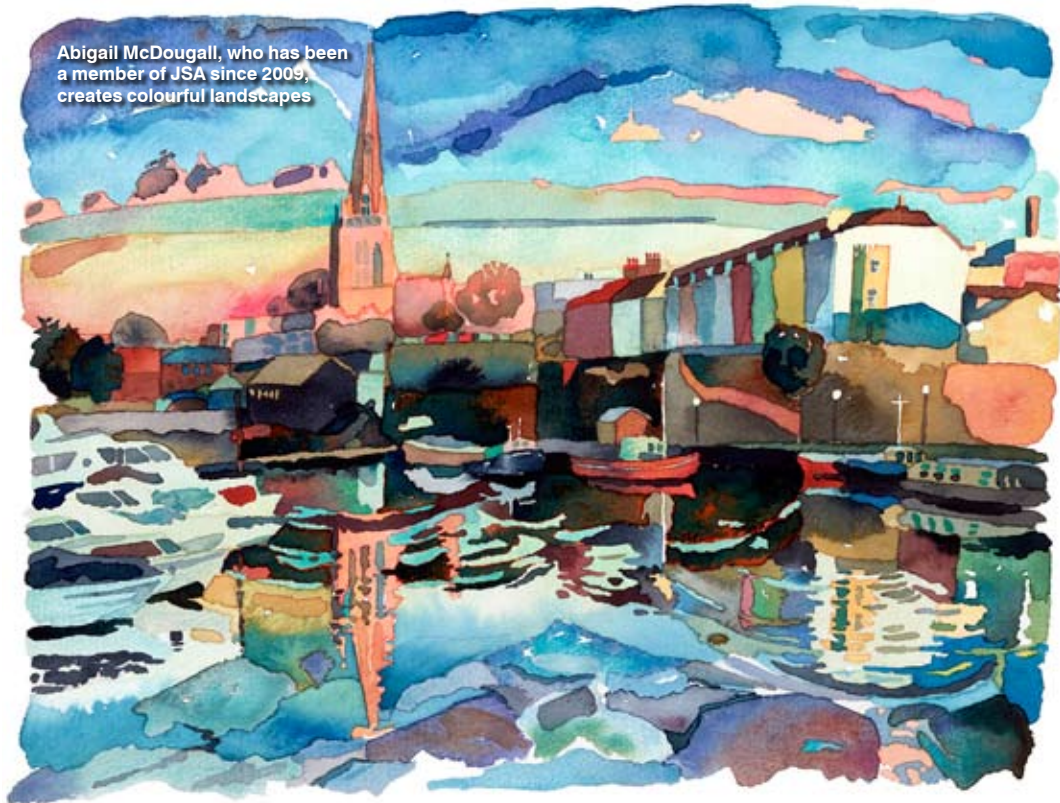


Visit any number of galleries and exhibitions around Bristol and you'll spot a Jamaica Street artist. They are unique, edgy, individual and epitomise everything that is great about Bristol; and, for one weekend a year their studios are open to the public.

JSA Studios is one of the largest artist-led studios outside of London and has been going for more than 15 years. And yet, most people will have never ventured inside. Indeed, don't rely on any of the people on the surrounding streets where the Grade-II former carriage works are to tell you where they are (as a certain lost *CL* editor did) – instead look out for the big building with tall windows (lots of natural light, you see) where Jamaica Street converges with the A38.

The studios are home to 45 resident artists ranging from established and internationally renowned artists (like Philip Munoz, a photo-realist painter, who was awarded the Holburne Portrait

Abigail McDougall, who has been a member of JSA since 2009, creates colourful landscapes



Rose Sanderson

Sum up your work in one sentence.

Paintings inspired by the weird and wonderful world of nature.

Where are you from and where do you live now?

Winchester / Weymouth. I moved to Bristol in 2000 and have lived here ever since.

How long have you been at JSA?

Nearly four years now.

Why do you like being part of the Open Studio weekend?

Jamaica Street Studios is a creative and inspiring place to be, with a great bunch of people to spend your working days with. The Open Studio weekend allows the public to be part of this and I enjoy the chance to share our art space with others.

