

Press Release

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Capturing the ever-changing landscape of Reading through art at local exhibition – opportunity to buy unique works of art

The Reading Guild of Artists (RGA), a 150-strong body of Reading artists, is holding a 'slam sale' on Saturday 11 February, 10.30am to 3.30pm, at Reading Museum, in support of the Ray Atkins' exhibition. 25% of the proceeds will go to museum.

The RGA exhibition is free to attend and as it is in the same venue as the Atkins' exhibition, which is also free, people could combine a visit to both and make a 'day of it'.

The RGA members will be selling small works, in a range of styles, from watercolours to oils, themed on the changing face of Reading. Cards on the same theme will also be available. Prices start from £10, and many more will be available in the browser (mounted pieces for framing later by the buyer).

There are two drop-in workshops for budding artists running on the day so if visitors to the exhibition want to bring out their 'inner Monet' – they can attend the workshops; one on drawing the other on collage. Both workshops are for all ages and all abilities and are free to attend.

Ray Atkins, an octogenarian, between 1968 and 1974 lived in Reading and taught at the University. Ray still has strong ties with Reading and his paintings on exhibit, produced during his tenure at the University, reflect the ever-changing landscape of Reading during this time. The Ray Atkins' exhibition runs from Saturday 28 January to Saturday 6 May, Sir John Madejski Art Gallery, Reading Museum.

Anthony Wilder, chairman, Reading Guild of Artists, said: "We are delighted to have an octogenarian artist tell the story of his 'Reading years' and it is great to be involved with the exhibition as some of the Reading Guild of Artist members remember him first-hand from his days at the University of Reading Art Department.

"It is great to be able to link in with Reading Museum especially at a time when there is not much money coming from central government in support of the arts.

"The slam sale has a variety of art on offer – from watercolours and oils to acrylics. There really is something for every taste – and a great opportunity to buy a unique Valentine's gift for your special someone!

"Many local artists use Reading as their theme with its vibrant and changing landscape and this exhibition gives local people a chance to see what they are producing and get lovely works of art for their homes and businesses."

The Small Works exhibition takes place on Saturday 11 February, 10.30am to 3.30pm. Entry is free and is family-friendly. For more on the event visit <http://www.rga-artists.org.uk/rga-whats-on.html>

Contact:

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Notes to Editors:

Interviews with members of the Reading Guild of Artists can be arranged by calling 07720068972.

The Reading Guild of Artists was founded in 1930. It has a membership of over 150 artists and plays an active role in the development of artists in Reading.

Ray Atkins: The Reading Years. The artist will be 80 this year and is still an active artist. The Reading Museum is showing 12 of his paintings