



ABOVE: Fakenham-based artist Terri Broughton in her studio - her work is always thought-provoking and often controversial, but it's increasingly in demand from collectors around the world.

Exploring the art of the personal experience

*Two years ago her work was banned from a local exhibition, but Norfolk artist **Terri Broughton** is now in demand around the world and is about to have a solo exhibition in London...*

Terri Broughton had an inauspicious start in life following the death of both of her parents, but she went on to become the Head of a secondary school at King's Lynn Academy, a highly qualified life coach, and a successful educational consultant before finding her current home as a highly sought-after artist.

She was awarded a Tate Modern prize for her Masters Degree 'The Identity Project', in which she pioneered the questioning and challenging of first year A-level art students on how their self-beliefs and values tended to inhibit their creative potential. It was a project that turned art education on its head, and has since been incorporated into the National Curriculum for all year

groups.

"For 30 years I wrestled with two opposing forces - a deep yearning to paint and the belief that I wasn't a painter, which I'd been told as a child," she says. "When I finally did start painting after all those years it like throwing open the windows of an old, dark house and filling it with light and revitalising air."

During the tumultuous last two years Terri has been working tirelessly creating an extensive body of work which, while often narrative, explores the psychological behaviours of people.

"I've always been fascinated by people, and as an oil painter I try to bring their stories to life," she says. "Many of them are my own and several are very personal. I love to evoke

emotion through my work, using allegory, symbolism and metaphor. I don't want to paint replicas - I want to capture the psychology of a person or a situation."

It's an approach that's being extraordinarily well received around the world. Following an exhibition in Japan, Terri's paintings 'Three Little Birds' and 'Resonance' were chosen to appear on Covid-19 facemasks for Asian markets. At the prestigious Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, her painting sold before the show had even opened.

Her work has been presented at the international UNESCO & Meadows exhibition, as well as being selected to exhibit at both the Florence and Bangladesh Biennales. Terri was



PICTURES: Terri Broughton's artwork is extraordinary, and will be featured in a major solo exhibition in London at the end of this year. The Norfolk artist can be seen here (top right) working in her studio on the recent commission *Thinking Outside the Box*, together with some of her most striking paintings, including *The Avoider* (centre) and *The Judge* (bottom)

invited to give a presentation of her work to staff at Tate Modern and she's been invited to take part in a show in Anchorage, Alaska next year.

Only last month, her work was seen at the renowned Salon d'Automne on the Champs Elysées in Paris - an illustrious event which can boast Gauguin, Renoir, Picasso, Modigliani, Braque and Chagall among past exhibitors.

As she prepares for her solo exhibition in London's Brick Lane Gallery next month (in a prestigious gallery which specialises in contemporary and street art) Terri can't help feeling some sense of irony when she remember her first solo exhibition in Norfolk.

"It was banned for being too psychologically harrowing for sensitive viewers and too challenging for general consumption," she says, "but those issues are exactly what's attracting galleries and collectors from around the world. It's extremely rewarding for an artist to know there are people who understand what you're trying to do."

Terri's new exhibition *'Inside Out'* is deeply personal and reflects a traumatic childhood. She was only seven years old when both her parents died, and she was separated from her sisters - the girls being placed with a succession of foster families, some of whom were considerably less than caring. The sisters were only reunited in adulthood.

The exhibition is the living

embodiment of Terri's tortuous route to becoming a painter, posing deep psychological questions about the memories which inform our self-perceptions and inviting us to engage and explore the stories we tell ourselves to make sense of our lives.

"I've always been fascinated by the human condition and experience, and I'm intrigued by the way our internal narratives often inhibit our true potential," she says. "My paintings of children wearing gas masks were finished long before we appreciated what a 'pandemic' really meant, but they're a case in point. The masks provide protection from the toxic world outside, but they can also be seen as a personal isolation unit, preventing the children from truly engaging in the real world."

As with much of Terri's work, it's for the viewer to decide. She's had an extraordinary journey, and her work is equally unique - especially for someone who only started painting three years ago.

"I've loved every second of it, including the times I've been well out of my comfort zone," she says. "There have been several ups and downs, many tears and lots of laughter but it's all been worth it. I've realised that the only thing that will ever prevent you achieving your dreams is the way you think about the things you want to achieve."

INSIDE OUT: A solo exhibition by Terri Broughton

7th-13th December 2021
Brick Lane Gallery, London E1 6SA
www.terribroughtonartist.com  