

FIZZ UNCORKED

Keeping you in the picture

Fizz
GALLERY & FRAMING



Spotlight

UNIQUE BUD VASES WITH A STORY

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AN EMERGING TALENT WITH A FANTASTIC HERITAGE: Alex McGarry



Wildlife artists all over the world aspire to be as good as the master of this popular genre – Pip McGarry. And none more so than Pip's daughter Alex, whose emergence as a young, professional artist is stirring up some serious excitement.

Aged just 33 Alex has already proclaimed that she has every intention of being as famous and as good as her Dad – or better. We love a girl that's going places – and this young lady is doing just that.

Prior to her forthcoming exhibition at Fizz this April, we caught up with her in her studio and asked a few questions of this rising star.

What's it like following in the footsteps of your dad? What's the best advice he's given you?

Dad is such a great inspiration and always has been. We have a great relationship and a mutual appreciation of fine art. I think the best advice he has given me is to consistently work hard and learn my business from the ground up.

Can you remember when you first picked up a paint brush?

At nine years old I begged my dad to set

me up with some oil paints and brushes so I could be a 'proper artist'. He made me a little easel and gave me brushes and paints... I was off!

I still have that very first oil painting at home... a painting of a baby deer.

Did it ever cross your mind to do anything other than be an artist?

When I was young I briefly wanted to be a vet. It was a short-lived dream. I did work experience at the local vet practice and fainted at the sight of a poorly puppy so was promptly sent home!

What is your favourite animal to paint and why?

At the moment it has to be hares; I love their big glassy eyes, their strength, power and unclassic beauty. There's definitely something about them that makes me want to put brush to canvas time and time again. *Continued on page 2 >>*

FIZZ Debut

ALEX MCGARRY

A Brush with Nature

Saturday 14th April

Join us to meet Alex and see her painting live in the gallery.

Exhibition 14TH – 21ST April

Inside...

The cutest member of the team

Meet Rosie our resident four-legged team member

Over the sofa rules

Discover the two golden rules of hanging art above a sofa

Letters from the past

Read how family letters inspired the ultimate personal touch for our new range of bud vases

Alex McGarry continued from page 1 >>

Will it always be wildlife?

Yes! Wildlife and animals (especially the wildlife we have right here on our doorstep and all around us) is really important to me. For a long time, I tried to avoid painting wildlife as I didn't want to be perceived as just 'copying' Dad. I painted landscapes for a few years but as soon as I made the transition to painting wildlife I knew I was on the right path... it all just clicked into place.

You are tipped to be hugely successful as an artist – is that pressure a good thing for you? How do you deal with it?

It is just hugely exciting! I thrive on pressure, so for me it is definitely a good thing. It is the most amazing feeling to have someone choose one of your paintings for their home and know they will be enjoying it day in, day out.

What are your dreams for the next 10 years?

It's really important to me as an artist not to be content or stagnate. I want to ensure that my paintings continually evolve. My ambitions for the next 10 years are simple really... to be a household name and recognised for my paintings of animals. I would also love to use my art in some way to do more for the conservation and welfare of animals.

If you were an oil paint what colour would you be and why?!

It's so hard to answer that! Can I be all of them? I love discovering new colours, whether its a brand new tube of oil paint or a new colour mixed on the palette. It's why I will always be a painter... it's all about the colours!

You can meet Alex, watch her painting live in the gallery and see over 25 of her latest paintings on show on Saturday 14th April. A brand new collection of limited edition prints will also be available.

Meet the FIZZ Team : Rosie



When did you join the gallery team and what was it like being the newbie?

I started at Fizz in December 2013. I'd only joined my humans the night before – they picked me up from a rescue centre in the middle of nowhere, somewhere in Wales. On my first day they put me in the kitchen in my cage as they thought it would be the safest

place for me. I wasn't having that though – I wanted to be in the gallery so I could see what was going on, so I ate my way out of my cage within half an hour. For the rest of the day I sat on the desk chair and firmly established myself as "The Boss."

What's the best thing about being a gallery dog?

Treats!

And the worst?

Bubble wrap – I hate bubble wrap!

What's a typical day in the gallery like for you?

I walk to work which is great – (but only on dry days – I don't do rain). Sometimes I am in the office downstairs where I have a bed under the desk. This is my favourite spot – right by a radiator. If I am upstairs in the gallery you'll find me in my basket. I have a hot stone that

goes under my basket cushion. It's amazing – my humans have to put it in a funny box thing to warm it up – it goes "ping" and then it's ready.

I love all the compliments I get – I think it's my eyebrows that do it – I have worked out how to look cute! I go to the park a couple of times during the day – I don't really do much socialising but I do love to chase the squirrels. I just wish I could climb the trees!

Somewhere between 5 and 6 we go home (or later if my humans are busy). Sometimes we go via the park or the sea front for a walk and a sniff about. Then home for supper, some TV and bed. And yes, I am allowed to sleep on my humans' bed. They started off with a no-bed rule but you know how it is...



"Best Friends" by Alex McGarry

We Love... Bronze Miniatures

A NEW range of limited edition solid bronzes by Butler & Peach, skilfully sculpted to show the characteristics of domestic and wild animals and birds. Highly collectable. From £45.



Spotlight



Display in 3s' for balance



Little pops of colour

A PIECE OF HISTORY CONTEMPORARY BUD VASES

NEW - Bud Vases by Diane Griffin

The ultimate personal tribute – single scroll bud vases

Seeing the thousands of messages packed with emotions, words of encouragement and private wishes crammed between the stones of the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem inspired ceramicist Diane Griffin when she found love letters sent between her grandparents during WWII.

