

*****Press Release*****

***Bracknell Town Centre transformed into an Art Gallery
ReOrsa Artists Project No. 2 - Observations***

“Art Walk” across Bracknell Town Centre from the 8th of September to the 3rd of October 2008

Group art exhibition 4 and 24 Charles Square, Bracknell

Open 17 – 20 September and 24 to 27 September

Wednesdays to Saturdays 11 am to 6 pm

This September over 20 professional artists from across the Thames Valley are converging on Bracknell to transform the town temporarily into the centre of contemporary art in Berkshire. There will be a wide range of work on display with many opportunities for visitors to participate and interact with the art and the artists throughout the month.

A number of shop windows in the town will be transformed into art displays to form an “Art Walk” for 4 weeks, while 2 vacant shops on Charles Square will become exhibition galleries for 8 days. Both activities are free to the public providing an opportunity to experience contemporary art by local practising artists wanting to show their work outside of the traditional gallery or museum settings of London.

This is the second year ReOrsa have exhibited in the town centre and this year’s theme is ‘Observations’. Bracknell based artist and project organiser Janet Curley Cannon explains, “The artists will be exhibiting work that has come about through their personal observations of place, people or emotions and several artists will be drawing our attention to the ways in which we subtly and unintentionally shape the places that we inhabit but often overlook”.

Bracknell Regeneration Partnership are negotiating the temporary use of several shop windows with various landlords and are providing the use of the two vacant shops on Charles Square for the group exhibition. Clare Juniper, Asset Manager for Bracknell Regeneration Partnership comments, “We are delighted to be working with ReOrsa again for another successful art exhibition in the town centre this year. It’s a great initiative - we are always keen to support our local community and local artists and this project will benefit everyone including visitors to Bracknell town centre who want to come and explore the “Art Walk”.

The art on display will vary from found object collections by Crowthorne artist Jenny Parkes, two site-specific installations by Burnham artist Lynn Andrews, small sculptures made from recycled materials from Slough based artist Barbara Cotterell and large wooden figurative sculptures from Reading based artist Nick Garnett. Bracknell artist Ruth Hatch is exhibiting a series of abstract photographs that started out as “something to do on the bus journey from Bracknell to Reading, allowing me to take hundreds of chance, random images”.

Reading based artist, Jennifer Leach, will be creating a window display of fruit sculptures that will activate, collapse and generally misbehave over the duration of the month as the fruit rots and disintegrates. Several artists will be creating work on-site and asking the public to participate, providing an opportunity to get involved and help the work develop over the course of the exhibition.

A map marking the locations of the windows for the art walk, along with a short simple quiz based on observations of the art, will be available when the exhibition opens in Charles Square on the 17th September. All correctly completed forms will be entered into a competition to win one free place on an art workshop at South Hill Park Arts Centre. Jane O'Sullivan, Visual Arts Officer at South Hill Park states "We are delighted to support the work of ReOrsa as last year's exhibition in the town centre was exceptionally well received by hundreds of people; we wish ReOrsa every success with this latest venture".

ReOrsa is an artist-led initiative to support and promote the activities of professional practising visual artists living in the Thames Valley. More information about ReOrsa can be found on their web site at www.reorsa.org. ReOrsa is kindly being supported in this project by Bracknell Regeneration Partnership, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Bracknell Town Council and South Hill Park Arts Centre.

- ENDS -