**Porthminster Gallery - Editorial Copy for *Renewal* Show 28th March - 6th June 2020**

After a long winter of being battered by seemingly constant storms Porthminster Gallery begins its 2020 season of specially-curated seasonal shows on an optimistic note with *‘Renewal’* – 28th March – 6th June.

Painter **Ian Harrold** has, since youth, been interested in the artefacts we make and then all too often forget. Their time may have passed but when re-discovered these items can act as reminders and waypoints in our musings on our changing identities, where we have come from and where we are now.

Harrold’s new series of paintings for this exhibition draws upon long-held memories of a personal project with mass-produced plastic begun in London in 1976 and frequent visits to the ancient stones of West Penwith over this last winter. The resulting series of paintings reference the past and the present, youth and wisdom, the man-made and the organic. Painted in oil on board, scratched and textured, they are as layered as Harrold’s memories.

How objects and places weather and become works of art themselves over time is a particular theme in this new body of paintings by **Joanne Last**, who has undergone something of a renewal herself during the last 12 months. Following a strong instinct not to tread the same artistic path as in recent years, Last has ventured into unknown territories in a desire to renew her own relationship with her art. Last’s exploration of fresh colour palettes and new ways of applying paint and manipulating the picture surface has resulted in a bold move forward for the artist.

Recently featured on BBC2’s The Great Pottery Throwdown and with work in many high-profile public collections, including the V and A Museum, ceramicist **Geoffrey Swindell** has also renewed his creative process through his career. Working initially as a painter of illustrative images and then moving on to paint purely abstract canvases, Swindell then turned to pottery and seems to have found his true calling in this medium. Swindell is now well-known for creating objects reminiscent of washed up sea creatures and unidentified objects from a far-away galaxy which have an essential and inseparable relationship between form and surface.

Like many other artists, Herefordshire-based ceramicist **Clare Conrad** experiences creative renewal when she visits West Cornwall. Conrad, a Fellow of the Craft Potter’s Association, credits her visit to St Ives at the age of 18 as playing an integral part in her creative journey saying: ‘As I walked around the streets, cosy and picturesque, but with an underlying, dramatic sense of history and past hardships, my love of the visual effects of weathering and chiaroscuro was born and this has never left me.’ Conrad’s vessels reflect the characteristics of the waterfront she loves. Textured and coloured in subtle tones, they echo shallow water, sand and pebbles and the effects of sun, wind and salt spray on painted surfaces.

New abstract paintings by **Patrick Haughton** will also be showcased, as well as a changing display of artworks by other gallery artists plus Modern British and St Ives artists, including new works by Sandra Blow RA and Sir Terry Frost RA.

‘*Renewal*’ at Porthminster Gallery on Westcott’s Quay, St Ives runs from March 28th until June 6th, Monday-Saturday, 11am to 5pm. Admission is free.

533 words.