

# Woodwick courses attract US artists

By Leah Seator

American artist, Jeanne Rose, has completed the second of four art courses, run in Orkney, for American students.

The courses, specialising in the white-line woodblock and plein-air techniques, have attracted several visitors from "across the pond" to the county, to stay at Woodwick House, in Evie, where the courses are based.

New Yorker Jeanne decided to organise the trip, having been influenced by Orkney's landscapes and light during previous visits.

She has been inspired by Orkney for much of her artistic career, and hoped to bring others here to share the enlightening experiences that she has had.

The group has enjoyed tours, sampled the local food, tried their hand at Orkney dancing, and visited the sites.

Jeanne, who turned 50 last week, was joined by her mother, Margaret Bouza, and niece, Laurel Koster, who were keen to see what all the fuss is about.

One of the students, Sandra Nystrone, 59, travelled all the way from Manhattan with her husband Martin to do the course.

While Sandra worked with Jeanne, Martin did some cycling around Orkney.

The couple have never been here before, but Sandra, a textile designer by profession, explained that she will definitely be returning.

She told *The Orcadian* how



Jeanne Rose (right) is pictured with Sandra Nystrone (centre) and Jeanne's niece Laurel Koster during the course at Woodwick House. (Picture: Kenny Pirie)

she became aware of the opportunity, and what she felt she had gained from making the trip.

"I've never done this practice before. I'm an oil painter and watercolourist, and I was interested in learning the technique.

"I'm very excited about it because it is allowing me to play with form and colour, and it is a very liberating experience, because in printing and in painting there is always a new expression that comes out because no two prints are the same. It is not so formal, and it's much more lib-

erating than I thought it would be."

Now that she has seen it all with her own eyes, Sandra can appreciate why Jeanne has fallen in love with Orkney, and has thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The couple were staying for one week, but Sandra wished it was more.

"Jeanne Rose is a wonderful instructor," she said. She is a great teacher. We met Jeanne through an advert that we saw in the *Woodstock Times*.

"We were immediately drawn to the thought of coming to the Orkney Islands.

"Martin and I like to travel together, and I love to do my art, so we did it to travel, but also to do work and learn something. To be honest, I could use two weeks here. There is so much more to see than I ever imagined.

"The island is beautiful, and so inspirational, because of the light and the landscape, and that is very exciting.

"It is a place where we need to return to see everything!"