

Trip to Dulwich picture gallery

It's not how long we live, it's how well we live.

On windy grey morning on March 1st, I travelled down to Dulwich Picture Gallery, (My first visit) to which I was greeted with large metal black cast iron gates that opened to a beautifully kept lawn and connected to a traditional yet symmetrical yellow bricked building with a glass roof.



I then entered glass doors to my right that housed a warm cafe serving many cakes, pastries, hot beverages and there amongst the bustle of breakfast was a the row of the Meet Me On The Move members sitting jovially having a natter awaiting for the scheduled activities to begin.

Not long after we entered a lovely room where we were introduced to story teller Debbie or Deborah who took greeted us with 'Ayubowan' which in Sri Lankan means - hello, how are you? Wishing one long life.

We had an enlightening discussion of the meaning of names and fondly discovered that within our group we were amongst a lot of rulers, strength and purity.



Debbie explained that Dulwich gallery was founded by two best friends and was the 1st purpose built gallery for art. Walking through the stunning red painted walls and arches, I felt a sense of calm in this very grand yet relaxed space full of wondrous creations that many have poured their heart over to allow the rest of us to take a mini journey back into what was once current. The brush strokes were vibrantly alive against the very complex and lavish gold frames that were supported by heavy duty chains that although on show were very discreet.

The gallery wasn't silent, you could hear bits of people conversing and footsteps lightly echoing through the halls and the alcoves revealed more beautiful findings from many different artists.





We were taken to an exhibition by artist M.K.Ciurlionis, Debbie was our personal guide allowing us to take time away from the rush of London to sit and give us a intricate insight to the life of Ciurlionis:

- Born in 1875 in Lithuania
- He was eldest of 9
- He learned to play the piano at 5yrs old
- Then the church organ at 6yrs old
- He was sent to orchestral school at 14yrs old
- Ciurlionis was known to have seen patterns of the sea, and started painting these before his mental health problems occurred.
- He traveled back to Warsaw at 28yrs old
- At 31yrs old he met Sophia, his wife before painting more on water colour
- At 32yrs old he painted the Fairy Tale trilogy (beg/middle/end) which is shown here



- He was married to Sophia at 34yrs old
- And she fell pregnant with his child when he was 35yrs old
- Yet sadly he passed away at 35yr old and never met his child
- During this short beautiful life he led he created 300 pieces of art

Debbie made a beautiful point that even though Ciurlionis lived a short life he was able to create so many beautiful moments that are now immortalised thus:

It's not how long we live, it's how well we live.

Fairy Tale I-III

1907

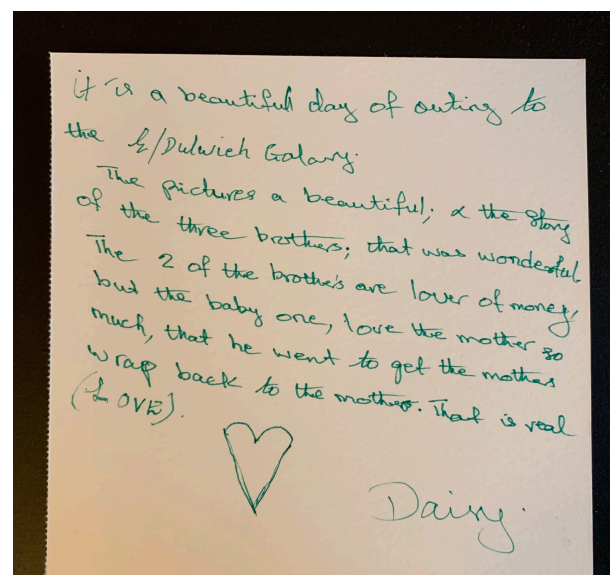
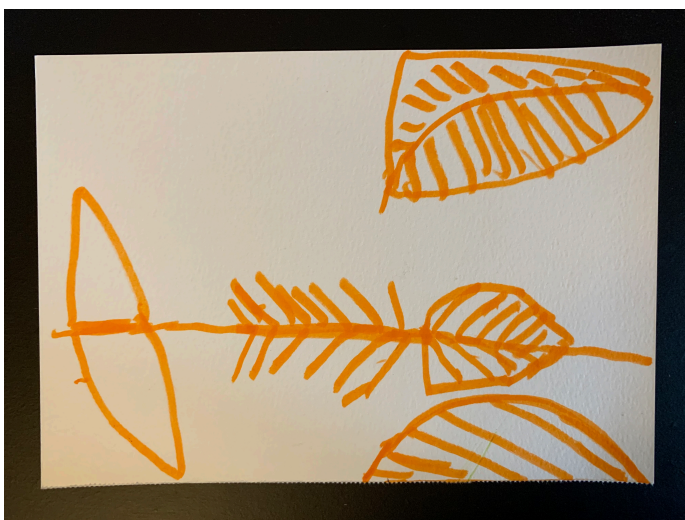
Tempera on paper

For Čiurlionis, painting was as much about storytelling as about giving life to his visions. It is said that a farmer saw this work and immediately understood the tale. Čiurlionis was delighted by the implication that his work could be understood by all, confirming his belief that the path to great national art was through its folklore.

