



# ODIHAM ART GROUP DEMONSTRATION REPORT

**March 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 (postponed from February) Sera Knight – Watercolour Street Scene**

Sera has been drawing and painting since childhood and paints mainly in watercolour, acrylic and mixed media. She was born in Turkey then lived in Norway from 1980 to 1993 where she worked as an architect in the oil industry. She took up painting when she moved to UK and studied with local artist Liz Seward Relfe.

For the demonstration Sera worked from a black and white photo of Trafalgar Square with the National Gallery in the background. She had already sketched a picture using water soluble crayons on 140lb watercolour paper which had not been stretched. Sera explained that she used the water soluble crayons because they merged into the painting once wet and left no pencil marks. Rather like the weather at the time of the demo she had depicted a rainy scene with people sheltering under umbrellas.

Sera began by painting the figures in bright colours, turquoise and cadmium red, then mixed grey/purple using a selection of blues (ultramarine, cobalt and turquoise) plus cadmium red. With a light wash she painted the background buildings and warmed the colour slightly for the foreground. She added more pigment to the mixture to paint the cloudy sky and put in the reflections of the people. She then used a dark made from the three primary colours to pick out the traffic lights, edges of pavement and details on the near figures which she called her 'lurkers'. A final flourish with some more of the turquoise and red into the reflections brought the painting to life.

After tea we were treated to another painting. This time Sera began by drawing out another street scene using the water soluble crayons explaining that she first finds the centre of the picture and her eye line and uses that to gauge the perspective. With a wet brush she moved the colour around to give form to figures, buildings and clouds, adding more crayon where she needed the colour to be darker.

This was an interesting and informative demonstration which opened our eyes to the benefits of using water soluble crayons. It is clearly an easy way to create a picture when painting plein air as the only equipment needed is a water soluble crayon in a dark tone, paper, a brush and some water.