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**READING
GUILD OF
ARTISTS**

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www.rga-artists.org.uk

Press Release

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Reading Guild of Artists' 89th Annual Exhibition – culminating in awarding of The Marie Dyson Award

Reading Guild of Artists' (RGA) 89th Annual Exhibition kicks off at the Sir John Madejski Art Gallery, Reading Museum, from Wednesday 27 February to Saturday 9 March, 10am to 4pm, except for Friday 1 March when it is closed to the public between 12noon and 2.30pm.

At the Exhibition, visitors will be able to purchase works of art by RGA members and works are in a wide variety of styles and media.

The RGA Annual Exhibition is an opportunity to celebrate the Guild and its artists – culminating in the presentation of the prestigious Marie Dyson Award – which goes to an artist whose work is judged to be of outstanding merit by an invited and independent assessor.

Diana Seidl, judge of this year's Marie Dyson award and renowned artist and author, said: "I am delighted to judge the Marie Dyson award this year.

"It is just over 50 years that this prize was first inaugurated. Being Head of the Arts Faculty at Pangbourne College for 25 years gave me experience of lots of different styles of artistic expression. Also, working as an examiner for A level art at the Cambridge Board, broadened further my experience of creative arts.

"It is with happy anticipation that I look forward to seeing and judging this exhibition."

Elaine Blake, exhibitions & partnerships curator, Reading Museum, said: "It is a huge honour to open the Annual Exhibition – both for me on a personal level and for Reading Museum.

"The artists' level of skill and passion are evident when you look at what is being exhibited. I know it will be a very hard decision to decide on who is awarded The Marie Dyson Award.

"I would encourage visitors to the Museum to make a bee line for the exhibition – it will be very much worth a visit."

Anthony Wilder, chairman of Reading Guild of Artists, said: "It is incredible to think the Annual Exhibition is nearly 90-years-old. The Guild has gone from strength to strength with a membership of nearly 200.

"The Exhibition is the highlight of the year – with many members showcasing their artwork and I am always impressed and humbled by the high standard of work – we have some very talented members.

"Marie Dyson was one of the Guild's brightest spirits – an outstanding innovator, whose initiative and enthusiasm transformed the Guild. It is therefore very fitting that we have renowned artist and author Diana Seidl to present this year's award. Thank you to Diana."

Further information on the Reading Guild of Artists, can be found by visiting <http://www.rga-artists.org.uk/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingGuildofArtists/>

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Images attached:

Attached are examples of artwork to be exhibited at the Annual Exhibition:

'Swaledale' – Liz Chaderton – RGA member

'Flowers for Bees' – Sarah Pye – RGA member

Photo Opportunity:

Photographers and reporters are warmly invited to attend the private viewing on Friday 1 March, 12.30 – 2pm.

The Marie Dyson Award is to be announced on Friday 1 March at 12.30pm. If you wish to send a reporter and/or photographer, please contact Carole Stephens on 07746 862249, and we will add the name(s) to the list. Thank you.

There will be opportunities to interview the winning artist and Diana Siedl.

Notes to Editors:

Diana Seidl is to judge and award The Marie Dyson Award. She has published 'Drawing & Painting on the iPad'. She trained in Manchester and Vienna and has a successful career as a fine artist and teacher.

Reading Guild of Artists was founded in 1930. It has a membership of nearly 200 artists and plays an active role in the development of artists in Reading.