



*"We use the creative art process to facilitate personal well-being"*

## February Day Meeting

Registered Charity No.  
XR36993

On-line Home page:  
[www.nigat.org](http://www.nigat.org)

"I offered the theme of 'families or tribes' at the February day meeting. The theme provoked many different artistic reactions. I also facilitated a small discussion group. Our group had looked at the positive and negative side of family, the importance of community and had generally enjoyed the theme. It was lovely to break for lunch surrounded by a wide range of artworks. I also noted the welcome addition of several new attendee's! Hopefully we will see them again at the June meeting."



Left: Annie McIntyre

Annie McIntyre

### **www.nigat.org is now live on the internet near you!**

NIGAT now has a new website and web address! We have developed the original website, which provided a great start with all the existing information. Now the website has a *new* look and feel, with simplified navigation, hopefully making things easier to find. Plus it is now 'full colour' with lots of images to represent the more visual aspects of the work of NIGAT! New features of the website are: *previous newsletters to download; Latest News page; information available to download about NIGAT events; and maps making NIGAT events easier to find.*

Have a look for yourself - visit [www.nigat.org](http://www.nigat.org)—hopefully that's easy to remember! Make sure you add it to your *bookmarks* and pass on the news to everyone you know! If you have of any useful Links to add to the list, let us know at [info@nigat.org](mailto:info@nigat.org).



Hopefully you agree – it's a website NIGAT can be proud of!

## *Jerome K (1859-1927)*

Come away from the din.  
Come away to the quiet fields,  
Over which the great sky stretches,  
And where, between us and the stars,  
There lies but silence;  
And there, in the stillness  
Let us listen to the voice  
That is speaking within us.

## *The Art Therapy Summer School 2008*

**The Northern Ireland Group for Art as Therapy (NIGAT) holds its 16th Art Therapy Summer School from Monday 28th July to Friday 1st August 2008.**

This follows the tradition of an annual event begun in 1993. This non-residential summer school is designed for therapists, artists, teachers, nurses, doctors, social workers, psychiatrists, probation officers, workers in statutory and voluntary agencies, prospective art therapy students and all those interested in the therapeutic application of art with children and adults.

This year we have many speakers and presenters from around the world. The brochure will be available from early June. Members will receive a copy in the post. If you are not a member but would like to find out what is happening check out the website for more details.

Or visit [www.nigat.org/events](http://www.nigat.org/events) to download the brochure.

## *Luther Standing Bear (1868-1939)*

Knowledge was inherent in all things.  
The world was a library and its books  
Were the stones, leaves, grass, brooks..  
We learned to do what only the students  
Of nature ever learn, and that was to feel  
beauty.



This year NIGAT is offering a few bursaries to attend either the full summer school, or for day attendance. This is open to any existing NIGAT member, who has not previously received a bursary.

Just write 200 words explaining what attending this summer school would mean for you and how NIGAT would benefit from your attendance. The closing date to apply for a bursary is 30th June 2008.

***BURSARY  
CLOSING  
DATE  
30 June***

*Members night, took place on 23 April to honour an exhibition of artwork by  
Rita Simon*

## **RITA M.SIMON**

Artist, art therapist, lecturer and author. Born London 1921.

A founder member of the British Association of Art Therapists in 1963, Mrs Simon formed the Northern Ireland Group for Art as Therapy in 1976 and is currently Honorary President of both.

Now retired, she had over 50 years experience here and in England as an art therapist, in private practice and with the N H S. She has lectured and published nationally and internationally and is the author of three books which combine theory with practice.

In N.Ireland Mrs Rita Simon laid a foundation for the Art Therapy

profession, instigating and teaching introductory and advanced courses which have influenced development of the present MSc Art Psychotherapy.

The Rita Simon Collection of her patients' painting and drawing is archived at the Wellcome Institute, London.

- Simon, Rita M. (2005) *Self-Healing Through Visual and Verbal Art Therapy*: Jessica Kingsley Publishers
- Simon, Rita M. (1997), *Symbolic Images in Art as Therapy*. London: Routledge
- Simon, Rita M. (1992) *The Symbolism of Style: Art as Therapy*. London: Routledge.



Above:Original Artwork by Rita Simon



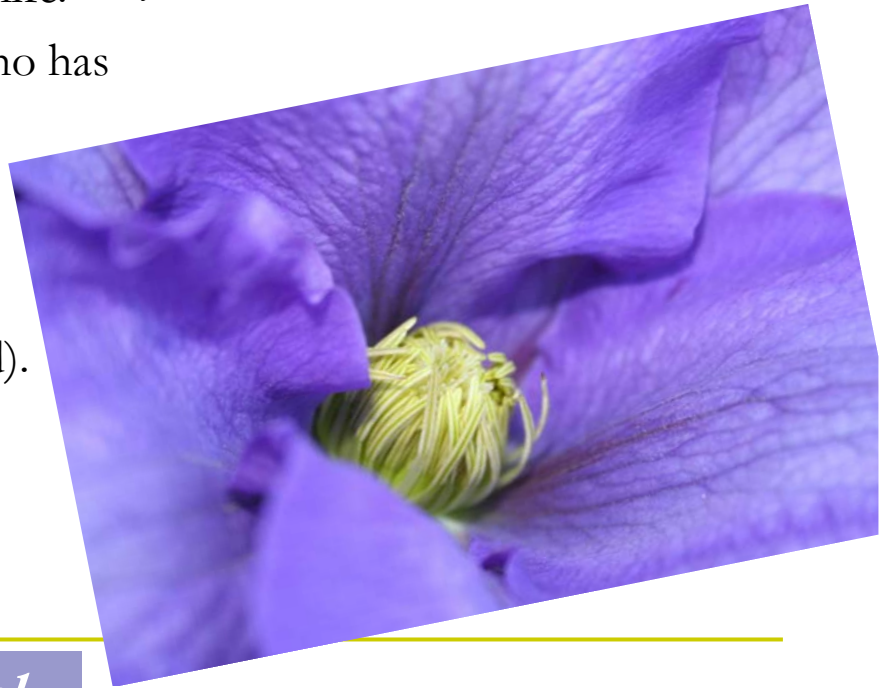
Above: Eileen McCourt and Alice Graham admiring one of Rita's images.

## *Special edition newsletter*

Following the sad news of the recent death of Rita Simon, NIGAT are planning a 'special edition' of the newsletter to commemorate her life.

I would be grateful to anyone who has fond memories, stories or photographs etc they feel would be appropriate to include, if these could be passed onto myself (all items will be returned). Eileen McCourt and Alice Graham have agreed to support the editorial team with creating

something that reflects the special relationship that Rita had with NIGAT and her role in the development of Art Therapy in N. Ireland over the years.



## *Membership renewal*

Unfortunately we have not been as good as we might at keeping up to date with those who need to renew their membership.

Please do not be alarmed if you receive a wee letter in the post asking you to pay membership fees. If you have any queries regarding what this entitles you to, or where the money goes please contact me at the email address on this page.

There will also be an opportunity to 'pay up' at the next day meeting. It is amazing how quickly the time passes! I recently discovered my own had lapsed 6 months ago! Thanks, Gail

*So look out...membership renewal is about*

## *What would you like to see/read?*

We are hoping to publish several NIGAT newsletters per year and make these available to members of NIGAT. If there is anything that you feel is missing or would like to see in the future editions we would love to hear your ideas! Please contact Gail at: [stewartgail@hotmail.com](mailto:stewartgail@hotmail.com).

The next day meeting will be on **Saturday 7th June 2008.**

