



WORDS | Jennifer Parkes

THREE LOCAL ARTISTS

For a small Island, the Isle of Man is home to an astounding number of hugely talented artists, and we're not just talking Archibald Knox.

The variety of modern artists working on the Island today, across an unimaginable spectrum of disciplines, is almost impossible to encapsulate in words. Still, Jennifer Parkes gave it a shot, and spoke with local artists James Duggan, Shelby Sandyford-Sykes and Bruno Cavellec to see just what it is that inspires their individual styles – each so wonderfully, extraordinarily different.

JAMES DUGGAN

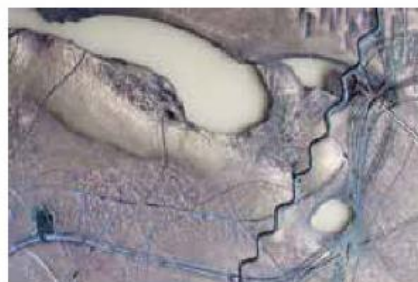
James' distinctively, surreal style is one that is truly his own, but he credits a range of artists as influences, including Jenny Saville, Francis Bacon and Frida Kahlo, all of whom frequently used themselves as protagonists of their own artwork. He also admires local artists such as Eileen Schaer, Megan Hindley and Simon Buttimore; 'The one thing they all have in common, apart from an abundance of talent, is that they all have a completely unique style. They make art for art's sake.'

James recently created an exciting exhibition 'Colouring In', held at the Sayle Gallery, a collection of skilful and surreal paintings seeming to draw on popular culture and cartoon icons. These works were inspired by everyday life: 'Each painting in the "Colouring in" exhibition has its own unique back story, but the main inspiration was to create a uniquely personal visual style in order to express myself.' One of the most recognisable pieces is Jimbob Squarepants – 'You've outed me, I am a massive Spongebob fan, and a massive cartoon fan in general! This painting is light hearted and humorous, and helped balance out the mood of "Colouring In", as some of the other paintings are quite dark.'

Following the success of this exhibition, James is now working on a number of new projects, including a series of twelve large scale paintings of nudes. He aims for the series to include paintings of six men and six women of all ages, exploring how the human form changes with time. James is currently searching for life models – if you are interested in helping with this project, James can be contacted via his website jimmyduggan.com, where online galleries of his works can also be viewed.



SHELBY SANDYFORD-SYKES



Following her completion of the Fine Art degree course at the Isle of Man College last year, Shelby has continued to develop her style, which focuses predominantly on printmaking and metal manipulation to create stunning 3D and 2D artwork: *'Even the smoothest piece of stainless steel can be manipulated in new and exciting ways. All metals react differently to different processes. By burning or hammering them they each take on their own forms, and you inject life into them, turning them into truly moving 3D pieces of art.'* To create these pieces, which have included everything

from small prints to reworked car bonnets, Shelby finds serendipitous inspiration in shapes, movement, light and reflections; small but beautiful moments that are often captured by her camera that accompanies her everywhere. She is also keen to pursue an innovative concept that she began to explore whilst at College; applying the principles of string theory, from the world of physics, to art.

Shelby is involved in an upcoming exhibition 'Art Unlimited = Original and Limited' at the Isle Gallery, Tynwald Mills, with fellow Island artists Kate Jerry and

Colette Gambell. She cites her tutor Ian Coulson, now retired, as one of her biggest inspirations. *'My time at the College had a huge effect on the path my art has taken since. Ian and Bill guided me and my work in ways that I had never thought possible, taking me out of the box and encouraging me not to be afraid of experimenting or making a mess! Ian once said to me "Once you have studied art, you will never look at the world the same way again" - I realise now, as I'm continuing to discover my own art, just how true those words really are.'*

BRUNO CAVELLEC



Using his favoured mediums of oil painting and printmaking, Bruno creates striking works of art: *'It is a physical and spiritual representation of my identity, between tumult and harmony, lost and found. Those emotions and an on-going exploration of the human condition represent the essence of my work: a romantic echo to my life experiences.'* While his landscapes are typically 'an amalgam of things seen, remembered and imagined' Niarbyl provides him with a great deal of inspiration, reflecting his almost Celtic affiliation with the land, sea and sky.

Displaying skills not dissimilar to Joseph Turner (namesake of the Turner Prize), Bruno has a knack for creating realistic depictions of light in paintings often

consisting of a muted, atmospheric colour palette. His past work has been influenced by the likes of Caspar David Freidrich, Edvard Munch and Käthe Kollwitz. More recently, he has found inspiration in the works of filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky, and musicians Ketil Bjørnstad, David Darling and Terje Rypdal.

While undeniably aesthetically beautiful, his choices of colour and tone convey more than just an eye for the visually pleasing. Bruno explains, *'I don't shy away from my feelings and use my art to deal with them and explore their complexity. As with many Romantic artists, melancholy is an aesthetic emotion which I rely on to produce honest, atmospheric pieces of work. What you see on the canvas is what*

I am, and this is exactly how I'd like the viewer to approach my work.'

Bruno has also worked with musicians to create album artwork; *'I believe that the artwork must reflect, in some way, not only the content of the album but also the personality of its creator, which involves a good amount of collaboration, exchange and respect for each other's craft.'* 2014 promises to bring even more success his way, as Bruno works towards a solo exhibition in October at the Sayle Gallery, alongside a number of other projects: *'Some very exciting projects with Manx musicians, as well as some work for the First World War centenary, are being discussed at the moment, so next year looks like it could be my busiest so far!'*