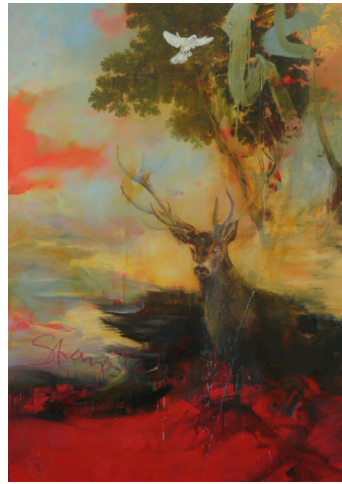




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### **Kings Hill's new exhibition space for the public Featuring the work of prominent artist Alan Rankle**

The Kings Hill Art initiative, now in its sixth year, provides a professionally curated rolling art exhibition in office buildings across the Kings Hill business park, curated by artist June Frickleton and supported by Arts & Business. To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> exhibition, the new Cultural Centre in the recently refurbished Control Tower, Liberty Square, is the venue for an exhibition of past and present artists who have generously loaned their artworks to the Kings Hill Art initiative.

A former Kings Hill Art exhibitor, Alan Rankle, is showing a selection of paintings including the stunning centrepiece, 'Untitled painting XII (Herne)', which features a resplendent stag in a threatening landscape. Alan Rankle's work focuses on the development of landscape art as a concept related to changes in attitude towards the environment. He trained at Rochdale School of Art (1968–70) and Goldsmiths, University of London – known for the Young British Artists' movement which included Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin.

Recently his studio has seen a flurry of activity as he was commissioned to produce a 2.5m painting for Marco Pierre White's Wheeler's Oyster Bar & Grill Room in London. At the same time, an installation of Rankle's paintings started a three month run at the remarkable House of St. Barnabas, an elegant Soho member's club situated in an 18th century Georgian mansion.

In collaboration with the artist Rebecca Youssefi, he created a series of seven paintings based on photo montages of Venice as part of a series of works commissioned for important buildings in London, Paris and Venice for international hotelier Westmont which were recently delivered to the island of Sacca Sessola in the Venice Laguna. For all enquiries about Alan Rankle's work contact Dominic Weston Smith on [dominic@westonsmith.co.uk](mailto:dominic@westonsmith.co.uk).

Showing alongside these magnificent paintings are textile pieces by Anne Kelly, sculptures by Clive Soord, Krystina Lowicz and Lorraine Kelly and paintings by Barbara Burns, David Armitage and June Frickleton, who curated the exhibition.

Images of the paintings showing in the Cultural Centre and in the office buildings, together with information about the artists can be found on [www.kings-hill.com](http://www.kings-hill.com). Anyone interested in buying a painting should contact curator, June Frickleton on 07946 457285 or [info@frickletonfineart.co.uk](mailto:info@frickletonfineart.co.uk).

Kings Hill development partners Liberty Property Trust and Kent County Council, are looking to build strong, lasting partnerships with local schools, the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) and local community groups, in order to place art, culture and learning at the centre of the Kings Hill community.

Andrew Blevins, managing director of Liberty said: “The Cultural Centre has been created in the historic art deco control tower, to be supported by these cultural partnerships, which will be open to the public and become shared space providing a focal point for the community. The Control Tower’s position in the very heart of Kings Hill lends itself beautifully to this and to becoming part of Liberty’s ongoing placemaking and cultural strategy for the people who live, work and visit the development.”

Under the guidance of art consultants, Futurecity, a steering committee has been formed, made up of stakeholders from the community and art experts, which met earlier this year to discuss potential uses for the Cultural Centre. The Cultural Centre opened in Autumn 2014 and is fitted out to a gallery specification, as advised by the UCA.

A curator/coordinator will be appointed to deliver a consistent and sustainable programme of exhibitions covering the visual arts, arts and crafts, design and new media including work from local artists and crafts people and receive touring exhibitions - the role will be advertised soon.

The Cultural Centre is open Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 5.30pm and the current 20<sup>th</sup> exhibition, celebrating the artists of the Kings Hill Art initiative, will run from 15/6/15 until 22/9/15.

More details at [www.kings-hill.com](http://www.kings-hill.com)

ENDS

Picture captions:

- Alan Rankle’s ‘Untitled painting XII (Herne)’
- The artworks

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