Where else will we see your work?

With the Bo-Lee Gallery in Bath and Antlers



Gallery in Bristol. Also Stolen Space, London, Will's Art Warehouse, London AAF Singapore, and this year's Brighton Art Fair.

Did you know...?

In the last year Rose has exhibited at the AAF in New York and Singapore; in Yellow Wallpaper, a group show at Bo.Lee Gallery, Bath; Fin, Fur, Feathers, a group show at Wills art Warehouse, London; Grotesques, a group show with Antlers Gallery; Inside-Out, a group show at RWA and many more.

Rose also won the ING Discerning Eye Exhibition West Country Artist Prize in November 2010 and has been involved in various community and educational art projects including Live In and Live On, Easton, with BBC Bristol.

• www.rosesanderson.com



Anthony Garratt

Sum up your work in one sentence.

Energetic, raw, spontaneous landscape.

Where are you from and where do you live now?

From Kent originally, studied in Falmouth, lived in London and now in Bristol.

How long have you been at JSA?

5 foot 6!

Why do you like being part of the Open Studio weekend?

It's a great opportunity to see everyone's work from the year together and an excellent social. I always feel proud to be amongst such high quality stuff.

Where else will we see your work?

London, Cornwall, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Brighton gallery shows or art fairs.

Did you know...?

Ant joined the studio in 2009. He recently appeared as part of the BBC arts show *Show Me the Monet*, screened in May 2011. He is currently exhibiting in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2011. Ant produced a live painting film *Sand Bay*, for the JSA exhibition Inside-Out at the RWA in January, which he exhibited alongside the resulting painting.

• www.agarratt.intuitwebsites.com

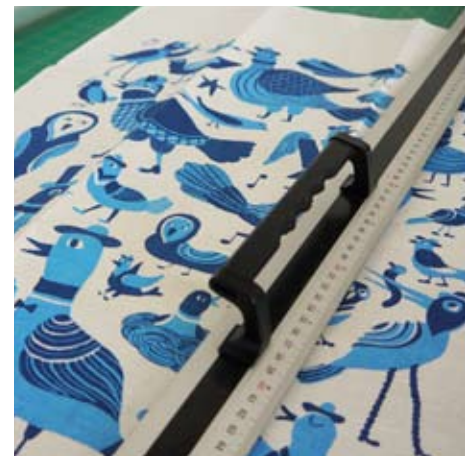


Norwegian Bjorn Lie Rune is an illustrator and printmaker at the studios; (below right) an example of his work

Photograph © Hagen Landsem Photography



Helen Williams creates quirky textile art such as these owls



People's Prize in 2011) to the best local graduates in a whole variety of mediums and genres. Inside, the studios are a warren of creativity and colour and it is fascinating to see the artists at work.

Some are in glorified cupboards, others work in big shared open spaces. The air is heavy with the smell of turps. Paint, in every colour, is smeared all over the floor. Thick wooden tables are scored and etched with history. Work (completed and in progress) hangs on every wall. There are as many jam jars as paintbrushes, and perhaps most interestingly, you get to see the many knick-knacks that litter

the artists' space to make them feel at home. Alcohol is a common denominator (after all, wine is bottled poetry). There are numerous cups of tea-gone-cold, pot plants, books, swathes of fabric, colour swatches, and clippings from magazines. Each room is as individual to the artist as the work itself. There is a great diversity of artists, too. From painters to potters, jewellers to filmmakers, textile artists and sculptors, this is art in all its forms, from start to finish.

Open for business

While the studios are normally closed to the general public – after all, this is a working space – JSA regularly teams up with other arts organisations in the city. In the past year alone the artist group has taken part in a year-long illustration show at St George's, had a pop-up gallery shop



Abigail Reed shares a space with Jemma Grundon. This is her latest work pictured above

“JSA regularly team up with other arts organisations”

for Christmas on Park Street, and shared the stage opposite Matisse with their group exhibition Inside-Out at the RWA. But, from 22 – 24 July the artists will open up their home to the general public.