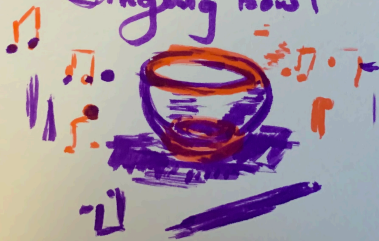
This tale represents a search for happiness, with a princess who will grant wishes. It is filled with Čiurlionis symbols – the over-sized bird, strange fauna, scythe bearing angels or farmers, an anthropomorphic Rex-like mountain, castles and crowns.

After admiring the rest of Ciurlionis' creations especially his astrology collection, we took a stroll back to the room to where we explored world instruments (chimes, rain sticks, sea drum, mbira, storm maker, singing bowls) which we played to aid a beautiful Chinese brocade story of 3 brother and a mother with a beautiful vision.

The members and I then took out our creative sides and drew and wrote a few key things that we enjoyed from the day



Day Visit to Dulwich
Gallery
Housing: the Birth sign (Scorpio)
the different instruments
design materials used.
the art section display
Singing bowl



- ① The pictures of the Zodiac signs were very interesting.
- ② The story of the mother who made the beautiful cloth has me inspired to write a poem regarding it.
- ③ I get to keep the World Map.
- ④ I've never heard or visited this building before, but I intend to return to the Gallery to see the paintings/art.

The day was great I learned a lot
about art and from all over the world.
I made rain and thunder and tried to
ring the bell.



Debbie 01/03/23
Thanks for having us today, I enjoyed all the
Stories you told us, especially about the little boy
who from the age of 2-3 yrs was so talented, with Music
He met his Princess at 30 yrs old, got married to her at 31 yrs,
had a beautiful baby Daughter, it was a pity that he died at such
a young age.

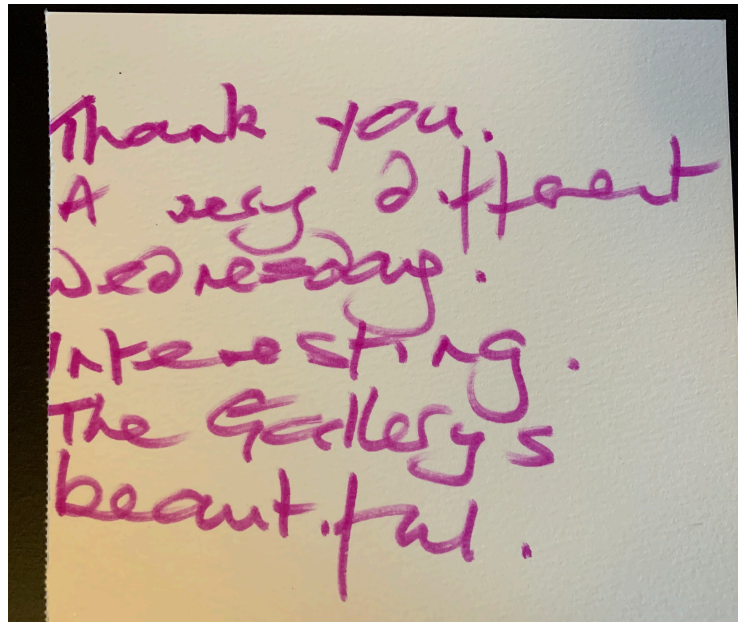
② Three Boys and their Mother leaving balance, one took
the bag of money, The other were asked to remove their teeth and
put it in a horse mouth and the Fairy would take it
away, they had to be very cold as if bleeding, but if they
died they would come back normal.

Pauline W

SILK BLOWING IN THE WIND
YVONNE



Ciurlionis inspired me to take moments during the day to take some instant portraits of the members, as I feel that memories and experiences are everything however due to life they can be forgotten or faded over time - a painting or photo can bring back so many emotions and tell a million stories, especially through our faces.



