



# THE STROKE OF A PEN

All of us as Channel Island residents are aware that we live somewhere of natural beauty. The islands have inspired many paintings and drawings over the years including Renoir's famous depiction of Guernsey's Moulin Huet Bay.

**Olivia Kemp is a young professional artist who also found inspiration when she visited Guernsey in April in preparation for her own exhibition which will open in Market Square on 27 September.**

But don't expect chocolate box views or traditional landscapes. Olivia works in pen and creates incredibly detailed interpretations of her subjects, with some of her studio pieces taking around four

months to complete.

'I love the work of artists who paint and that was what inspired me to become an artist.'



But painting isn't for me. I only work in pen and enjoy the fact that every stroke I make will be visible at the end.

'I try to find interesting and unusual places to incorporate in my work. So I have work featuring forts, ruins and even tree houses.'

Olivia has a degree in painting, and completed a PhD at the Royal Drawing School. She also teaches for the school part time and supports its outreach programme where she visits secondary schools in areas of London where there is extremely low take up of art at A-level. She runs workshops for the youngsters and talks to students about art being a realistic subject option.

'I love being involved with bringing the next generation of young artists through the system. They ask amazing questions and I find that part of what I do hugely fulfilling.'

During her three-week visit, Olivia made numerous sketches and took lots of photographs that she could then take back to her studio while she worked on her exhibition pieces. The exhibition centrepiece is a stunning depiction of many different elements of the island which she has been working on for several months.

She has had paintings shown in a range of galleries across many locations, including Saatchi Gallery, The National Gallery and Christies in New York. Generally speaking she has five to seven exhibitions each year which range from commercial events to 'open call' exhibitions where her work is hung along with other artists as a means of being shown.

'As a young artist, I have selected not to work exclusively with one gallery. I wanted to be able to illustrate the versatility of my work by showing it in different contexts whether that's in a contemporary white cube space, in a traditional museum environment, in a large exhibition space or a small gallery.'

Early inspiration came from her own school

art teachers who encouraged their students to experiment with materials and styles, often giving up their own lunchtimes to give students access to the art studio.

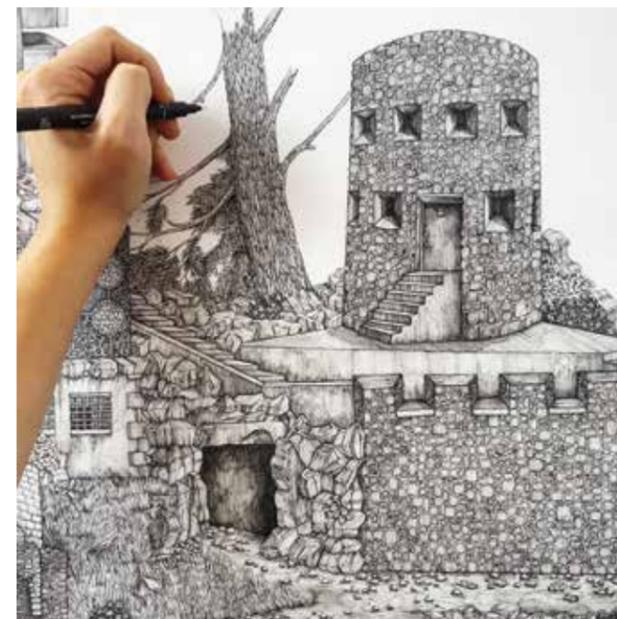
Now Olivia takes inspiration from poetry and other writing rather than paintings or drawings.

'I love Tim Dee and Roger Deakin and sketched lots of birds in Guernsey, partly because I had just finished reading Running Sky by Tim Dee.'

Olivia's stunning work promises to bring something very special to the island and the exhibition will be well worth a visit.

**The Art for Guernsey exhibition takes place 27 Sept – 7 October Market Square**

**Art for Guernsey is supported by Bullion Rock, Carey Olsen, Guernsey Community Foundation, Lancaster Trust and Sydney Charles**



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