

ART MATTERS

BY ENZO MARRA



EAST SUSSEX OPEN

Towner Art Gallery, Devonshire Park, College Road, Eastbourne.
www.eastbourne.gov.uk/leisure/museums-galleries/towner/
EAST SUSSEX OPEN is the Towner's first open submission exhibition which is taking place in conjunction with the **Eastbourne Festival**, (opens Sat 3). Artists and makers who live or work in East Sussex were invited to submit work, the exhibition will take place in the 668 square metre Exhibition Hall on the ground floor.

FROM SICKERT TO GERTLER

Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, Royal Pavilion Gardens, Brighton, 01273 292 882, www.brighton.virtualmuseum.info

FROM SICKERT TO GERTLER - MODERN BRITISH ART FROM BOXTED HOUSE (from Sat 17) celebrates the lives of **Bobby and Natalie Bevan** and the works that hung on the walls of their home, Botted House in Essex, which became a gathering place for artists after the Second World War. **John Nash, Cedric Morris** and **Lett Haines**, are represented in the exhibition, as well as exceptional works on paper by artists including **Francisco de Goya, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec** and **Paul Cézanne**. Admission is £5, children £3, B&H residents £2.50 (with proof of address).



SICKERT TO GERTLER

YOU MAKE ME GAY

The Oriental, 9 Oriental Place, Brighton, Tel: 1273 205050, www.patrick-odonnell.co.uk, www.orientalbrighton.co.uk

I am also going to mention **Patrick O'Donnell's** forthcoming show in May at the **Oriental Hotel**, as it's an exhibition I'm sure you'll enjoy. **YOU MAKE ME GAY** is a selection of new works, each a personal icon to the artist and figures from his life who have influenced his gay identity. His subjects ranging from school friends who danced to Madonna with him in the playground, characters from 1980s television programmes, figures from the music industry and performers from the Working Men's Club circuit in Yorkshire where he grew up. The show questions the notion of who a gay icon is. Do they have to be gay? Do they have to be real people or fictional characters? Gay icons are usually famous people, whose iconic status is perpetuated by repeated exposure to carefully selected familiar images. The painted icons on show all have equal billing, regardless of media coverage and column inches. 10% of sales and funds raised by collections at the various events planned throughout the show will be donated to the **Terence Higgins Trust** – a charity of huge importance in promoting issues surrounding sexual health which affect the gay community, for more information on the show go to www.patrick-odonnell.co.uk



PATRICK O'DONNELL: NICOLA

MODERN TIMES: RESPONDING TO CHAOS

De La Warr Pavillion, Marina, Bexhill on Sea, www.dlwp.com

MODERN TIMES: RESPONDING TO CHAOS (Sat Apr 3-Sat Jun 13) comprises drawings, prints and experimental films, and explores the recurring tension between figuration and abstraction throughout the 20th century. Presented non-chronologically, it encompasses movements such as Russian Constructivism, Futurism and Vorticism, Abstract Expressionism and Minimalism. It features works by key artists, as well as works of artists who have been sidelined in the mainstream of art history, including **Frank Auerbach, Joseph Beuys, Jackson Pollock** and **Cy Twombly**.



KURT SCHWITTERS: BIG FIGHT

MICHELANGELO'S DREAM

The Courtauld Gallery, Somerset House, Strand, London, WC2R 0RN18. Tel: 020 7848 2526, www.courtauld.ac.uk

Many of us know what it feels like to fall hopelessly in love with someone who is totally beyond our reach - it's not new. In 1532 **Michelangelo** fell hopelessly for a beautiful 16 year old, **Tommaso de' Cavalieri**. It was completely hopeless as Tommaso came from a high ranking family and it would have been out of the question for them to ever sleep together. Michaelangelo, aged 57 and at the height of his fame, was well aware of this but he was completely besotted. He wrote poems and letters to Tommaso and drew some of his most famous pictures, featuring the nude male body, as gifts for the young nobleman. Nobody is sure how Tommaso felt about Michelangelo, but it's certain that he was flattered by his famous admirer and responded to the many gifts in a friendly manner. He was even present at Michelangelo's death and so it can be assumed that it was a deep friendship.



THE DREAM

These drawings and poems can now be seen for the first time in this country at the Courtauld Gallery (until 16th May). The exhibition is centred on **The Dream**, regarded as the finest of Michelangelo's drawings. It features a magnificently muscled, young nude man being woken from sleep by a naked spirit. Expert opinion is that this is one of the greatest (yet smallest) shows you will ever see. It's basically a gay love story that of an older man for a much younger one. All the gifts that the artist gave Tommaso are on show: poems, letters and drawings, some of which have never been exhibited before. Most were never meant to be seen as individual works of art, just simple drawings sent as tokens of his total adoration for the young man.

There can be very little doubt of Michelangelo's homosexuality, just take a look at *David*! Some 'experts' think that he was celibate, however the curator of this exhibition, **Dr Stephanie Buck**, thinks that he had a pretty active sex life. I'm inclined to agree with Ms Buck, he certainly had plenty of opportunity and as we know, boys will be boys. The exhibition is in a few rooms on the top floor of the gallery, but on your way out you must see the world famous collection of Old Masters, Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces by Cezanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Manet, Monet, Renoir. These alone are well worth the trip.
Roger Wheeler



THE RISEN CHRIST

CUBCULTURE

28 York Place Studios, London Road, Brighton info@cubculture.com

www.salutehq.com, www.cubculture.com

Artists **Fox Fisher** and **Steph Young** working together as **CUBculture** have taken over this evolving art shop/gallery until May. Their mission is to keep it interesting by showcasing both new and established artists. Expect screen prints, paintings, photography,



mixed media, raw chocolate treats and a special pound(ish) mini-shop, as well as live manikins and guest singers/DJs. Feature your art or drop in for a free graphic design consultation. For more info join facebook group: **York Place Studios**.

