

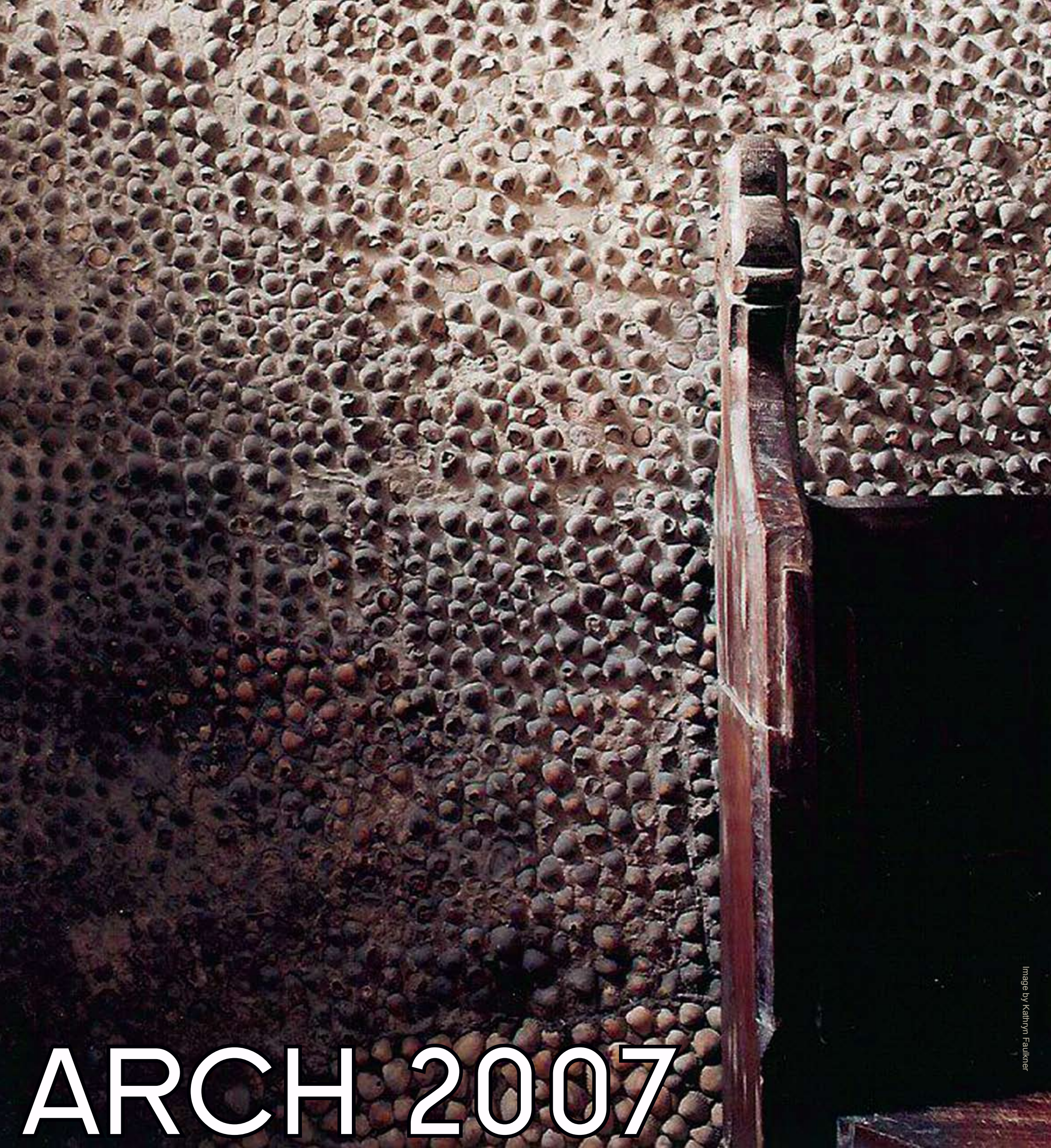


Image by Kathryn Faulkner

ARCH 2007

səʊtʃnɪz u! tʃɜːtʃ

11 contemporary artists in 4 medieval churches
featuring installation, photography, painting, sculpture and textiles

Sat & Sun 8/9, 15/16, 22/23, 29/30 September 2007

12-4pm

Free admission

www.artinchurches.org.uk

Supported by:



Medway Council Arts Development Team - Arts for life
Strood Rural Deanery

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“The marshes were just a long black horizontal line... and the river was just another horizontal line, not nearly so broad nor yet so black; and the sky was just a row of long angry red lines and dense black lines intermixed.”

The Hoo peninsula is a landscape of remarkable artistic potential, as recognised by Charles Dickens in the opening lines of Great Expectations, a passage generally considered to be set in Cooling churchyard.

