

Approximately Twelve Seconds of Fame

Imagine my surprise when the BBC telephoned me early in August to say that I was one of five winners, from 3,500 entries, of *The One Show's* art competition. I had submitted two images of my work via the programme's website at the



insistence of a friend, having never seen the programme myself. Once I had sent off photographs of the two pieces, a ceramic mushroom and a painting, I forgot about the whole thing. The telephone invitation, on a Friday, was to appear on the show on the following Monday, live. Not much time to consider wardrobe and hair-do, then. It was a good thing that they chose the 'Mushroom' and not the painting, because I would never have got the large painting onto the train.

Unveiling to No Avail!

The four other competition winners and I duly gathered at 5pm at BBC White City. We were well looked after in the Green Room and primed and rehearsed on the sort of questions that we might be asked about our work. It was such a disappointment then, to find that the show was overrunning on time and we were breezed over with only one artist being asked one question. To make

matters worse some bright spark had thought that it might be fun to cover us all up, (not our art works, note,) and unveil *us* instead of our work! So all that time spent in make-up and hairdressing, while fun and relaxing, was rather a wasted effort. Mine surely must have

been one of the briefest television appearances in the history of live telly.

Mother and Son Talent

Somewhat more satisfying was the 'spin-off' from the show: a call from BBC Radio Oxford to ask if I would like to be interviewed live on *The Afternoon Show* one day the following week. In our preliminary chat I mentioned to the researcher that my son George is also an artist and very much more talented than I am. Oh? Would he like to join in the interview?

The mother and son shared interest was considered appealing. It was fun, too. We were asked sensible questions about our work, the part that our creative endeavours play in our lives, whether we influence each other and so on. I was also able to plug George's and my new web site, (still under construction) where some of our work can be seen.

Visit: www.henriquesart.co.uk

Amanda Henriques

Whist Drive

Whist Drives held fortnightly in Spelsbury Village Hall on Mondays, at 7.30pm, from 28th September. For further information please ring: 01608 810918.