

Press Release

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Reading Guild of Artists first to benefit from artists' gallery.

A new artists' gallery, the Holybrook Gallery, for Reading art groups and individuals from the surrounding area, is launched on Thursday 12 April and Reading Guild of Artists (RGA) will be the first group to host an exhibition. The new gallery has been funded by RG Spaces.

The RGA exhibition features about 20 works of art by RGA members, in a variety of media and showcases the diversity of styles used by its members.

Jenny Halsted, a nationally renowned artist and RGA member, has been the driving force behind the project. She says: "Reading artists have been calling out for a gallery to hire for decades and the Holybrook Gallery at the Central Library has been refurbished and is ideal. We are extremely grateful to RG Spaces for funding the new gallery.

"I have invited Reading Guilds of Artists to be the opening exhibition as they have been exhibiting as a Group for almost 90 years and I know we are in good hands. They will ensure we have a very exciting opening exhibition with a wide range of artists and styles. I'm sure their work will inspire the artists of next 3 planned exhibitions and after that the space is open for hire by artists in and around Reading."

Helen Lunn, a member of RGA, who is exhibiting, said: "I enjoy working with layering of materials and incorporating weathered found items left behind by humans. I found a lovely weathered piece of driftwood on the beach which started the development of *Adrift*, together with piles of eroded sea glass. I then worked with water-based inks and textures to create surface, depth and fluidity. I am interested in the way landscape and the watery environment relate to the internal landscape of the mind and body."

Anthony Wilder, chairman of the Reading Guild of Artists, said: " We are honoured to be asked to mount the first exhibition at the HolyBrook Gallery. With over 170 artists in the RGA we had a hard time selecting the most appropriate work for the show. We hope the venture is a great success and is available for many generations of artists to come.

"It's a small, but significant beginning in getting a central, permanent space in Reading to showcase the many talents this town has to offer. We hope the people of Reading will give their support to this admirable venture by visiting their new HolyBrook Gallery."

The Reading Guild of Artists' exhibition takes place at the HolyBrook Gallery, located on the 2nd floor Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading. Entrance is free. It runs from Thursday 12 to Monday 21 April. The Gallery is open 10am – 5pm on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and from 10am -7pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

The Gallery is for hire on a weekly basis. Details and application form are available from Caroline Lakeman, email Caroline.lakeman@reading.gov.uk or call 0118 9015969.

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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Photo Opportunity

Reporters and photographers are warmly invited to the launch of the Holybrook Gallery at 6pm, Thursday 12 April.

There will be the opportunity to interview the artists about their work. Please confirm attendance by calling 07503 156128 or emailing publicity@rga-artists.org.uk

Photo attached

Attached is a photo of Helen Lunn, with her artwork, 'Adrift'.

Note to Editors:

The Reading Guild of Artists was founded in 1930. It has a membership of over 170 artists and plays an active role in the development of artists in Reading.