

# Cornwall/London “house swaps” for major UK artists

**Penwith Society members exhibition:** 30 March – 8 April 2018 at The Cello Factory, 33 -34 Cornwall Road, Waterloo, London SE1 8TJ

**The London Group:** Saturday 8 – Saturday 22 September 2018 at The Penwith Gallery, Back Road West, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 1NL

## News Release: Immediate



The Penwith Gallery with founder Barbara Hepworth's “Magic Stone” centrepiece, paintings by Margrit Clegg, Anthony Frost and John Emanuel and ceramic by Sutton Taylor

Two of the UK’s longest-established and most prestigious artists’ collectives will be “house swapping” this year with major exhibitions for members of the Penwith Society at The Cello Factory in central London and a return visit by The London Group to the Penwith Gallery in St Ives.

Penwith Society of Arts members including John Emanuel, John Piper, Michael Praed and Chris Buck will be taking their first show of 2018 from St Ives, Cornwall to Cornwall Road, Waterloo into the gorgeous space of The Cello Factory from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April. This Show will also see the launch of a book, *Portraits of the Artists* by Michael Carter, which celebrates the current Penwith members and their work.

The London Group will then depart the capital to occupy Penwith’s iconic gallery in its converted St Ives pilchard factory from Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 22 September.

Penwith members are all well-known artists who maintain the international legacy of luminaries Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson and Bernard Leach - who founded this Modernist breakaway group in St Ives in 1949.

The London Group was formed in 1913 by thirty-two artists including Jacob Epstein, Wyndham Lewis, and Walter Sickert, with the aim of creating an independent artist-led exhibiting body to counterbalance the power of institutions such as the Royal Academy.

"After rebellious beginnings our two thriving societies continue and in 2018 we are delighted to be exchanging spaces for these 'house swap' exhibitions," says the Penwith Society's Sue Davis. "Many of the artists who formed the initial artistic community in St Ives - which eventually became the Penwith Society of Arts - came originally from London and we've enjoyed a sense of common purpose and artistic ideals through the decades."

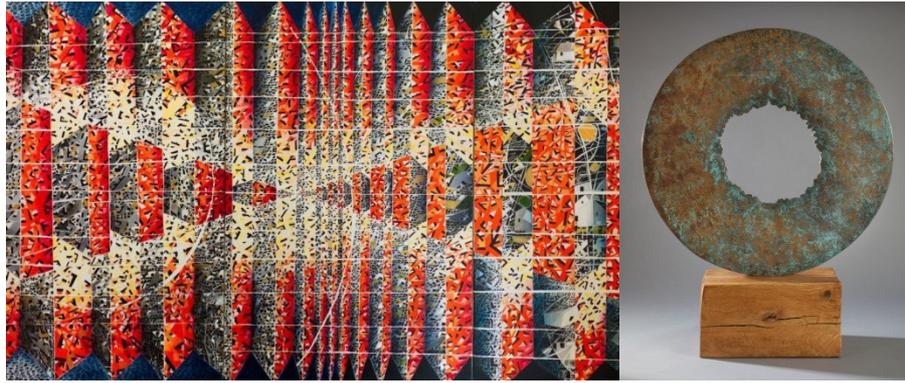


The London Group's Open 2017 at The Cello Factory

"The London Group and the Penwith Society are a truly complementary fit," adds Penwith sculptor Mark Verry. "Their 'artistic home' at The Cello Factory is a wonderful double-height space with loads of natural light and as such we will feel very much at home. Our own gallery is also a dream of a space which will be a perfect fit for The London Group when they visit us in September."



Penwith works –Roof Tops 3 by Michael Praed, Through the hedge by John Piper, Nude by John Emanuel,



In the Fold 2 by Noel Betowski and What About Tomorrow by Chris Buck

The Penwith, a stone's throw from St Ives' Porthmeor Beach, is a complex of historic buildings including the former pilchard-packing factory acquired in 1960 by the Society and converted into a gallery, with artists' studios above. In 1972 an underground garage was added, with the help of Barbara Hepworth, and a new Charity was formed - Penwith Galleries Ltd - which gained funding for the purchase and conversion. Today the Penwith Society still owns the Atrium and Studio Galleries, while Penwith Galleries Ltd owns the shop and the New Gallery and is responsible for the management of the entire complex – an arrangement which allows both to function together, creating a vibrant hub of exhibitions.



Penwith Society art – Rustic Rumble by Sue Davis and Dazzle II by Mark Verry

The 2018 exchange exhibitions will present no small feat of organisation: Penwith members are taking around 100 pieces of work to London including paintings, sculptures and ceramics from their first show of 2018 which runs in St Ives from Saturday 3rd February to Saturday 24th March - with a similar number returning with The London Group in September.

“The London Group are delighted to welcome the Penwith Society to The Cello Factory,” says LG President Susan Haire, “and we’re full of anticipation for our exhibition in the beautiful Penwith Gallery. In common with the Penwith Society the most distinguished

members of the St Ives School were London Group members and so nowhere could be more fitting for a London Group regional exhibition.”

For information on the Penwith Society and exhibitions please visit <http://www.penwithgallery.com/> or call the gallery on 01736 795579. For more on The London Group and its exhibitions see <http://www.thelondongroup.com/>

## **ENDS**

**PHOTOS:** All photos are free to use – high res images available at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mmwnu7aq5lvugri/AACAqA1bC8CG7jXmBTGBDRt0a?dl=0> – or please contact Louise Midgley on numbers below.

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