

PHILOMENA KENNEDY
Paintings·Prints·Drawings·
local subjects·Calligraphy·
Painted silks with trapunto.



DOVER MUSEUM
5 MAY-9 JUNE 1990
Tuesday-Saturday 10.00-17.00
Sunday 14.00-17.00

Review

The Committee has to thank our Editor, Philomena Kennedy, for a second delightful evening when she invited us to the preview of her current exhibition, on the evening of the 8th May. The first sign of the event on approaching the Town Hall was the difficulty of parking anywhere around! Once inside, the tiny space which is all the present Museum can allot to temporary exhibitions was teeming with happy guests and friends from 6.30 - 9.00!

All the words of praise for Philomena's rich and varied talent which I wrote in Newsletter No.5, when we saw her exhibition in the Deal Library Gallery a year ago, of course apply again. There is the same variety of media: paintings in watercolour, acrylic and gouache or on silk with trapunto, drawings, prints, calligraphy.

This is a more restricted exhibition, however, than the earlier one and is focussed on Dover. Exactly half of the 44 items are of Dover subjects. One remarkable fact about these Dover sketches is that they were apparently all produced during a recent relatively short but fruitful period leading up to the Exhibition. Sketches they may be called but not in the dictionary sense of being "rough, slight, merely outlined, unfinished". There are varied approaches, sensitively suited to the individual subject. Some shine with bright colours, some surprise you with a new angle on an old friend, a front elevation or a striking perspective from a high viewpoint. They all inspire you to make a resolution to walk slowly and look about you in our town scene.

The other section of the exhibition is more exotic. Perhaps the most spectacular and the most-sold print is the classic view of the courtyard in Trogir. Light and perspective invite you into both the garden of the Villa Aurelia (17) and of the Casa de Pilatos (26), the first rather sinister and viewers thought of Samuel Palmer and Salvador Dali! The courtyard in Seville (38) capturing heat and light with only black ink and wash on white paper is one of my favourites. Gubbio (16) and the house on Symi (35) offer fascinating perspectives and the Flowers in a Mediaeval Font (15) and the Water Garden in Autumn complex patterns, and one could go on and on. (There's a pattern of Dover doorways, too. (11)).

May we perhaps look forward, when the new Museum in the Heritage Centre is complete and open with more ample space, to a full retrospective Philomena exhibition? Meanwhile we say "Thank You" for what we have.

Leo Wright

I should have like to have invited many more people but space did not allow.
(The exhibition is also open on Monday 28 May).

Editor.