

The Welcome Swallow Gallery

~ As You Like It ~



Exhibition Review
November '22 – February '23



Anything. Anywhere.
Exhibition Sponsors

“All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players” - *Jacques*

~ As You Like It ~

The *Welcome Swallow Gallery* is pleased to present our latest exhibition. *As You Like It* that will run from November 2022 to February 2023.

During the Christmas period there is an implicit dilemma for gallery curation. Buying art for oneself can be fraught with deep reflection, insecurity and, well, basic terror. Buying art for someone else as a present that celebrates the festive season adds further furrows to the brow. 'What does she like?' 'What does he like?' Questions answered uneasily at the best of times.

So the gallery has done its best with an exhibition title that firmly returns the choice of buying to one's own preferences and predilections.

Taking the Shakespearean metaphor a little further, we note that the subjects in the play spend much of their time in the "Forest of Arden". In this context we see the gallery as playing a similar role where ideas, observations and relations between art and viewer are both neutral and infinite. This is the play where the famous phrase was born:

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" - Jacques

In this exhibition the paintings, our patrons and people are the players. And we hope that you like it!

Every exhibition that we hold introduces new artists to the gallery. Joanne Bowe, Elena Brambilla, Charlotte Giblin, Julie Mello, Diana Seavill and Nancy Tschetner are the new talents who have not been seen at the *Welcome Swallow Gallery* prior to this exhibition. They bring their prodigious artistic skill, compositional insight and original way of seeing that will significantly add to Gallery history. Their work sits along our established artists, from previous exhibitions.

Unlike previous exhibitions we have located all art information on the gallery walls adjacent to the appropriate painting. There is therefore no catalogue per se, although this brochure acts as portal through which the exhibition might be experienced. Another innovation is that as soon as a piece of art is purchased the buyer can uplift on the same day. Bought pieces will be replaced with new art. This brings to mind another of the play's famous lines:

"Why then, can one desire too much of a good thing?" - Rosalind



Shakespeare's famous lines from ~ As You Like It ~

“All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players” - *Jacques*

“And this our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything. I would not change it” - *Duke Senior*

“Love is merely a madness” - *Rosalind*

“Why then, can one desire too much of a good thing?” - *Rosalind*

“The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool” - *Touchstone*

“Do you not know I am a woman? when I think, I must speak” - *Rosalind*

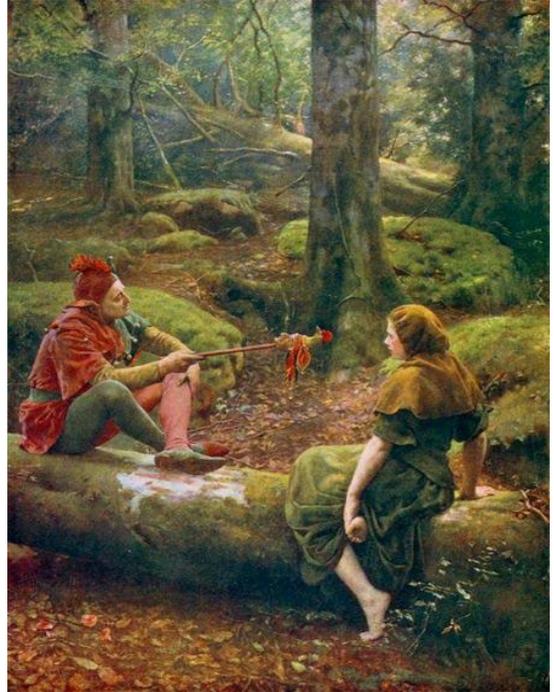
“Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly” - *Amiens*

As You Like It is a pastoral comedy by William Shakespeare written around 1599. The play follows its heroine Rosalind as she flees persecution in her uncle's court, accompanied by her cousin Cecelia to find safety and, eventually, love, in the Forest of Arden.

In the forest, they encounter a variety of memorable characters, notably the traveller Jacques, who speaks many of Shakespeare's most famous speeches such as "All the world's a stage". He provides a sharp contrast to the other characters in the play, always observing and disputing the hardships of life in the country.

This exhibition likens the gallery to the Forest of Arden where it is possible to find paintings and illustrations that capture the rich pageantry of life, from Jacques melancholy to Rosalind and Orlando's convoluted path to falling in love.

At the conclusion to *As You Like It* Rosalind addresses the audience imploring both men and women to enjoy the play and the forest. Likewise, we commend our visitors to enjoy our wonderful **Welcome Swallow Gallery**.



In the Forest of Arden,
by *John Collier* 1892



Rosalind and Cecelia
by *Hugh Thompson* 1909

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