



Local artist to host ‘worldwide’ exhibition

A highly acclaimed artist from Pulborough in West Sussex is using technology to share his work with a wider audience. Lawrence, whose portfolio includes engravings and hand drawn illustrations for Harrods and Margaret Thatcher, has embraced technology and is now holding regular exhibitions of his work in a virtual gallery.

Aged in his mid 70s Lawrence, whose work features in international collections, continues to paint full time. His forthcoming exhibition ‘Paintings from Counties Close to my Home’ will include new work showing places in Hampshire and the Home Counties that have excited Lawrence throughout his life. Paintings will include views of Guildford High Street, Itchenor and the countryside around the Arun.

Lawrence first made a name for himself in the 1960s when he was commissioned by Wilkinson Sword to produce a set of engravings of ceremonial swords. These images were used to advertise razor blades and appeared as weekly full page adverts in many national newspapers. Lawrence’s talents put him in high demand, which led him to illustrating campaigns for Castrol, Princes salmon and Unilever.

Speaking about his early career, Lawrence says: “At the beginning of my working life, advertisers wanted a traditional style of advert. This all changed around the time Margaret Thatcher became prime minister: the illustration brief for the advert became more relaxed and for the first time in my career, I was able to incorporate my feelings and ideas into the illustrations. Lawrence’s ability to adapt his style brought him to the personal attention of Margaret Thatcher. In 1987 Lawrence produced a Christmas card specifically for sending to the prime minister. She was so pleased with the card that she sent Lawrence a hand-written thank you note.

During the 80s and 90s, Lawrence worked for some major advertisers. He produced illustrations for bank notes and personal cheques and a series of seven Christmas advertisements for Harrods. Lawrence was also the illustrator of the original Big Ben logo that appears on HP Sauce – an adaptation of which can still be seen on sauce bottles today.

In 1993, Lawrence had a heart attack and realised he had to make some changes to his life. He says: “In an attempt to slow down I moved to Ireland so I could concentrate on my oil painting. I had been a pupil of the artist Eddie Franklin since 1981 and he had always encouraged me to develop my style and to express myself through my oils. Under his tuition, I discovered a painting style that is vibrant, impressionistic and ‘of the moment’ – it is a very exciting way for me to work!”

Art lovers can tour Lawrence’s virtual gallery by visiting his exciting new website at www.lawrencepaintings.com. Around 60 of Lawrence’s latest works can be seen including his current exhibition ‘My beautiful places in Southern Ireland’.