cross-generational alliance founded on their belief in the sustained value of painting.

The youngest of the trio, **Sophie Barber** works on a large scale directly on to unstretched canvas. She 'steals' her imagery from life and from other paintings, and puts these images into her own work. 'I cut sections out if they don't work, and I wait to find another place for them in another painting. For me it's like rehoming a dog; you want the best for that dog and you don't want it going to the wrong home.'

Kath Thompson draws inspiration from the ordinary things she encounters in her daily life-- a news item, a room, the telly, a visit to a museum. 'What I want from my painting in the end is an imaginative transformation to take place through the paint and that the painting has presence, a life.' Kath taught at the legendary Tunbridge Wells summer school run by Roy Oxlade and Rose Wylie in the 90's.

As both a former student at the summer school and later Sophie's teacher in Hastings, **Jeb Haward** provides a link between generations of artists. Jeb says his paintings may appear to the viewer as clumsy, awkward or peculiar; however, '...they are meant to be meant, rather than liked, desired, good or contemporary. I intend for them to be authentic, irreducible, and the only option that I have remaining.'

About Phoenix Brighton

Phoenix Brighton was established by artists in 1995. Since then it has been providing affordable studio space and presenting a year round programme of contemporary exhibitions, arts courses and events. Today it is the largest visual arts organisation of its kind in the region, managing work space for over 120 artists and serving as a hub for visual arts production, discourse and learning. Based in central Brighton, it brings together professional artists and the wider public in a welcoming and creative environment.

For further information, please contact Phoenix Brighton
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