ARCH - Art in Churches is a project featuring contemporary artworks in four medieval churches on Hoo Peninsula, Kent. This year, 11 north Kent based artists were invited to create site-specific responses to these distinctive and inspiring spaces.

Historically, churches were always at the forefront of art, encouraging novel art by commissioning leading artists of the day. In providing artists an opportunity to explore the unique environment in Hoo and by bringing new artwork into these extraordinary buildings, ARCH aims to participate in this long tradition. The chosen artistic disciplines are diverse including installation, photography, painting, sculpture and textiles. The exhibits seek to engage with the public and create an ongoing dialogue between contemporary art and the public spaces they occupy.

This is a first of what is hoped to become an annual arts event.

A series of heritage trails using existing public rights of way link all four churches. A network of 'art trails' will also be designed to highlight the churches' common history in this unique landscape.

Accompanying events

A series of public workshops and artist talks accompany the project throughout September.

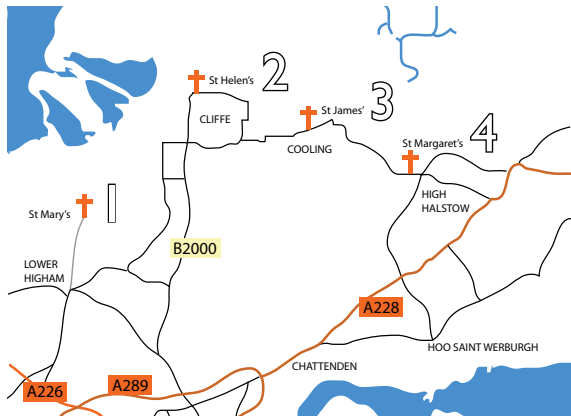
Opening times

Sat & Sun 8/9, 15/16, 22/23, 29/30 September 2007

12-4pm

Free admission

- 1. St Mary's Church, Church Street, Higham, Rochester, Kent ME3 7LS
- 2. St Helen's Church, Church Street, Cliffe, Rochester, Kent ME3 7PY
- 3. St James' Church, Main Road, Cooling, Rochester, Kent ME3 8DG
- 4. St Margaret's Church, Cooling Road, High Halstow, Rochester, Kent ME3 8SA



For further details please phone 01795 534688, email info@artinchurches.org.uk or visit

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Special thanks to Strood Rural Deanery and John Guy for their support in making this project possible.

ARCH 2007
art in churches

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1. Higham - St Mary's

Amanda Thesiger

Amanda Thesiger's paintings respond intuitively to the church's own particular atmosphere - picking up shapes and structures which then develop through the process of painting.

Kathryn Faulkner

Kathryn Faulkner's photographic work is a reflection on a secular spiritual practice, a meditation group that meets every Sunday in a studio in east London. The artist has also made a photographic diptych of text found in St Mary's.

Mark Cowper

Mark Cowper's spherical sculpture, representing the local circle of life, incorporates small amounts of materials gathered around Allhallows in Hoo peninsula.

2. Cliffe - St Helen's

Sara Wicks

Sarah Wicks' sequence of paper 'books' of various dimensions, from human height to hand size, suggest trees and woods while creating a strange landscape within the interior space.

Ian Bottle

Ian Bottle's paintings incorporate a wide range of references drawn from architecture and religious and functional objects to children's drawings, connecting his personal experience of the church and the landscape.

John Dargan

'Light as material object' - The flatness of the Hoo peninsula, the reduction of the landscape to Earth and Air is dramatic. John Dargan's paintings relate to this simple division of pictorial space.

3. Cooling - St James'

Kerrie Nimmo

Kerrie Nimmo's work explores the historical layers of places that have been inhabited in one way or another for centuries - by sea or by man - only to be abandoned and then reclaimed.

Sue Dray

In the past, many families in the parish of Cooling lost their children to diseases related to marshland dwelling. Sue Dray's work acts as homage to these children, celebrating their lives and acknowledging their existence.

Tim Meacham

Tim Meacham explores the relationship between church buildings and trees/forests. The influence of nature, particularly the forest canopy in medieval church architecture, is echoed in the placing of a group of silver birch trees in the aisle of Cooling church.

4. High Halstow - St Margaret's

Andy Malone

Andy Malone's installation incorporates 190 bird shapes cut out of a map of Kent. His work presents a personal record of the artist's history and travels in the region linking location, memory and image.

Rebecca Waterworth

Rebecca Waterworth's installation is about contrivance, forcing the viewer to try and impose order on a considered chaos. Her work explores objects with specific duties or expectations and how this is communicated or realised making connections between the work ethic of 'the artist' and the nature of a religious lifestyle.

