



# Catalysing a Renaissance

Catalyst Arts is endeavouring to encourage a renaissance in the creative arts in Eastbourne.

**In the first few months of its life, Catalyst Arts will bring together a growing group of professional creative people working across a wide variety of art disciplines and will hold summer school workshops in the visual arts, dance, singing, song writing, jewellery making, guitar building, film work, instrumental instruction and children's music on August 17-22.**

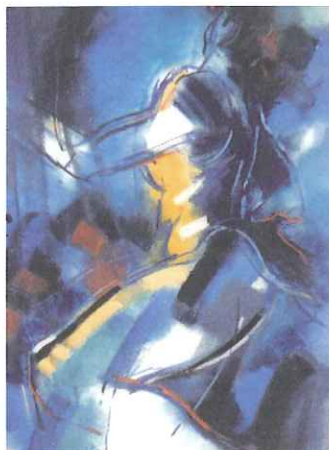
Local artist Ben Ecclestone, one of the creators of Catalyst Arts, was inspired by the Leith School of Art in Edinburgh founded by Mark and Lottie Cheverton.

He said: "Their art school flew in the face of postmodern trends within the arts, with commitment to dedicated teaching, hard work, respect for tradition and a daring embrace of innovation."

With support from Martyn Relf, chair of Churches

Together, and others, that inspiration has now borne fruit in the creation of a new artistic venture in Eastbourne.

Ben said: "Catalyst Arts aims to establish an environment in which creative expression and innovation can be explored by people of all ages, regardless of their culture and educational background. Our developing vision is to make the arts accessible to the wider



community by working with schools and existing arts agencies.

"There will be a positive focus on youth, encouraging and stimulating creativity with vocational and non-vocational objectives. People with special needs, who for one reason or another have missed out in the educational system, will also find expression for their unrealised artistic potential.

"The eventual plan is for a physical centre to provide a focus for courses, workshops, showcase events, exhibitions and concerts."

Workshops will be hosted at venues around Eastbourne, including Bonners Music Store and the United Reformed Church in Blackwater Road.

The week will end with a showcase concert at All Saints Church in Grange Road.

**Tickets are available on 01323 649005**

**[www.catalyst-arts.org](http://www.catalyst-arts.org)**

(Images)  
Art by Ben Ecclestone.

