

'ReOrsa Artists Project No. 3 - Wokingham town centre'

5 to 15 November, 2008

ReOrsa, a group of professional contemporary artists from across the Thames Valley, will temporarily occupy a vacant shop at 43A Peach Street to host an exhibition in early November. This follows on from the ReOrsa Art walk and exhibition in Bracknell in September that drew over 900 visitors. ReOrsa are non-commercial fine artists that seek out vacant spaces to exhibit their work and will often create new work in direct response to the venue or window spaces available. Their aim is to make contemporary art by regional artists freely accessible to the community by bringing it into the heart of the town centre.

This Wokingham project by ReOrsa will present a diverse range of artwork including Finchampstead artist Beverly Ayling-Smith's linen and lead wall pieces stemming from her research into the English Shroud, Crowthorne artist Carol Coates' paintings from a body of work based on her family background in Catholicism, and Reading artist Jennifer Leach's digital print responding to the concept of shuttered windows protecting the imagined contents of vacated shops.

ReOrsa has been working with The Cultural Partnership for the past 10 months to find a suitable space in the town to use as a temporary exhibition space. Crowthorne artist and project organiser Janet Curley Cannon explains, "We are very excited to have the opportunity to be in Wokingham and thank Wendover Properties for enabling ReOrsa to use their vacant shop space. We look forward to meeting the local community and giving them an opportunity to experience contemporary art by practising professionals without making the journey to the galleries in the east end of London".

The Cultural Partnership negotiated temporary use of the vacant shop on Peach Street. Gwynneth Hewetson, Chair of the Cultural Partnership states, "Our aim is to bring creative, artistic, musical and theatrical excitement to Wokingham by opening the doors of vacant shops. Working with artists we promote high quality, engaging arts experiences. This project is bringing together core services – including Wokingham Borough Council and The Thames Valley Police - to keep Wokingham town a great place for traders, residents and visitors."

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 at www.reorsa.org. *This project is supported by The Cultural Partnership, The Community Safety Partnership, Wendover Properties Ltd., Wokingham Borough Council, and The Thames Valley Police.*

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Exhibition will be open 5 to 15 November- Wednesdays to Saturdays only - 11 am to 5 pm and is free!

Exhibiting artists – Beverly Ayling-Smith, Sarah Britten-Jones, Tom Cartmill, Carol Coates, Barbara Cotterell, Janet Curley Cannon, Michael Garaway, Hildegunn Gravdal, Ingrid Jensen, Jennifer Leach, Charlotte McClelland, Jenny Parkes, David Richards, Julia Rogers, and Angelika Steiger.