

RI – THEN AND NOW

Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours

Anthony J. Lester, Adrian Hill and Ed Sepple

Since its inauguration in 1831 the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours has enjoyed the privilege of seven Royal Patrons prior to the current Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In that time the RI has undergone four name changes, seen four different main galleries used for its exhibitions and elected 706 members under 14 different Presidents who, until the current holder, were all men. This timely book celebrates both the long history of the RI and the work of its current members under their first woman President, Rosa Sepple. It includes the compelling story of the Institute, formed when William IV was on the throne and his wife, Queen Adelaide, became its first Patron, taking the reader through the subsequent decades, illustrating the works of its most prestigious members and the opulence of their early exhibitions. A full list of all members is included.

The culmination of many months of research and dedication from its authors, the main body of the book includes brief biographies and examples of the work of all current members which, combined with an historical chapter, provides the reader with a complete overview of the RI, exemplifying both the glories of the past while shining a fascinating light on the bright and progressive future of one of the most respected watercolour societies in the world today.

Anthony Lester bought his first watercolour at an auction in 1956 when he was eleven years old (In Charge by William McTaggart, 1835-1910). Six years later he opened an art gallery in Oxfordshire where he became well known as a specialist in early English watercolours and drawings. In 1983 he gave up dealing to concentrate on art research and acting as an art consultant. This led him taking part in programmes such as the *Antiques Roadshow*, *Going for a Song*, *Flog It!* and Channel 4's *Posh Pawn*. He has made over 300 radio broadcasts and contributed over 700 articles to magazines and national newspapers as well as being editor of *Watercolours*, *Drawings and Prints*. He has curated a number of exhibitions, including Pure Gold: 50 Years of the Federation of British Artists, which was held in 2011 at the Mall Galleries, London.

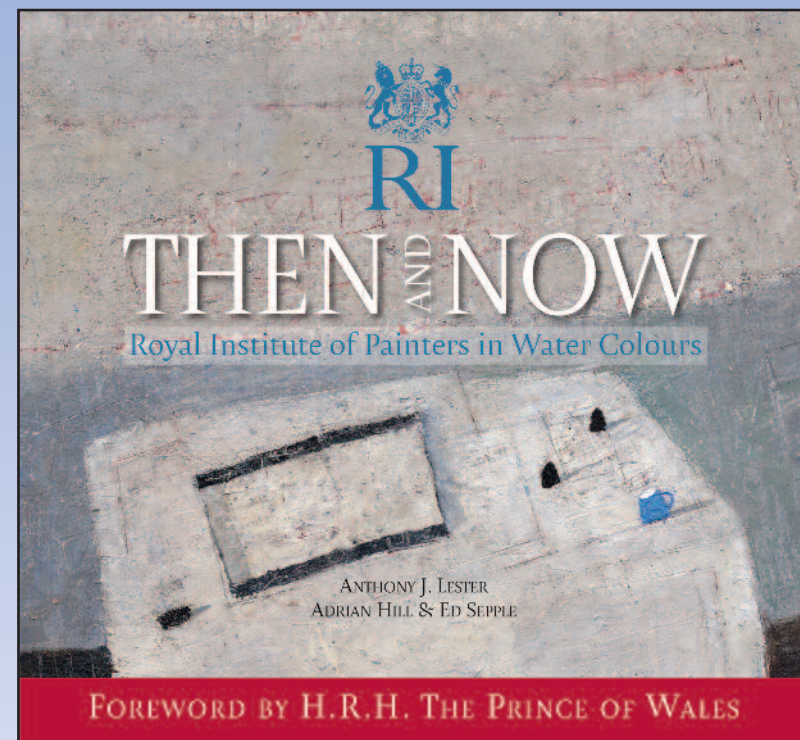
Anthony is an Honorary Member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Companion of the Pastel Society, Fellow of the Royal Society of British Artists, Life Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Member of the International Association of Art Critics, the Critics' Circle and Life Member of Chelsea Arts Club.

Adrian Hill is the third generation of his family behind two of East Anglia's most successful and well-known art galleries, Picturecraft of Holt and Adrian Hill Fine Art. From here many artists have begun successful careers, returning again and again to exhibit at these premier locations. Both Adrian and his father have also contributed to a number of publications helping to promote those whose work they exhibit and bringing to the public a deeper appreciation of the artist's world. Individual artist's exhibitions in London include successful shows at the Mall Galleries notably 'Out of the Blue' for Rosa Sepple PRI (2015) and 'Sylvette – Picasso's Muse' for Lydia Corbett (2018).

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RI – THEN AND NOW



'Flowers at Christmas'
Ian Bliss

'Sundarata'
Kate Morgan



'Sanctuary'
Mary Mahler



'Sun and Sand'
Robin Hazlewood



'Orange and Yellow Fields'
Moira Huntly

Lillias August RIIA Hon.

Lillias August was born in Gloucester in 1955. She studied Fine Art at Goldsmiths College in London, gaining a BA Fine Art Degree, which was followed by a postgraduate course in The History of Art and Design at Birmingham.

Lillias has been a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours since 2006 and is currently serving as its Honorary Secretary, a role which she has held since 2014.

Lillias was project artist at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk during the Suffolk Cathedral Millennium project which included the building of the central tower and its highly decorated and vaulted ceiling. 'Cross', a series of paintings that grew out of the project, subsequently toured to Ely, Peterborough and Lincoln Cathedrals and to Southwell Minster with grants awarded from, amongst others, Arts Council England, Kent and four Midlands (2005 – 2006).

A published painter, Lillias regularly contributes to national and international art magazines and has had her work featured in two books associated with the St. Edmundsbury project.

Recognised for a highly refined style and technique, Lillias chooses strong, simple, everyday objects in her compositions. She describes her approach to a subject as being 'inspired by simplicity and honesty – the signs of everyday use and the signs of a life story'.

Lillias uses a surprisingly limited palette where washes are continually layered and lifted in search of the desired effect. More often than not, objects are depicted as if they are suspended in air in suspension. Recently she has been working on a series of paintings of musical bells. She finds the subject matter captivating and evocative and, as a fairly demanding subject, she set herself new challenges and expanded the boundaries of her non-object painting to exciting new levels.

A multi-award-winning artist, Lillias August is represented in leading galleries across five Angles and has recently been made an Honorary Member of the Institute of Fine Art and Artists (IFA). Frequently exhibiting in major exhibitions in London, she has also had paintings selected in connection with the highly prestigious Sunday Times Watercolour Competition.

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Example of a double-page spread.

'Varying by a Thread'
2016/17

'Seven Brackets'
2016/17

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'A Greek Affair'
Martin Caulkin