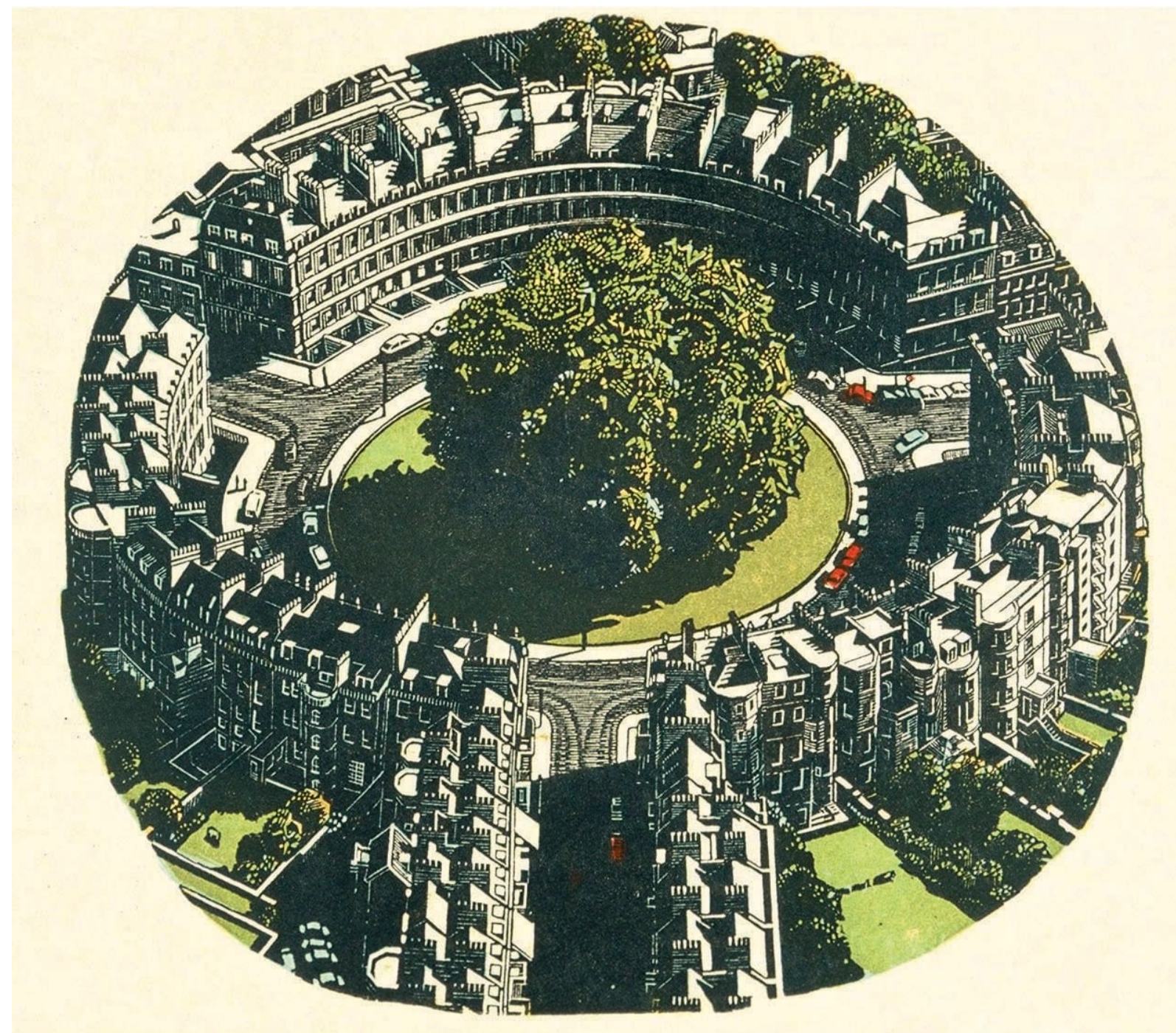


The Tree Art Gallery

Newsletter

June 2022



Tree Celebration

Welcome to the June edition of The Tree Art Gallery Newsletter. It is already our **6th month** since we opened at the beginning of January and we absolutely love working with Tree and wood inspired Art and sincerely appreciate all of our wonderful artists, collectors, museums, interested followers and of course the trees who make this project so inspiring and worthwhile.

As we write this newsletter it is **World Environment Day** and the work of art illustrated above is **Anne Desmet RA's** coloured wood engraving and linocut of Bath Circus (designed by the appropriately named John Wood the Elder and his son John Wood the Younger), celebrating the significance of the central Plane trees as a point of focus for each house and apartment in this urban environment. Interestingly the original designs for Bath Circus did not include Trees which were planted in the 1820s almost 100 years later.

This print is **Tree Artwork of The Month** and as such the gallery is offering **10% off** for this month only. The work is available unframed or framed as a single work or part of a series of 4 wood engravings of Bath Circus by Anne.



