

Impressions of the Suburb

Watercolours by Shizue Takahashi

THE GALLERY'S SPRING SHOW

Artists from northern Europe have long sung the praises of the quality of light and strong blue skies of the Mediterranean or Cornwall but for Shizue Takahashi it is the muted light and misty skies, so different from her native Japan, that she says "set off the varied greens of the trees and the brick and tile colours of the architecture of the Garden Suburb".

"My early success after St Martin's was with large scale cityscape oils," says Shizue "but it was while walking through the Suburb taking my children to the Meadway playgroup and later to the Garden Suburb School that I came to appreciate the gentle light and landscape and especially the trees here."

The comparative ease of carrying and using watercolour was another discovery that led to a habit of producing watercolour sketches wherever she finds herself.

Shizue was born in Niigata, Japan and came to England in 1976 to learn English before taking up painting at the Camden Art Centre.

This was followed by a foundation course at St Martin's after which she went on to complete a further two years leading to a Bachelor of Arts in fine art. Shizue has also won the David Murray Studentship Award at the Royal Academy.

The artist, pictured with Gerlinde Bates, Gallery manager, who is about to try some of Shizue's beautifully made sushi at the private view of her watercolours of the Suburb.

The exhibition runs until May 20 at the Garden Suburb Gallery which is at the Temple Fortune end of Hampstead Way. 8455 7410.



Music for the Millennium

The Events Committee of the Residents Association had been working to ensure that a feast of musical events, featuring some highly acclaimed performers, would be available throughout the Millennium year. These concerts will be in aid of the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund.

national critic has described the beauty of his playing. And the Financial Times once wrote: "there aren't many oboe concertos and one would be happy to hear Black playing any and all of them". His oboist wife and former pupil, Janice Knight, will join him, as will also Thea King,



The first event, which the RA is sponsoring, will be an evening at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute Hall with Richard Baker, the distinguished broadcaster and presenter. He will be hosting a programme entitled "Gilbert and Sullivan on the Record", during which he will be entertaining us with some legendary tales about that immortal partnership. Richard will illustrate his talk with a wealth of recorded musical extracts from the scintillating operas. Make a note of the date in your diaries - Thursday 20 July.

This brings us to the autumn season of special concerts under the auspices of the Residents Association. On Saturday 30 September, three of our finest woodwind players will be introducing a varied and original repertoire of wind music in the Free Church. The concert will feature the oboist Neil Black, who himself is a Suburb resident. Neil is renowned for his "ravishingly malleable flow of tone", as one

of Britain's leading clarinetists. Their concert, entitled "Suburb Reeds", will give us a rare opportunity of hearing no less than three members of the oboe family - the oboe, the cor anglais and the oboe d'amore. We can also witness Thea King's artistry and versatility on the clarinet and as a piano accompanist.



On Saturday 28 October we shall be able to hear one of Britain's most outstanding musicians, the pianist Howard Shelley, at St Jude's. This will also be a family occasion, for he will be joined

on the platform by his pianist wife, Hilary Macnamara, and also by their talented cellist son, Alexander Shelley. The latter has recently been the subject of some rare praise from the great cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. The evening's music will feature some inspired works for two pianos by Brahms and Rachmaninov. Alexander's contribution on the cello will include Schubert's Arpeggione.

Saturday 18 November is the date on which everyone is invited to join in a vocal celebration of Handel's Messiah at the Free Church. It should be an uplifting experience to sing alongside the combined choirs of St Jude's, the Free Church and the Alyth Gardens Choral Society. Admission will be free, but there will be a collection in aid of the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund.

All booking information, including the price of tickets, will be published shortly. The Residents Association looks forward to welcoming you to the Music for the Millennium: I am sure the concerts will give much enjoyment and, at the same time, you will be supporting a very deserving cause.

DAVID LITTAUR

The Trust and infringements

In this article we look at the question of infringements and see whether the Trust and Barnet, in co-operation with local residents, could take more effective action to control this problem.

On the Suburb there are tight controls exercised by both the Trust and Barnet and the approval of both authorities is required for even minor alterations. The Trust's authority is derived from the Scheme of Management in the case of freehold properties, and the Trust exercises landlord control over the leasehold properties.

LOCAL RESIDENTS

It is often forgotten that the New Trust was set up on the initiative of local residents who felt that a separate authority was required to maintain the character of the Suburb and safeguard its heritage.

Prior to 1974 landlord control was initially exercised by the Old Trust and suburb Leaseholds and subsequently by the property companies which acquired the Suburb. Unfortunately the standards for alterations in those days were not so stringent and many changes were allowed to take place which would not receive approval today. Moreover in the early years of its existence the new Trust had to establish its own guidelines and was perhaps too lenient in what it would allow.

MOST APPLY TO BOTH

Fortunately most suburb residents apply to both the Trust and Barnet before undertaking work requiring approval. However, in a few cases residents carry out alterations without reference to either authority. This usually happens when houses change hands, since some new residents are unaware of the special restrictions operating on the Suburb, which cover

things like hedges, front doors and the colour of brick work. Once they are told, most new residents are anxious to make amends by reinstating whatever they have altered or by applying for retrospective approval. Infringements caused by ignorance are usually quite simple to rectify.

More serious problems are caused by a small number of residents who have no interest in conserving or preserving the Suburb and believe that they should have absolute freedom to do what they please with their houses and gardens. They see Barnet and the Trust as interfering busy-bodies who try to curtail their legitimate rights.

PLEASE LET US KNOW

For the Trust it is much easier to take action while an infringement is actually taking place, so please let us know when you suspect that illegal work is taking place. If you phone the Trust, we can immediately check whether the work has been approved or not. Although both the Trust Architect and Manager travel round the Suburb almost daily, it is impossible for 2 people effectively to police over 3,500 houses.

Once an infringement has taken place the Trust will not hesitate to invoke the full sanction of the law.

REMARKABLE PLACE

One of the principal reasons why the Suburb is such a remarkable place is because of the attention paid to details by the original architects. Front doors, gates, hedges, pointing, chimneys, glazing bars, hand-made roof tiles, and paint-work colour are all part of the overall fabric and once they have been spoiled the Suburb as a whole is poorer. Most people live on the Suburb because in terms of its architecture and town planning it is unique and, despite a number of infringements in the past,

it remains relatively unscathed. If residents would like the Trust to maintain a hard line against even minor infringements, we require your assistance. Residents should help create a climate of opinion favourable to conservation so that would-be infringers are made to feel that it is anti-social to rip out their front doors and hedges and paint their drain-pipes purple.

PLEASE HELP

Please help us to mount an effective anti-infringement campaign by undertaking the following:-

- When houses change hands, please go and talk to your new neighbours and tell them about the planning procedure operating on the Suburb. For its part, the Trust writes to all new residents about the role of the Trust and Barnet.
- Once we receive a planning application, we always notify the immediate neighbours, so if you see work starting which you don't know about, please ring the Trust immediately. Also contact David Williams on (8359 2000) who is the Planning Officer at Barnet.
- If you feel that Barnet are not taking a tough enough line on infringements, please write to the Suburb Councillors.
- If your neighbours are deliberately flouting the policies of both Barnet and the Trust, please go and talk to them. Pressure from residents can help in getting infringers to mend their ways. Uglification of one Suburb house can spoil a row of terraced houses, both sides of a semi or even a whole street.

We are confident that if residents actively cooperate with Barnet and the Trust we can together solve the problem of infringements. Without your assistance the job is much harder to accomplish.

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

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