With the idea of making something equally emotional, symbolic and thought provoking, Diane set about experimenting with ways that she could use the precious handwritten letters.

Months later Diane felt she had perfected the way she wanted to portray the emotion not only of her grandparents but of thousands of others all over the world during that time. The result is a breath taking and beautiful range of bud and flower vases – now available at Fizz and already proving a big hit with our customers.

Each vase is hand built in the form of a scroll – like a letter that has been rolled up. Diane cleverly applies the scripts to keep

"I love this idea of leaving something of yourself, perhaps something very personal yet it's in a public place."

some words private and unreadable whilst making other words and phrases clear and on show to anyone who looks closely. The contrasting history of the letters and the contemporary design is a beautiful juxtaposition. The bespoke nature of Diane's vases means no two are the same.

CREATE YOUR OWN VASE

For a truly personal touch...

Diane will make you a vase using your own script, whether that's using a letter you have from years ago, a piece of family history, or something you've written recently.

This makes a truly unique and very personal gift or a beautiful way of remembering someone special.

To find out more about this personalisation just give the gallery a call or drop us an email.

We have a great selection of these beautiful vases available in the gallery, in a range of sizes and prices from just £36.

Ask The Expert

Venice Gondola by Colin Ruffell
Limited edition Giclée print
available from Fizz

Q. I've seen the word Giclée used to describe limited edition prints. What does Giclée mean?

A. The word Giclée (pronounced "g-clay") comes from the French verb meaning "to spray". In the art world Giclée is used to describe the fine art digital printing process where microscopic dots of ink are sprayed onto very high quality paper – often watercolour paper, and sometimes canvas.

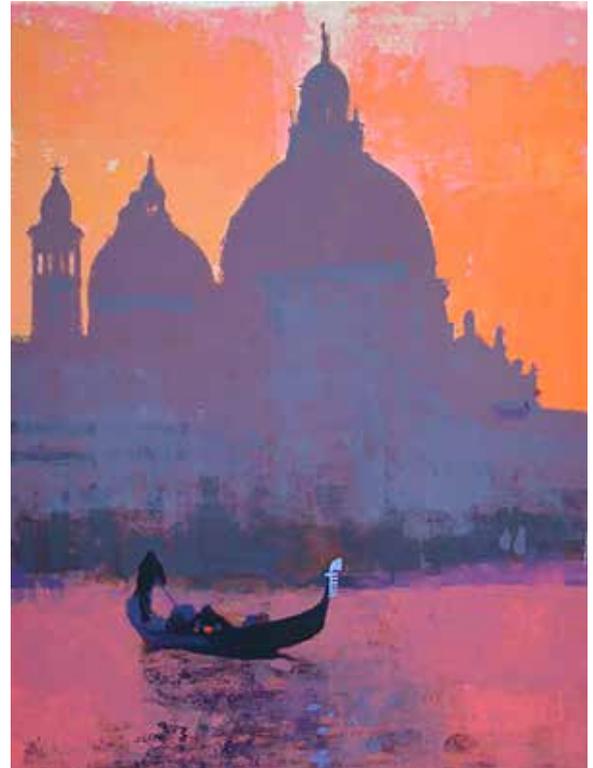
Giclée print experts are highly skilled in their profession. It's their job to make sure that the print represents the artist's original work as closely as possible. Fine tuning the softness, richness, depth, and sharpness of the print can take many hours to achieve the desired quality.

A Giclée print will undoubtedly cost more than a mass produced litho one but how can you be sure you are buying a true Giclée print? Well,

firstly it may come with a certificate which states how the print was produced. If not, you should ask the gallery or artist to confirm the production method. There are three basic criteria that a Giclée print needs to meet:

1. The scan of the original artwork must be no less than 300dpi (dots per inch)
2. If the print is on paper it must be of archival quality, consisting of a 100% cotton or rag base and be acid free
3. The inks used must be pigment and not dye based. Tip: look for ink names such as UltraChrome K3 by Epson, and LUCIA from Canon.

So now you are a Giclée expert! Apologies if the subject is a bit dry. It's a tricky one of which to make light reading. But next time you visit a gallery and see a Giclée print – you'll know what it is!



2 simple rules to follow when hanging art above a sofa

Hanging a picture over a sofa is a great way to create a focal point on the room. There are, however, a couple of simple rules to follow which will make sure it looks perfect.

Rule No 1. Get the size & proportion right

To create the perfect balance make sure the artwork is at least two thirds the length of the sofa. Anything smaller will look lost and unbalanced against the scale of the furniture. If your selected piece is smaller, then use two or more to create a wider group. If you go too big and

exceed the length of the sofa you will find it overwhelms the furniture rather than enhancing it.

Rule No 2. Position for harmony.

Once the size is right, you need to follow the second rule around positioning. As a general guide a good position is 8" to 10" above the back of the sofa. An image too high will look like it's detached from the sofa and a piece too low will get lost in the sofa. Remember you are creating a scene with the art and the sofa together in harmony, not just hanging a piece on the



wall. If you incorporate your surroundings to work with your art it will tie the whole room together and create a stunning focal feature.

If you need help with sizing up a painting for over your sofa, speak to our interiors expert Fenella who would be happy to help.

Relaxed informal atmosphere, browsers [and dogs!] welcome



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