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Press Release

For Immediate Release

**Future Stars of the Arts World to Exhibit at ArtisAnn in Belfast**

**Emerging Artists 2019**

A group exhibition featuring recent graduates:

Sophia Campbell
Aimée Nelson

Vikkie Patterson

Jade Smith

**Thursday 5th September to Saturday 28th September 2019**

**Special Preview Wed 4th September 6-8pm ​All Welcome.**

ArtisAnn is proud to provide the first professional group show featuring this year’s class of emerging young talent. All the artists have graduated from the School of Art at Ulster University, winning several awards and prizes along the way. In alphabetical order, they are:

* **Sophia Campbell**: a contestant on the first episode of Sky Art’s ‘*Portrait Artist of the Year 2019*’, where her painting of TV chef Andi Oliver received very favorable comments from the judges.
* **Aimée Nelson:** Aimee is a shortlisted candidate to exhibit for the Woon Foundation Sculpture and Painting Prize 2019 and has been selected as Artist in Residence for the Art College at Ulster University.
* **Vikkie Patterson:** Vikkie received the Artisann Emerging Artist Award and the Queens Street Studios Award as well as being selected for the RDS Visual Art Awards longlist.
* **Jade Smith**: won the North West Regional College’s Painter of the Year Award and works as a volunteer with Cancer Focus Belfast’s Art Therapy department,

Ken Bartley, co-owner of ArtisAnn, says:

‘The ArtisAnn Gallery believes in offering encouragement to young and emerging artists and is confident that these are stars of the future. The artwork produced by these newcomers is remarkable both for its technical ability and breadth of new ideas. This is a very varied show, with two common linkages: all are recent graduates and all are of the highest quality, with every indication that they will be ‘names’ of the future.’

All artworks are available to buy, and can be delivered free of charge.

You can also buy art from this exhibition through the Own Art scheme which gives you an interest-free loan over 10 months (and you still get to take the art home immediately the exhibition ends).

New art and easy payments:- what’s not to love?

ArtisAnn Gallery

70 Bloomfield Avenue

Belfast BT5 5AE

Tue – Fri: 11am to 6pm

Saturday: Noon to 5pm

The exhibition runs at the ArtisAnn Gallery, 70 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast from Thursday 5th September to Saturday 28th September 2019

Special Preview Wed 4th September 6 - 8pm

​All Welcome

Admission is free.

**Ends**

**Contacts**

For further information please contact Ann or Ken

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ArtisAnn Gallery

70 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5AE

mail@artisann.org

[www.artisann.org](http://www.artisann.org)

**Gallery Opening Hours**

Tue – Fri: 11am to 6pm

Saturday: Noon to 5pm

**Notes to Editors**

***The ArtisAnn Gallery***

The ArtisAnn is a contemporary art gallery situated on Bloomfield Avenue in East Belfast. It showcases the work of both emerging and established artists, many of the latter members of the prestigious Royal Ulster Academy of Arts (RUA).

The gallery occupies two floors, with a range of selected artists on the ground floor and monthly themed shows in the exhibition space on the first floor.

Ann and Ken welcome visitors to call in and appreciate the art works in an accessible, friendly and fuss-free environment. The ground floor is wheel-chair accessible, there is parking directly outside, and all major credit cards are accepted.

***Ann and Ken Bartley***

The gallery is run by Ann and Ken Bartley, who are no strangers to the art world, having been involved in the scene for over twenty years, during which time they have curated a number of exhibitions, including the ‘Hands of History + 20’ for the Victoria Gallery & Museum, Liverpool; ‘Introduction to the Hands of History + 20’ for the British Council, Belfast, as part of the Good Friday commemorations, and various shows at the EastSide Gallery, the ArtTank, the LinenHall Library, among other venues as well as organising other several events, and exhibiting their own work.

Focusing mainly on sketches and photography, Ann and Ken have been invited to show at the Naughton Gallery at Queen's, the Assembly Rooms, Catalyst Arts, Queen Street Studios, Tate Modern and Tate Britain, the latter two as part of a larger, collaborative work, and a solo show at the Frameworks gallery. They have also successfully submitted works to the Royal Ulster Academy's annual show.

Ken worked for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for almost two decades. He also organised a range of music events in Belfast, including events at Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, the American Jazz Musician, Roy Ayers, at the Empire and the contemporary electronic musician, Scanner, at the Belfast International Arts Festival.