



**Supporting bright new artists in the industry**

*Blank Canvas* is designed to bring new artistic ability to the market place – both for galleries in search of originals and publishers looking for new artists to publish. It presents a collection of artists that are not currently being commercially published, or have been self-publishing for one year or less

### A walk on the wild side



*Favourite Spot & Rogue*

**C**raig Roberts, African wildlife artist, began his career as an illustrator in the advertising industry. The 'Not the Turner Prize' hosted by the Mall Galleries, in London kick-started his career when an original painting of a Greater Kudu was included in the exhibition in 2003.

Attention to detail is achieved through acrylic on gesso primed board and Craig says he finds this produces "stunning results" and is a "wonderful surface to paint on".

Craig turned professional in March 2004, specialising in his passion – African wildlife. Following a commission for Virginia Mckenna, who starred in the 1966 hit *Born Free*, Craig began raising funds for wildlife conservation through his work for the Born Free Foundation & the EIA.

In Feb 2005 Craig took an inspiring trip to Tanzania, Serengeti and the Ngorongoro volcanic crater – one of most dramatic wildlife environments in East Africa, which also contains some of the largest lions. He travelled with veteran BBC film-maker Stephen Mills, to gather photo references for future paintings.

Talking about his work, Craig says: "I aim to capture the true wild spirit of Africa through my realistic paintings. The dramatic landscape and interaction between predators and prey, form the inspiration for my work. You have to visit Africa to get the feel of this amazing continent across in a painting." **Contact: +44 (0)1922 685164, craig@craigroberts.org or www.craigroberts.org**



### Fairytale beginning



*Storm brewing & Christmas Tree*

**A**fter successfully completing a Fine Art diploma, Adam was offered a position as a picture framer and art buyer at the Henry Brewer Galley in Nottingham. It was here that his paintings first appeared to the public where they were very well received.

Adam's style has evolved over time. He pays attention to the commercial art world and is inspired by coastal buildings such as lighthouses and harbours, but especially Cornwall itself, where the coastline is rugged and nature's elements are harsh. Actually residing in the Midlands, Adam lives on the coast through his paintings and thinks of his work as telling stories or fairytales. "There are no sugar plumb fairies in my paintings," he says, but there is a very strong whimsical narrative running through his work.

Adam recently donated one of his paintings, *Night Watchman*, to a charity auction where it raised £300 for *Cancer Research*. The positive response from Adam's customers over the years has been his incentive to keep on painting. "My commercial gallery background gives me an insight into what the public want from an artist. Color, style and imagination are very important within the home interior. This is why I feel that my knowledge would benefit a publisher as I can mould my style around current trends and fashions." **Contact: +44 (0)115 952 4708 or adamj.severn7@ntlworld.com**



### Cute & cuddly

**C**laire Kiernan graduated in animation last year and has developed a cartoon inspired collection based around her original character designs. Claire has experimented with many mediums, but feels most comfortable when working with acrylics on canvas and board.

She enjoys incorporating her cartoon characters into abstract compositions with bright colours to grab attention and evoke the cheerier disposition of modern art enthusiasts.

She says: "I am swept away into a simpler and more innocent world while painting and I hope that my viewers can identify with this for themselves and relate to the strong personalities in the characters I portray."

Having had a recent success at the NAME exhibition she is looking forward to a bright future with her work likely to have a strong appeal in both the art and greetings card market.

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*Bad Day & Hello, Claire Bear!*

## Garden of England



**S**andy Dooley trained at St Martins Central School of Art and achieved a BA Hons in Fine Art. Her works appear in numerous private collections in the UK, Europe and America. Since graduating Sandy has worked prolifically using many different media. Sandy worked as a freelance commercial artist, producing a wide portfolio, including more than 80 greetings card designs. Sandy has also created papier-mache bowls and decorative packaging, commissioned by the style magazine *Elle Décor*.



*From the Coastpath & Winterscape I*

Since 2002 she has produced and sold more than 100 pieces of artwork, as well completing many specific commissions. Her landscape inspired paintings vary in size from 20cm x 20cm, to a very large 100cm x 180cm. "I love being outside and enjoy walking in the very beautiful part of Kent where I live. My inspiration is all

around me! I especially enjoy seeing the seasons changing, although working outside can be very cold in winter." Sandy uses acrylic on canvas and employs a lot of layering, splashing and smearing to achieve a rich, textural appearance. She uses paintbrushes, palette knives and her hands and she also splashes thinned paint onto the canvas to give depth and richness to her images. **Contact: [sandy@designbywire.com](mailto:sandy@designbywire.com) or [www.paperisland.net](http://www.paperisland.net)**

## Challenging moods



*Cathedral City & Blue Estuary*

**O**riginally from Barrowford, Lancashire, Julia Duerden now lives in the Wirral where she paints mainly in acrylic, creating contemporary landscapes and seascapes dominated by large atmospheric skies.

Her paintings are constantly evolving as she experiments with different ideas. Formerly painting in watercolour, she finds acrylic ideal to build up glazes of paint and deepen the intensity, blending colours together to form unusual and subtle combinations. The ever changing light on the Dee is a great source of fascination,



where the moods of the sea are constantly challenging. The colours that Julia uses are deep and evocative. She uses sensual pinks and deep blues, burnt oranges and musty reds, all strong vibrant colours to contrast with the stark beige home which dominated interior trends for so long, and reflects the current interior trend towards deeper, richer colours.

"My subjects evoke space and calm, a feeling of tranquillity in rushed lives, from a deserted beach to the sun setting over a sparkling sea, my images are restful, yet with a distinctive style to create a dramatic image," she says. **Contact: +44 (0)151 342 3721 or [juliaduerden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juliaduerden@yahoo.co.uk)**

## New artist on the block



*Red Chestnut before framing & Malvern – the finished article*

**A**rtist Jo Menhinick explores pattern and rhythm of the British countryside and the urban environment. Using an intriguing blend of orthodox and contemporary colour, Jo creates landscapes with an original twist. She has recently begun printed her collectable pictures onto a fine canvas fabric, mounted and framed by local craftsmen. Jo successfully exhibited her work through galleries and spent seven years working with two of London's leading design agencies. From her creative origins in London's West End, she has honed her skills over many years. Her design skills have been used by a wide spectrum of organisations and individuals, from central government, to Royal Doulton pottery.

As a Worcester-based artist, she was delighted to receive an order for her new limited edition canvas prints, featuring ten of Worcestershire's favourite views. Now on sale in the gift shops at Royal Worcester, Jo's prints have also been in several of Worcester's local tourist attractions.



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## Call for new artistic talent

If you are not currently being published commercially or have been self-publishing for less than a year (at the time of submission to the editor), and would like your artwork to be considered for inclusion in *Picture Business*, please email [editor@picturebusiness.uk.com](mailto:editor@picturebusiness.uk.com)

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