This sepia ink drawing (above) of the **Lambeth Palace Fig Tree** (71 x 140 cm) is by Mary Anne Aytoun Ellis. This Fig Tree is one of The Queen's Green Canopy ancient trees carefully selected to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 70 year reign. The drawing is currently still in progress at Mary Anne's studio in Lewes having started life as a pencil sketch which Mary Anne worked on for three days sitting in front of the huge and extraordinary 466 year old tree.

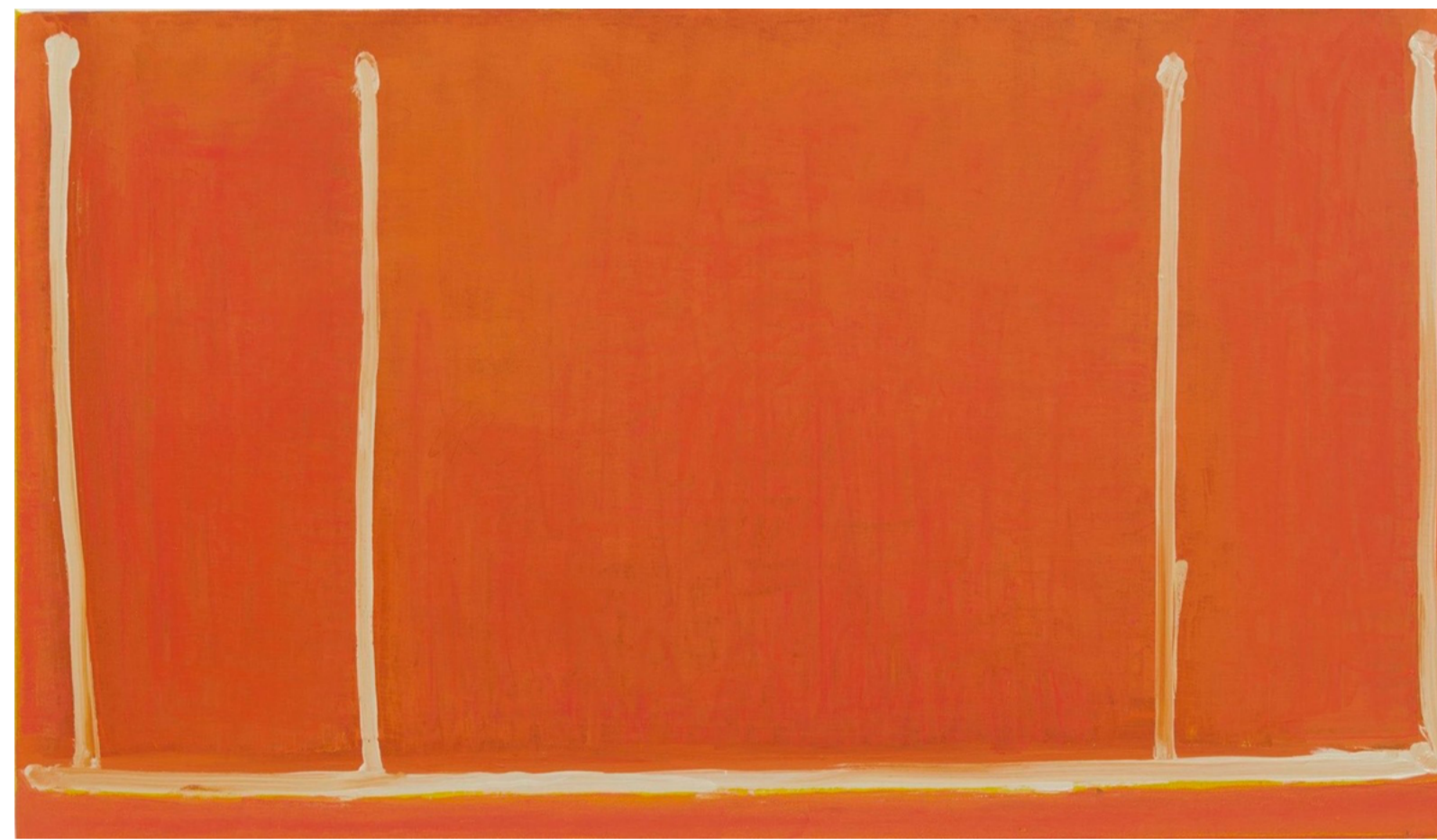
A "White Marseilles" Fig Tree it was planted at Lambeth Palace in 1565 by Cardinal Pole, the last Roman Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury. London's population then was just 100,000 and Bloody Mary was on the throne. In 2014 Cardinal Pole's successor the present Archbishop Justin Welby presented Pope Francis with a cutting taken from the Lambeth fig to represent the common heritage of the two churches in a deeply symbolic gesture of unity. Having originally been brought to Lambeth by Pole from Rome it seems fitting that a cutting is now finally thriving in the Vatican so that the one tree will bear fruit in both London and Rome. Despite it's location in historic Lambeth Palace, the London residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury for 800 years, it is available to be seen on occasional open days during the year but otherwise remains one of the city's great hidden gems.

Look out for the forthcoming June blog on the gallery website where we will include excerpts from Mary Anne's diary as she continues her ancient tree tour. The written reflections while meeting and drawing ancient trees is an intimate glimpse into the experience of an artist at work before these precious subjects.



