



Ham & High

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BOURNE AGAIN RACE FOR LOU

VIII ART

A nature painting to rock your world



Rime-Glade by Lynn Parotti.

THE Victorian viaduct on Hampstead Heath is so shrouded in trees that you can only get a good view of it by scrambling through bushes and brambles.

But an aerial photograph taken in 1906 shows the imposing structure standing exposed on near bare heathland.

It seems now to be extravagant for its purpose of carrying a path across a pond – once a swampy valley. But it was part of an aborted scheme for 28 villas earmarked for land that is now part of the Heath.

The area surrounding the viaduct exercises a mesmerising hold on Bahamian painter Lynn Parotti, who lives in West Hampstead.

In layers of translucent oil glazes she depicts – or rather



Alison Oldham

ART

suggests – this wooded landscape throughout the year, making us aware of the transient

brilliance of nature.

In Rime-Glade (pictured), oily paint is poured on partially dry washes so it bleeds into contrasting pigments, making seemingly reflective surfaces.

When The Bough Breaks – the title of Parotti's exhibition at the Chelsea Arts Club – comes from the American nursery rhyme Rock-A-Bye Baby and she intends it to refer to the pressure on a bough overloaded with snow.

In her painting Evermore, luscious green leaves pierce through snow-covered branches, reminding us of the effect global warming has had in bringing confusion to the seasons as we once knew them.

These are vital paintings that engage the mind and the eye.

The exhibition provides a rare opportunity to see the historic

Chelsea Arts Club at 143 Old Church Street.

To arrange a visit from Monday to Friday 10am-6pm, call 020-7376 3311. Until June 25. See also www.parotti.com.

Roy Cannon reveals a very different take on the Heath in his paintings on display at the Spaniards Inn in Spaniards Road, Hampstead, until Wednesday.

And the Prince's Drawing School is running a course on landscape painting on the Heath from July 30 to August 3.

Students choose a vantage point and work with guidance from tutor Frances Mann.

The fee is £200 with half-price student places and some bursaries. Contact 020-7613 8522 or helen.brierley@princesdrawingschool.org.