

# All kinds of artistry

It has been a year of fresh arts projects at the School.



'Littlest Things'  
by Sandra Renard



'April 26, 1986: Danger and  
Disillusion' (Chernobyl)  
by Knut Magnus Koren

## Photography

**Rothna Begum, LLM student and part-time arts coordinator 2006-07, writes:**

My first project was daunting. But I needn't have worried. LSE is not just about economics and politics. There is a huge, diverse range of artistic talent across the School, among students and staff, just waiting to be unleashed.

When the School's Arts Advisory Group and the SU Arts Forum decided to hold a photography competition in February, the response was amazing. More than 400 entries were received within two weeks.

The prize for many of the student and staff photographers is to see their print on display in an LSE classroom. Around 100 pictures have been chosen by LSE full-time staff photographer Nigel Stead and these have now been installed in School classrooms across campus.

Two judges, Nick Byrne, director of the LSE Language Centre and a member of the School's

Arts Advisory Group, and Tom Eshelby, chair of the LSESU Arts Forum, then had the difficult task of choosing their 24 favourites from the 100 entries. Distinguished international photographers Ali Kepenek and Anne Williams whittled the 24 down to two runners up and one overall winner. These were announced at a launch event in February in the Atrium of the Old Building, where all 24 prints went on public display.

Overall winner of the £100 prize was **Knut Magnus Koren** for 'April 26, 1986: Danger and Disillusion' (Chernobyl). Knut, an MSc student in the European Institute, said: 'Being in Chernobyl 20 years after the disaster made an unforgettable impression on me.'

The joint runners up, receiving £50 each, were **Sandra Renard** and **Juana Schlenker**. Sandra, an MSc student in the Government Department, took the photo 'Littlest Things' in Turpan, Xinjiang region, China. She said: 'As I was walking along the main street, an old lady motioned me to come nearer. Her curious granddaughters followed us

'Regent's Canal' by Juana Schlenker



and started dancing for me. I remember this as one of these rare moments of simple joy.'

Juana Schlenker works in LSE's Library. Her photo 'Regent's Canal' was taken as one in a series of pictures experimenting using long exposure. 'I found the different colours of the light reflected on the river particularly attractive,' she said.

The third runner up, receiving £25, was **John Polley**, an MSc International Relations student, who took his image in Beijing.

Many of the entries are now online to view in the School's web gallery LSE Perspectives at [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsAndMusic](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsAndMusic)

## Arts Week 2007

**Tom Eshelby, chair of LSESU Arts Forum, writes:**

March saw the very first Arts Week at LSE. This exciting venture was initiated by the LSESU Arts Forum to raise awareness of art at LSE



Arts Week's 'Colour the Street' event

and to further enhance the art culture. It took place with the support of the Students' Union and the LSE Arts Advisory Group. The LSESU Arts Forum worked with a number of the arts societies as well as with artist Heather Barnett, of the ReCollect project.

Events occurred all over campus including a Visual Art exhibition in Parish Hall of artwork by staff and students and 'LondScapes' – a DegreeArt.com exhibition of the work of four University of the Arts students all featuring London.

Activities included 'Clay Crush' (a bed of clay in Houghton Street); 'The Thought Projector' (a portal for thoughts and hidden creative contributions that were immediately projected to join a live, constantly changing display in the Quad); 'Colour the Street' (students unleashed an explosion of decorations on Houghton Street); and 'The Creative Canvas' (students mapped out creative ideas on three large canvases).

There is a wealth of artistic activity and talent at LSE that sometimes appears to go unnoticed. The hope is that the SU Arts Week will grow each year, helping the arts to play a larger part in the LSE student experience.

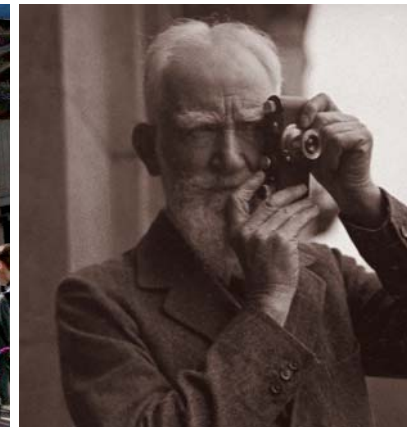
## Performance

### ReCollect at LSE

ReCollect is an ambitious new arts initiative at LSE, a creative investigation into the history, reputation and identity of the School.

Over the next two years ReCollect will collect, interpret and disseminate the School's diverse histories through the research and production of art works and events; including exhibitions, installations, symposia, films and publications. In April this included a promenade performance of 'What's What!' An Evening with Bernard Shaw, and an exhibition from the School's Bernard Shaw photography archive.

Artist **Heather Barnett**, working with staff, students and alumni, is developing innovative projects inspired by archive material, research



George Bernard Shaw

studies, personal histories, interactions and experiments. She said: 'There will be various opportunities for people to get involved as the project unfolds.

'Ideas have begun to emerge, including digital wall designs depicting the evolution of subjects taught at LSE, and a memory-mapping project which aims to reveal individual significant moments in the life of the institution and its inhabitants.

'Alumni, staff and students are invited to share their campus stories, of personal, political or professional poignancy. These personal histories, from the corridors, rooms and streets of LSE, will form the basis of a creative remapping of the campus.'

To contribute, see [www.recollect-lse.info](http://www.recollect-lse.info)

## Books

LSE director **Howard Davies** is chair of judges for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2007, recognised as one of the world's most significant and prestigious literary prizes.

A regular fiction reviewer for *The Literary Review*, *for Books and Bookmen* and *The Times*, he said: 'I was thrilled to have been asked to chair the Man Booker judges. Next to playing cricket for England, it is my highest ambition.'

The shortlist is announced in September 2007, and the overall winner in October.

Howard Davies also spoke at the Hay Festival of Books in May this year, with LSE professors set to speak at related Hay Festival events in Segovia, Spain, and in Cartagena, Colombia.



Meanwhile, LSE is to host its first Royal Literary Fellow, **Marina Benjamin** (pictured), from September 2007. The fellowship is offered by the Royal Literary Fund, enabling established writers to spend two days a week

in academic institutions, to provide support to students with improving their writing.

Marina Benjamin was previously arts editor of the *New Statesman* and deputy arts editor at the *Evening Standard*. Her book, *Rocket Dreams*, was shortlisted for the Eugene Emme Literature Award. Her latest book is *Last Days in Babylon: the story of Jews in Baghdad* (Bloomsbury, February 2007). See

[www.bloomsbury.com/marinabenjamin](http://www.bloomsbury.com/marinabenjamin) ■

## Other art exhibitions and projects, October 2006 to June 2007



### Urban Perspectives

This exhibition at LSE by artist David Downes included over 14 drawings and paintings. It was organised through the LSE Arts Advisory Group, with the support of Goldman Sachs and Prospects, the employment arm of the National Autistic Society. See [www.daviddownes.co.uk](http://www.daviddownes.co.uk)



### Islamic Art

During Discover Islam Week in February there was an exhibition of calligraphy, and a 'human photo' of 100 students gathering to form the word 'Salam' in the John Watkins Plaza.

### Into the Woods

The Drama Society's first musical in 20 years, with Howard Davies playing the Giant's wife.

### The Muse

The second publication of the annual literary journal by the Literature Society.

### Arts Ball 2007

The first Arts Ball followed the success of Arts Week.

See [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsandmusic](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsandmusic)

MUSIC – read about LSE music in winter 2007's *LSE Magazine*, out in December!