



Even though the Earth is made of two-thirds water, the vast majority of us spend our time just looking at it, be it a babbling brook or a sunset over the sea. Very few actually venture that little bit further and actually take the plunge! Most people's concepts of water in this country are limited to how many bottled varieties exist and the occasional paddle at the seaside.

Artist Hannah Campion has a totally different perspective where water is concerned; she not only swims as if her life depended on it, she actually takes inspiration for her artwork from it.

As a young, talented artist, Hannah Campion has always had a passion for water, and putting the two together she has produced some amazing pieces of work. She has already exhibited in London, Newcastle and Corbridge and quite naturally, commissions have followed. She has been awarded many prizes from companies including the pharmaceutical company Astrazeneca and Charnwood Borough Council, and her work reached the televised final of the Channel 5 Big Art Challenge. She also has work in collections in the UK and Europe, and is currently preparing for an exhibition in New York as well as the prestigious Art London exhibition in June. Quite an impressive list for a 24-year-old who is still forging her way into the art world and trying to make a real name for herself. But what of the artist herself, and how does she use what she sees and how does this translate into the amazingly vibrant pieces of work she produces?

Well, let's start at the beginning. Hannah is bright, breezy and full of the enthusiasm and energy you would expect from someone who is developing her own fine art practice. She has lived in Middlesbrough all her life, apart from a spell at Loughborough University where she studied fine art and developed her talent for painting. Her inspiration comes from water, including swimming pools, the sea and rivers and the underwater landscapes that are clearly reflected in her work. As an accomplished diver and underwater photographer she is constantly collecting source material from the shallow warm waters of The Red Sea to the Atlantic surrounding the Canary Islands. She has also used aerial view photographs taken from aeroplane windows identifying reflections of colour and light.

Inspiration for her first exhibition at The Hilton Park Lane in Mayfair, London was provided following a trip to the Red Sea. Diving in the colourful, calm waters provided the perfect opportunity to collect photographic material, all of which was based on fish and coral. The paintings produced included Arothron Stellatus I, II, III, Odonus Niger I, II, III and Pseudanthias & Squamipinnis, and the exhibition was a great showcase success for Hannah and her work.

At a glance, Hannah's work could be described as Contemporary Expressionism; the way in which she uses the exaggerated qualities of light and colour references painters such as Katharina Grosse and Monet, echoing the work of Mark Rothko. Her work is also a paradox of this; where Expressionism was anti photographic, Hannah's paintings owe their existence to her use of modern macro photographic technology.

Her search for the right materials to represent her passion for colour has led her to use the vibrant colours found in industry spray paint. Using such a medium has provided the opportunity to increase the luminosity and intensity of the colours she sees and identifies on her photographic reference material. Colours are built up over many layers; by drawing on her experience and passion for colour and using up-to-date technology, Hannah is able to achieve an outstanding range of intense hues, contrasted by the most subtle and delicate of tones.



Some of Hannah's work has been sold following successful exhibitions at the Affordable Arts Fair in London, The Biscuit Factory in Newcastle, The Art Café in Corbridge and The Hill Rise Gallery in Richmond, London. Talks are also well advanced regarding future international exhibitions and commissions that Hannah has taken.

On 10th June, The Biscuit Factory will host an exhibition of Hannah's latest work, the inspiration for which was a diving trip to the Canaries earlier in the year. The theme is consistent with her overall approach using underwater landscapes and images from the bottom of the sea. The paintings included in the exhibition are vibrant representations of the colour and forms found in the waters there. The works are not literal representations of an underwater view, they are vibrant colourful fragmented recollections of a beautiful world seen by very few.

If you would like more information about artist Hannah Campion and her completed works please contact:

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Spectral panoply