This year the JSA will be, for the first time, welcoming a guest artist selected from the Stroud Valley Arts open studio membership, as well as former JSA members for the open studios weekend.

There will also be the chance to see new JSA faces such as playful illustrator Kate Evans, colourful textile artist Helen Williams, abstract painter and poet Patrick Brandon and Aaron Swards, who was shortlisted for the 2010 Jerwood Drawing Prize. And, the weekend culminates in a mini-canvas auction, so you can buy your own piece of local artwork by one of the talent JSA.

Oh, did we mention it was free, too? **CL**

www.jamaicastreetartists.co.uk

Jemma Grundon

Sum up your work in one sentence.

Contemporary landscape painter, working in the medium of oils.

Where are you from and where do you live now?

I am from the West Country. I was born in Dorchester, Dorset and mainly grew up in Somerset, near Yeovil. I moved to Bournemouth, then Bath for my further education, and completed a BA (Hons) fine art degree at Bath Spa University in 2007, followed by a PGCE in Secondary Art and Design in 2009. I live and work in Bristol now, and consider Bristol to be my home!

How long have you been at JSA?

Since January 2008.

Why do you like being part of the Open Studio weekend?

It is an event which we all look forward to and plan towards during the year. It's great to see the whole studio come together to show off the talent that is hidden behind these walls. It's also a great chance to talk to people about your work – you will always find the artists in their studios willing to discuss their work. They are always vibrant, fun and friendly weekends!

Where else will we see your work?

In July, I am also part of a group exhibition at a gallery in London called The Contemporary Romantics. The exhibition aims to present a fresh, cohesive dialogue of Romanticism in its contemporary form. Numerous young artists, of different backgrounds and practices,

draw inspiration from the spirit of such a traditional movement, addressing the theme in a new light to discover new perspectives by presenting a variety of formulations dealing with number of issues to characterise today's social and environmental concerns. This exhibition runs for three weeks from 13 – 31 July, at the DegreeArt.com gallery, 12a Vyner Street, London.

• www.jemmagrundon.co.uk



Illusion of Beauty by photo-realist painter Philip Muñoz (see page 49) and subject



Photograph © Hagen Lundsem Photography

(Below) Trish Lock, an installation, photography, film and painting specialist has been a member of JSA since 2000. Expect to see challenging works such as these floating heads... ; (Below, left to right) Photo-realist painter Philip Muñoz with his latest piece on the Kurt Geiger store in Quakers Friars; and Emma Dibben whose food illustrations featured on the original Waitrose Bag for Life



Tom Mead

Sum up your work in one sentence.

My work is what I have now called 'Bio Mechanical Anthropomorphism'. It is a fusion of animal, people and machines, and is inspired from my fear of Beatrix Potter's Ballet.

Where are you from and where do you live now?

I am from Cornwall but now I live by the Arches in Bristol.

How long have you been at JSA?

I have been at JSA about a year and a half. This is my second open studio.

Why do you like being part of the Open Studio weekend?

I like being part of the Open Studio as it is a great collaborative event – summat to look forward too...

Where else will we see your work?

My work is with the nomadic Antlers Gallery, which has had many pop-up shows this year, and many more to come. See www.antlersgallery.com for more.

• www.mrmead.co.uk



Rachel Mary Milne



Sum up your work in one sentence.

Observation, perseverance and luck

Where are you from and where do you live now?

I was born in Cambridge but I have lived in Bristol for ten years.

How long have you been at JSA?

Seven years.

Why do you like being part of the Open Studio weekend?

Enforced relaxation and cake.

Where else will we see your work?

Behind the reception of the Royal Marriott Hotel on College Green and

bristolcontemporaryart.com and newbloodart.com.

Did you know...?

Former *Clifton Life* receptionist Rachel has previously been shortlisted for the Holburne Portrait Prize and recently contributed a piece of Bristol history with her current portrait commission of the Reverend Dr Pye, Principal of the Theological College in Bristol. The college is closing down, but Reverend Pye has resurrected the tradition of the principal's portrait, adding one final work to a collection stretching back to the 1800s.

• www.rachelmilne.co.uk

