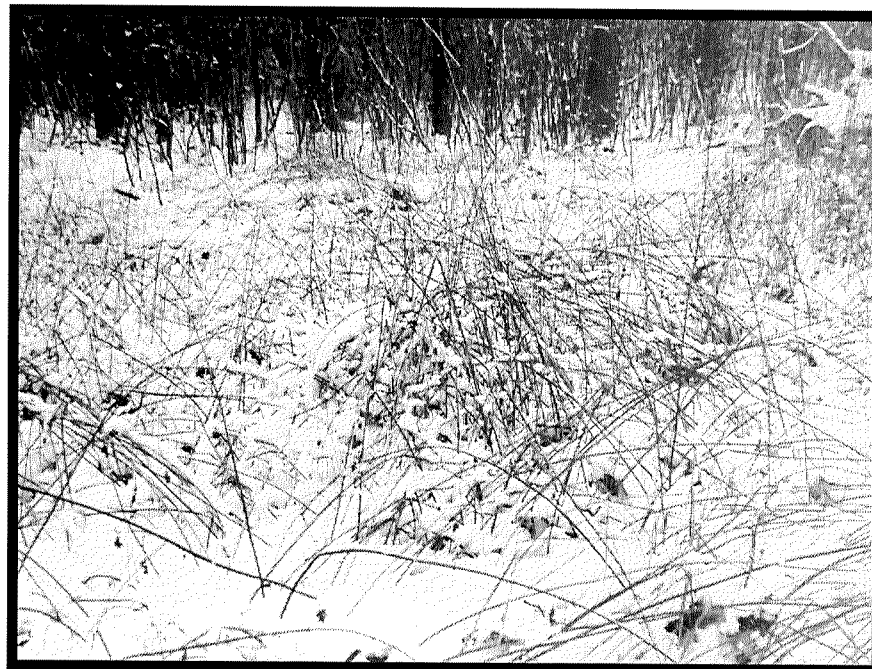


JOHN LARKIN
19.01.1932 - 12.12. 2017



JOHN LARKIN

Artist, Photographer, Teacher

A Retrospective Art Exhibition
To celebrate John's life and work

GREENHOUSE GALLERY

42 -46 Bethel Street Norwich

All Are Welcome



When I first met John, over forty years ago, he was already immersed in the art world of Liverpool. Teaching, marriage and a move to Norwich broke these ties, but his passion for the creative stayed with him always.

I am sure his creative life meant more to him than eating and breathing, and every home we lived in had a studio, a sacred and personal space in which he worked for hours almost every day right up to the last days of his life.

He was endlessly creative, exploring many materials. Some, like sculpture, ceramics and watercolours were soon abandoned, whilst others formed the backbone of his lifetime work. Each venture, each image, was explored to the full. Then, whether successful or not, they were put aside to start on fresh motivation. For John, the process was what mattered. The end product, however satisfied he felt, rapidly became less important. Nevertheless, he

exhibited steadily throughout his life in Liverpool, Norfolk and London, a challenge he greatly enjoyed.

He rarely spoke or wrote about the motivations behind his work, and he was content to allow the onlooker to form their own ideas and opinions, whether positive or negative. However, below is a profile which he wrote some years ago.

“My main interest is in painting and I experiment with a selection of materials in an endeavour to create a 'surface' which has some of the elements to be found in landscapes. Some of my inspiration comes from Spanish artists such as Antoni Tapies and Luis Feito. I use photography as a useful way of recording surface features found in nature, and man-made circumstances such as derelict areas and building sites. These images provide some material for my paintings. Photography is also a valuable tool in another life-long interest which is the architecture of the Romanesque period.

At one point, I acquainted myself in depth with digital photography and began to realise the potential use of digital imaging to altogether different treatment of images with the emphasis on abstract forms. My latest work is based upon worn surfaces and elements of machinery, much as before, but the division and application of these images differs. The organisation of the final composition is done by a process of montage and each of my completed works I regard as a monoprint.”

Throughout his life, both personally and as a teacher, John demonstrated a huge appetite for learning, and endless enthusiasm for the rigour of acquiring knowledge. He had a great love for music, for literature, for architecture, for philosophy, but above all was his passion for art.