

FIZZ UNCORKED

Keeping you in the picture

Fizz
GALLERY & FRAMING

ISSUE
2



Spotlight

HOW DO THEY DO THAT? RAKU FIRED CERAMICS

See page 3 >>

Exhibition Focus : JEAN PICTON *meet the artist*



From circus girl to showgirl to artist, Jean Picton is certainly no ordinary 83 year old and this September we are honoured to be hosting one of her largest exhibitions of the year. Jean will be making a personal appearance at the gallery on 1st and 2nd September to unveil over 30 of her newest paintings and chat about her colourful life as celebrity and artist. This is a fantastic, not-to-be-missed opportunity to meet Jean and find out more about her.

Born in 1934, Jean joined a circus at the age of 14, and began a theatrical career. From this modest beginning, by the 1950's having toured most variety theatres in the U.K. she became one of the famous Windmill Girls at the Windmill Theatre in the West End of London, working with such greats as Harry Secombe and Bruce Forsyth.

From 1970 Jean spent time in the U.S.A. and was a regular on the Joey Adams TV show Coast to Coast and from 1980 could be seen regularly on UKTV shows including Hi de Hi and East Enders.

Her artist studies began at the prestigious Central St Martin's in London at the tender age of 60 where she gained a Design Degree in 1994.

"After gaining my art degree in 1994 I didn't know what to do next, so I applied to the Digswell Art Trust for a fellowship. To my surprise I was accepted and it was here I experimented and developed my own style of painting. Up to this point, selling my paintings had not occurred to me. A chance meeting on a train, with an editor of an art magazine who was interested in my life story led to an article in that magazine which was seen by a major fine-art publisher. The rest, as they say, is history!"

Jean Picton

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Preview and Meet the Artist



Preview:

Friday 1st September 5-8pm

Be the first to see Jean's latest paintings and meet her at this invitation-only event. To register for an invitation please email sandy@fizzgallery.co.uk or call the gallery on 01275 341 141.

Meet the Artist:

Saturday 2nd September 2-5pm

Another chance to meet Jean on the first day of her exhibition

Exhibition runs: 2nd-9th September

Inside...

Raku Explained

Get the low down on this exciting ceramic firing technique.

Andy in the Frame

The inside track on another member of the FIZZ team...

Competition Winner Announced

Find out who won the £50 Gift Voucher for "FIZZ Uncorked"

Meet the FIZZ Team : **Andy**



What's your main role at FIZZ?

I get involved with anything that involves customers – but I am in charge of everything to do with framing. Helping customers with framing is really rewarding – whether it's a small photo or a huge canvas – I love the way that good mounting and framing transforms a piece. Framing is a really skilled job – people don't always know just how much is involved. Doing it well takes time and skill.

What's Sandy's most annoying habit?

How do I choose just one! So here are 3!

She's always really hard on herself and doesn't see how much she has achieved – she sees the things she hasn't achieved.

Leaving the car with no fuel – then I have to fill up before I visit a customer!

Disagreeing with me – when I'm always right!

What do you do when you are not at work?

I spend a lot of time cooking – I love experimenting with recipes. I've recently re-designed our garden and I am working my way through each room in our flat – decorating with new colour schemes. Things take me a while – I am a bit obsessed with detail!

You are the newest addition to the crayon box – what colour would you be and why?

Green – I've always been drawn to green (not a bright lime, but an earthy natural). I find it calming, soothing & balancing. I have a lot of evergreens in my garden and green houseplants for this reason. I have always had a love of nature and would rather be in the garden than anywhere else.

What's on...

JEAN PICTON Exhibition

1st-9th September



Preview & Meet the artist

Friday 1st September 5-8pm

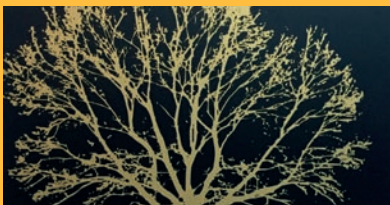
Meet the artist

Saturday 2nd September 2-5pm

PANDORA MCGEE New Collection

14th October

Unveiling a new collection of work by the lovely Pandora McGee whose career as an up and coming artist has gone from strength to strength since her debut with us in 2016



EDWARD WAITE Returns to FIZZ

17th & 18th November

Edward Waite returns for his next major exhibition and a brand new collection painted exclusively for FIZZ Gallery.



Jean Picton continued from page 1 >>

Sandy (FIZZ's owner) comments about the upcoming event:

"We are so excited to have Jean coming to the gallery. She's such a dynamic and vibrant personality – just like her paintings! Her work has already proved hugely popular and I think there are a number of reasons for this.

Although she paints a lot of flowers her paintings are not girly or pretty – they are bold and confident which makes for a fantastic statement piece. They are energetic and uplifting and beautifully finished with

a hi-gloss glaze which really brings out the vibrant colours.

Depending on how they are framed they can fit into nearly any interior from contemporary to more traditional. And for original paintings, beautifully framed, they are very affordable with prices starting at £265."

If you would like to meet Jean at the Preview on 1st September please ask the gallery for an invitation and we will be very happy to send you one. Otherwise come and meet her at the opening of her show on 2nd September from 2-5 pm.

We Love... Spinning Rings



To calm the mind and soothe the soul, these gorgeous new spinning rings are just some of the designs by our newest jewellery maker Charlotte Howarth

From £30

Pop in to see the full range.

