



# ODIHAM ART GROUP DEMONSTRATION REPORT

## Sarah Janavicius – Textural, Collage and Watercolour

Following the AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> July we were delighted to welcome Sarah Janavicius who had three techniques that she wanted to demonstrate to us. Sarah lived in Australia for ten years and finds that her memories of these years are portrayed in her paintings today, loving to use vivid and vibrant colours.



Sarah started with a Watercolour picture which she had already sketched out and started to paint before coming to us. The composition was of three different flowers painted in the prime colours with a background of various greens for foliage. For this she used 140lb textured watercolour paper cold press NOT. She very carefully painted alternate petals which had to completely dry before she could return to the alternate petals, thus avoiding the colours to 'bleed'. She said that she usually used the watercolours straight from the pans/tubes and rarely mixed colours applying wet paints on dry watercolour paper. She recommended using St Petersburg pans and QoR tubes which are new on the market and available from Jacksons, as well as Windsor and Newton paints. For the detailed painting of petals she recommended

using Cotman Windsor and Newton brushes in size 2 or 3.

After a tea break Sarah then demonstrated her textural collage techniques. She discussed briefly forms of creating texture on watercolour paper using cling film, acrylic paints, acrylic textures, bubble wrap, angel hair paper and more.



Sarah's final demonstration was very unusual and most effective. Initially she had drawn a large outlined picture of trees which she then had photographed onto a large piece of transparency film, this was then traced onto board. She then prepared her textured bases initially by painting 90lb watercolour paper squares with different coloured acrylics which she then sealed with Wunda Size and then left for a minimum of 15 minutes to dry. To some she used, gold, silver or copper leaf which she



gets from the Art Centre, painted on in abstract shapes and once dried she cut into the shapes with dental tools, although you could use pottery tools! On other bases she stuck sequins, glitter, holographic paper etc with all-purpose glue. Other prepared bases were decorated with acrylic paint painted on bubble wrap and then pressed onto the base, sponged or decorated with sequins creating bright and interesting colours.

Having produced a good supply of brightly decorated bases she went on to show us how she built her fascinating picture. She returned to the original drawing and traced a negative space which was then cut out of one of the many prepared bases before then sticking onto the board, gradually building up the picture, almost like a jigsaw. Once the negative spaces have all been filled she would then cover with the photographed film before putting the complete work into a frame.

Clearly Sarah did not have the time to complete during the demonstration but showed us a finished piece of art which was vibrant, very unusual and so skillful.

Maxine Ward