Below is a photo portrait of each member of MMOTM that visited Dulwich gallery with me that day with the wonderful meaning of their name.



Pauline - A small and humble haven of enjoyable rest



Norma - The rule of a north woman



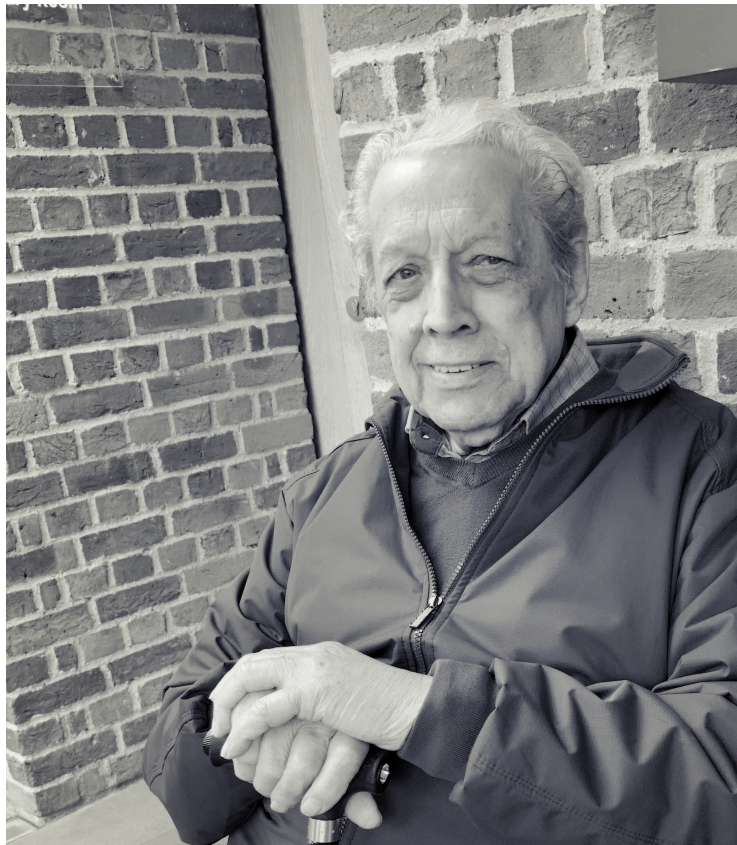
Astrid - One who is divinely beautiful



Yvonne - Female Archer



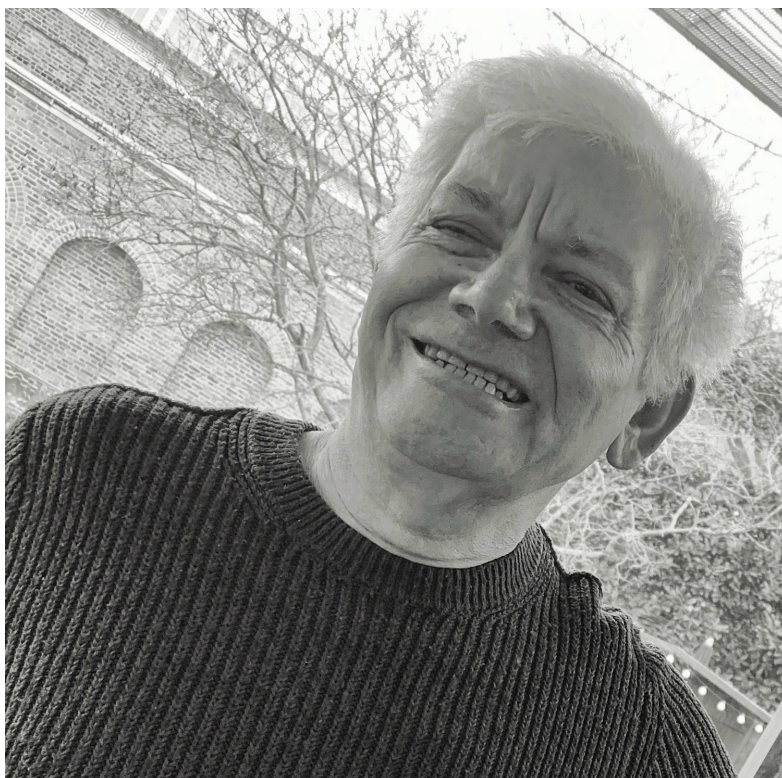
Daisy - The day's eye who is full of purity and innocence



Ron is the mountain of strength or the rulers counsellor



Geri - A female that rules with a spear



Ertac - Brave Hero who is crowned