Spotlight



How do they do that? Raku fired ceramics

The Great British Throwdown has ignited a huge increase in the number of people having a go at pottery both the thrown kind (made on a wheel) and hand built ceramics (made from a slab of clay). In this issue's Spotlight, we take a look at the firing process known as Raku, one of the most unpredictable and exciting techniques in pottery.

Like every profession those at the top of their game make it look easy and here at Fizz we are very lucky to work with some of the most respected ceramic sculptors in the UK including Paul Jenkins and Christine Cummings.

Christine and Paul both use Raku firing in the making of their beautiful animal sculptures. Raku firing is a real hands-on technique with glowing hot ceramics, smoke, flames, and a big helping of unpredictability.

Raku firing has its origins in 16th Century Japan, but a Western version has evolved over the centuries and it is this that most of us in the UK are familiar with. In Paul's and Christine's work it is this Raku firing processes that produces the lovely crackle lines on their work.

When using the Raku firing technique the piece is removed from the kiln when it reaches a bright red heat and is immediately placed in a post-firing "reduction". This means it is placed in a container of combustible material (often sawdust, leaves or hay) where the oxygen is reduced.

This carbon rich atmosphere produces smoke which then blackens the raw clay and causes "crazing" in the glazed surface.



Christine's work – 1st firing



Paul Jenkins – finished Raku hare



Christine Cummings – finished Raku pigs

Paul Jenkins – Raku firing

When cooled the piece is cleaned with abrasive cleaners to remove the carbon before being dried. At this point the crackle lines are revealed and the piece really starts to come alive.

We asked Paul how long it takes to make one of his hares and what the biggest challenge is for him.

"Due to the nature of Raku firing every sculpture is unique and each one, large or small, takes approximately 2 weeks to make. The first firing is a bisque firing (low temperature) and then I apply the glaze and fire for the second time. The final firing is the Raku firing at very high temperatures.

The worst problem is pieces breaking in the Raku firing due to thermal shock. This can be both frustrating and expensive when it has taken two weeks work to arrive at that point but that's the nature of working with Raku."

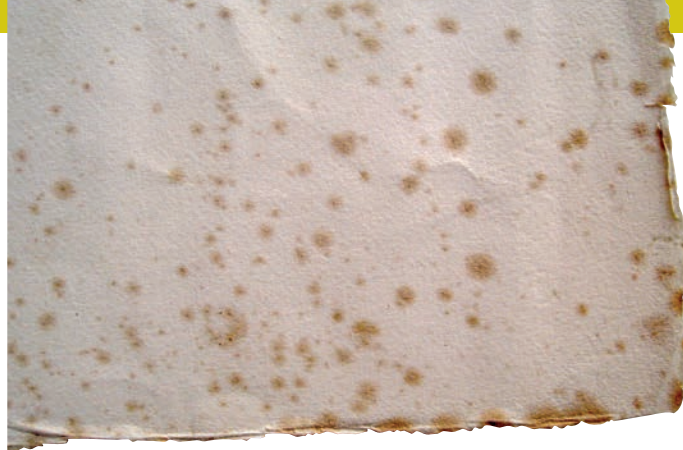
Pottery is a wonderful creative technique that anyone can have a go at, young or old. So if this has fired your creativity why not try one of the many taster sessions run by potters all over the country. For one in the North Somerset area try <http://www.clayability.co.uk/>.

Ask The Expert

Q. I've got an old print that has been in my family for years but it's got brownish spots all over it – I don't know how they got there but someone told me they can be removed. Is this right? It's really sentimental to me but not valuable.

A. The most likely cause of these marks is what is known as "foxing". The causes of foxing are constantly under debate amongst experts. One theory is that foxing is caused by a fungal growth on the paper. Another theory is that it is caused by the effect of oxidation of iron, copper, or other substances in the pulp or rag from which the paper was made. It is possible that multiple factors are involved. High humidity or exposure to damp is also a key factor.

The good news is foxing can be treated with good results. The treatment is very specialist, carried out by a paper conservator or restorer, and typically uses proprietary bleaching agents and diluted hydrogen peroxide. If I were to explain the entire process you would probably be asleep fairly soon - so I'll spare you the detailed chemistry lesson. Let's just say it certainly is not something to try at home!



Example of 'foxing'

If you are going to have it treated make sure you take it somewhere reputable. Check out the experience and credibility of the person who is going to carry out the treatment. If you want to understand the process, don't be afraid to ask questions.

As part of our conservation and restoration service we have treated many old prints, photograph, maps and other documents over the years – removing foxing and other forms of damage. Our conservator has nearly 50 years of experience in this profession and was trained by his father so it's safe to say he knows a thing or two about paper and restoration.

Need advice on artwork repair or restoration – contact Andy or Sandy who will be more than happy to help

info@fizzgallery.co.uk / 01275 341141

Competition Winner: FIZZ UNCORKED

Congratulations to John and Rachel Day – winners of our "name the newsletter" competition.



We loved receiving your ideas for the name of our newsletter and it wasn't easy picking a winner – so thank you to everyone who took the time to enter.

We chose John and Rachel's suggestion of "FIZZ UNCORKED" because it reflected our vision that the newsletter will help our customers to get to know us better – uncorking FIZZ from behind the scenes and providing knowledge, inspiration and a bit of fun. And of course we do like to uncork a bottle of Fizz whenever we get an excuse!

Relaxed informal atmosphere, browsers [and dogs!] welcome



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info@fizzgallery.co.uk
Open 10am-5pm Monday-Saturday

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