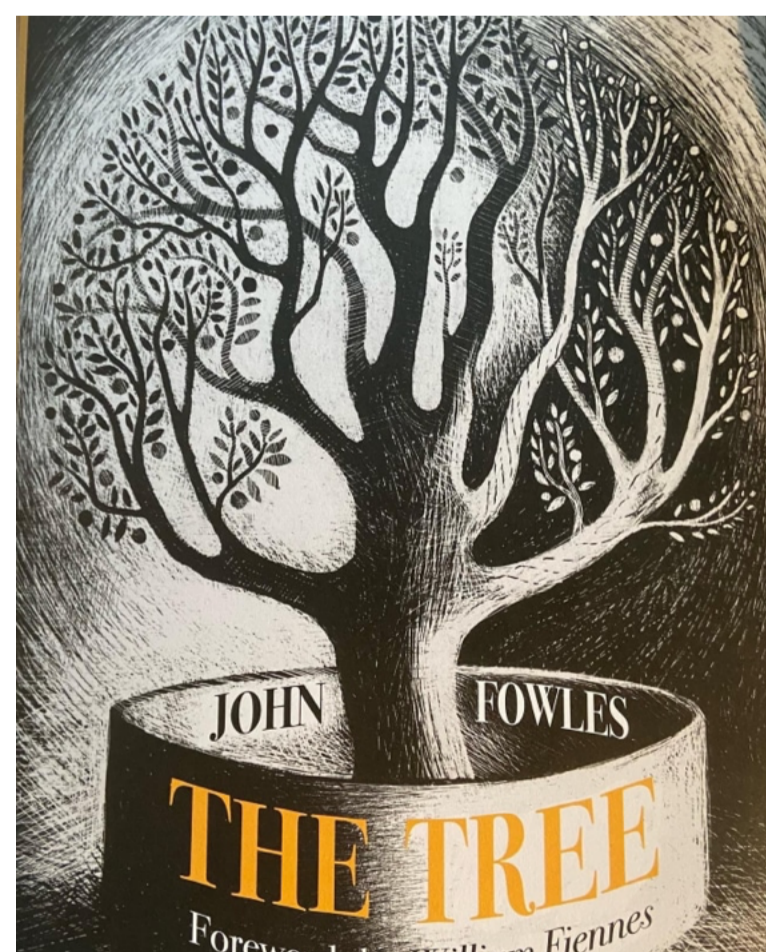
Tree Charity

The artist Mary Anne Aytoun Ellis is collaborating with **The Queen's Green Canopy** charity, touring the UK drawing (see above) ancient trees chosen to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Sales through the gallery will support the charity with an exhibition and book to follow in December.



Tree Art Events & Exhibitions

Christopher Le Brun PPRRA (Woodlines XX) above) is giving a talk at The Slade School of Art on the 23rd June, tickets are available via University College London. **Nigel Hall RA** is currently on show in a joint exhibition at Annely Juda Fine Art, London and **Anne Desmet RA** has a solo exhibition of print works and collages at Abbott & Holder, London and is also on view at the RA Summer exhibition and the Royal Society of Wood Engraver's exhibition at the Bankside Gallery only until the 10th June.



Tree Book

We highly recommend this intriguing book, *The Tree* by John Fowles illustrated by Ed Kluz. Musings by John on his relationship to Trees, how it evolved and how he feels humanity's relationship with trees currently exists and why with a regular nod to art and artistic interpretation of Trees: "But nature is unlike art in terms of its product - what we in general know by it. The difference is that it is not only created, an external object with a history, and so belonging to a past; but also creating in the present, as we experience it. As we watch, it is so to speak rewriting, reformulating, repainting, rephotographing itself." (Little Toller, 2016, p. 59)

Tree Art News

There is a beautiful exhibition **True to Nature** at **The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge** on until the 29th August. This exhibition really does demonstrate a wealth of artists from across Europe who were inspired by trees (and nature) during the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Tate Liverpool has **Radical Landscapes** until the 4th September. We are looking forward to seeing new artistic perspectives on our current landscape environment. An exhibition that has received mixed reviews but nonetheless appears bravely to be making important new avenues into this often neglected subject.

We mentioned last month that we would be talking about an interesting new project/charity called **The Oak Project** which we have come across. They explain their ethos; "building a pioneering arts programme which harnesses the power of cultural moments to connect us to the natural world. We commission artworks and creative activities which explore our relationship with the environment and create meaningful moments of connection. We are researching the power of art to motivate climate action and improve wellbeing." Their research is being carried out by Derby University and you can read their fascinating report online on their website <https://oakproject.org.uk/oak-project/>. They are currently based at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park so definitely an interesting project which we will be following with interest.

Next Month in our July Newsletter there will be news on an exciting new solo exhibition by Christopher Le Brun PPRRA at Lisson Gallery, London, a look at the work of The Woodland Trust the Tree Charity chosen to be supported by sales of works of art by Anne Desmet RA as well as interesting stories and events related to Trees and Art to inspire you during the summer holidays.

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