

Flying Colours Gallery.

6 BURNSALL STREET, CHELSEA, LONDON SW3 3ST

e) art@flyingcoloursgallery.com t) +44 (0) 20 7351 5558 www.flyingcoloursgallery.com

Press Release - Jean B Martin RSW - Solo Exhibition of New Paintings

Exhibition dates: June 12th to July 3rd 2015

Flying Colours presents Jean Martin's sixth solo exhibition. The paintings reflect her recent travels in India and Italy as well as her home in Scotland.

Taking inspiration from her travels, she uses her memories along with the history and landmarks of a place. Her paintings are intricate and multi-layered rich in symbolism and meaning characterised by her unique mixed media style. Martin builds up layers of glazing and collage using a variety of media including gold-leaf; 'By applying paint and scraping it back, revealing and concealing, directing and re-directing, I finally arrive at the interpretation....My paintings take time to develop and they reveal themselves slowly', she explained.

Rich in detail, the viewers' attention is directed on a journey around each beautifully rich and brightly coloured painting. Originally a watercolourist, she still uses this medium to give a light, delicate quality which contrasts with the other media. The effect of the many different layers of glazes produces a luminous, translucence quality and glowing paint surface.

Jean B Martin was born in Glasgow in 1947 and trained at the Glasgow School of Art from 1964 to 1968. She has won several awards and is an elected member of the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour (RSW).

This important Scottish painter of her generation has exhibited with Flying Colours Gallery since 1988 and her work is in corporate and private collections world-wide.

Images are available on request. Contact jane@flyingcoloursgallery.com or phone 020 7351 5558 or 07831 398 486

FLYING COLOURS GALLERY, 6 BURNSALL STREET, CHELSEA, LONDON SW3 3ST

e) art@flyingcoloursgallery.com t) +44 (0) 20 7351 5558 www.flyingcoloursgallery.com

ARTIST STATEMENT: My work is inspired by new and re-visited places which I find creatively invigorating. Colour and light, culture and history, architecture and landscape all serve to stimulate an imaginative and interpretive response to my experience. I am fascinated by light and texture and the way light affects the surface on which it plays. Whether it is on a delicate flower head or the stone of a church pillar, the fleeting impermanence and the vibrant or subtle illumination of light is a constant source of delight.

Working in my studio, surrounded by the components of my subject which often includes plant form and embroidered textiles, I construct my paintings from life, from recorded images and from drawings produced on location. The expressive use of materials is very important to me; I love the freedom and translucence of watercolour and I use a range of other media including acrylics, powder pigments and gold leaf. I often build up the paint and scrape back the surface to reveal previous layers and glimpses of colour. This history of each painting is important in my work as I regard the process as related to the process of consciousness, where the past and the present can never be separated.

As my paintings take time to create, so they also may take time to reveal their story. The component parts can have a significance of a historical, allegoric or personal nature. Constructing a painting is an emotional journey, full of difficult decisions. I continue until I feel I have arrived at the concept I am seeking to express. I hope the final work will convey to the viewer something of the love of the subject, and intensity of experience which has engrossed me during the painting's creation.

Jean B Martin RSW, May 2015

ESSAY: Jean Martin's recent paintings invite us into an exotic, enchanted world of colour, light and multi-layered imagery. Fragments of street scenes, architecture and chance images are pared-down to a kaleidoscope of pattern held still by her delicate sense of rhythm and balance. The frenetic bustle of Indian markets or the drama of Venetian gondolas framing the Guidecca are described in her unique style where memory, myth and symbol combine in a potent cocktail of the artist's own creation.

Martin works slowly and each painting is a gift of jewel-like brilliance offered up to the viewer. These Indian and Venetian scenes are collages of remembered moments, objects and incidences delicately placed like postcards in a scrapbook overlaid with layers of symbolism. Elephants denoting pageantry and celebration lumber toward the luxurious orchid entwined with the cyclamen, a symbol of both friendship and separation.

Martin's acute eye for detail anchors and holds these shifting images in place. Elephants, vases, trailing flowers and exotic icons take centre stage against architectural back drops often framed by luxurious fabrics. The artist's origins as a watercolourist are still clearly revealed but the work now transcends this tradition. Her unique skills of working in multi-media techniques enable Jean Martin to build a world based on fact and memory that takes us into a fantastical dimension.

Elsbeth Bray, May 2015

ABOUT THE GALLERY: Jane Houldsworth set up Flying Colours Gallery in Edinburgh in 1986 and moved it to London in 1995, remaining specialised in contemporary Scottish artists.

The work of around 200 artists has been shown, ranging from new talent to establishment figures. Over 5,000 works of art have been sold to museums, companies and private collectors world-wide.

The gallery is located in a pretty, leafy courtyard just 20 metres off King's Road and the opening hours are weekdays 10.30am to 5.30pm with other times by prior arrangement

FLYING COLOURS GALLERY 6 BURNSALL STREET, CHELSEA, LONDON SW3 3ST

e) art@flyingcoloursgallery.com t) +44 (0) 20 7351 5558 www.flyingcoloursgallery.com