

AN EALDHAIN ARTS TRUST – 2016 UPDATE

The contribution from the Highland Society of London for the 2016 projects at the An Ealdhain Arts Trust was much welcomed. In the summer the Resipole Gallery on Loch Sunart held a fantastic exhibition of some works by Jon Schueler (1916-1992), a celebrated American Abstract Expressionist painter who, rather curiously, lived and worked in Mallaig from 1957-1959 and then again from 1970-1975; and then based himself in Mallaig three months in every year until his death in 1992. His work was very much a response to the intense cloudscapes of the Sound of Sleat. The Resipole gallery is out beyond Strontian and is somewhat difficult to access but the An Ealdhain Arts Trust team were able to help students from all the local schools to go and visit this seminal exhibition, which showed them the impact of their landscape and context on a major Twentieth Century artist.

Resipole Studios & Fine Art Gallery (<http://www.resipolestudios.co.uk>), the award winning arts venue, provided the perfect backdrop to Schueler's works of art, enveloped by the very landscape that inspired the American artist. *Sea to Sky* was one of a group of exhibitions, both in the US and in the UK to mark the centennial of Jon Schueler's birth. *Sea to Sky* presented a collection of 38 works central to his time spent on the West Coast of Scotland. For Jon Schueler the sky was his main inspiration and in 1970 he moved for five years to a studio in Mallaig, where he could surrender himself to the tempestuous elements of the Scottish coastline and where (many critics believe) he refined his artistic focus.



"When I speak of nature, I'm speaking of the sky.....And when I think of the sky, I think of the Scottish sky over Mallaig. Time was there and motion was there. Lands forming, seas disappearing, words fragmenting, colours giving birth to burning shapes." Jon Scheuler – It Is Magazine 1960.

Moving forward, there has been a fundamental change at the An Ealdhain Arts Trust. The Trustees have decided that we can no longer use the Lime Tree in Fort William as an exhibition venue. This obliges us to postpone our plans for 2017 and to concentrate on developing a rich plan for 2018, under a soon to be decided new name! In the meantime, we intend to work with the schools in Lochaber to get them access to the major exhibitions in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The trust has exceptional access to the museums as well as knowing many of the senior curators. This allows us to put together events for the pupils where we can support the cost of them visiting the exhibition and provide them an exceptional tour or talk from senior curators who have been involved in putting on the show. Without our support these schools are simply unable to afford to send their pupils to these exhibitions.

Please thank all at the Highland Society of London for their support for the Trust. We shall continue to ensure that future projects and educational trips will be photographed and good records taken which reflect the experience and value of the events we support.