



ART & CULTURE

INTERVIEW – PAINTING ARTIST TWINKLE TROUGHTON

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The paintings and work by Twinkle Troughton are about the historical Britain but in a context with the Culture of these days. Twinkle currently show her work at the Hangar 7 Gallery in Salzburg, Austria and is one of the rising british Artists.



Your work is being shown at Hangar 7 Gallery in Salzburg Austria. How did it happen?

The gallery got in touch with me out of the blue and asked for me to send over a portfolio as my name/work had come up during research of artists in the UK. Then Lioba Reddeker the curator came to see some pieces of work I had on show in a gallery in London...then I found out a few weeks after that they wanted me in the show, I was SO excited.

Were you in Austria before and how do you like Salzburg?

My only other visits to Austria were skiing with my secondary school so I didnt really get to see much else than the ski resorts. But I had always wanted to go to Salzburg so this was such an amazing opportunity to visit. I loved it, I walked round in awe most of the time just taking in the magnificent views of mountains and of the architecture which is hundreds of years old. I love places with history and Salzburg has it in abundance but it also has a lot of contemporary culture there to like the Hangar-7 and the MOMA amongst others. And I ate very well and enjoyed sampling a lot of the local wines!

You are living in Brick Lane in London. Would you say that Brick Lane and Shoreditch are the most creative Spots there?

I have actually now moved from Brick Lane. I lived on Brick Lane for a couple of years though until recently and absolutely love it. It is another place steeped in history, although that's not hard to find in London I guess...but Brick Lane is vibrant and exciting and there are the curry houses and the markets, and you are close to many other amazing little places like the Columbia Road flower market and Spitalfields.



(Roll Call 1874)

With regards to creativity, I would say they have previously been the massively creative spots which is why they have become what they are. Rents in these area's have increased hugely though. It used to be a cheap place to live which was why artists, musicians and creatives alike took over. There are a lot of galleries there now which is brilliant, there is always something going on with exhibitions and live music. Where it's slightly more affordable to live or to have a studio like Dalston and further into Hackney you will probably find a more raw untouched creativity thriving away.

What are the most inspiring things for you and where do you get your Ideas? Inspiration comes to me in many forms. Books and documentaries on TV, newspapers, other artists, conversations with other people, looking at history both artistically and sociologically. I love to find quotes by prominent people from British history and take inspiration from them, especially if the quotes are based on something said 200 years ago that can still be relevant today. And I think now more than ever, inspiration comes from things I care about.

What is typical British for you?

Aside from the stereotypes in the media, which do exist, I think typical Britishness is such a big melting pot of all walks of life and although of course we have our problems, I think there is still a great amount of tolerance here.

We do have freedom of speech, although I think we arent always very good at using that freedom. British people are quite good at just sitting back and doing nothing and not fighting against the powers that be. Although I would say in art, fashion and music, Brits are very good at using these to have their say. It seems like British creative industries are often at the forefront, pushing boundaries and ideas.

We also are very good at laughing at ourselves.

And the Secret of Englands greatness?

Hmmm I'm not sure, I would say all of the above! And I do think England's great, I love it here.



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TWEET WITH THE KIDS

Fashion Designer like to collaborate with other Brands, Retail, Store etc. But when is it enough?



*(The Secret of England's Greatness)*

You work with Acryl on Canvas and some of your Paintings look like they are from the Victorian Era, but your motives are from these days. For me, the most Impressive is "the secret of England's greatness". Obama bows to Queen Victoria which is Victoria Beckham, with a Chanel Bag in his Hand. Was this a wink to the Materialism in our World?

Yes this piece was very much about materialism. In the original Queen Victoria is handing a bible to an African King and the message apart from showing Queen Victoria as the most powerful person in the world at that time, was that the gift they believed England had to give the world was Christianity.

While I don't think we should be imposing religion on anyone I think the decline of religion has led to a decline in spirituality which is different, and I do think spirituality has been replaced by materialism. Celeb magazines sell by the bucket load and are all about what someone has, what they wear, what cosmetic enhancements have been done, it all seems to play such a huge role in day to day life instead of what life is really about.

And celebrities are more important to us than politicians now and the power of people like Simon Cowell (creator of the X Factor) means The X Factor probably gains more interest and votes via the national media than our general elections!

This piece of work is not a personal attack on anyone I've placed in the painting though. I am using their public persona's to create my story like characters in a play.

**So, is there any political Message in your paintings which you want to bring to the People?**

There isn't one singular message in my work, they all deal with different scenarios and ideas. But I do have a recurring thread throughout which is the human condition and how it doesn't really change.

As I always say, even though on the surface through technology everything looks different, we are still dealing with the same issues as people who have walked this earth hundreds and hundreds of years ago.

We do not seem to learn from mistakes of people who went before us and still fight over the same things like religion or money and this is what always crops up in my work. Which is why as you pointed out, I paint historical looking paintings with contemporary issues.

**What do you think about David Cameron and his Budget politics?**

He is not too popular here right now and wasn't even really voted in, he just got in by default.

Anyway, my opinions on his budget, obviously some cuts needed to be made but as always with the Tories, it is too much in one go and affects too many people on lower incomes who are already struggling. They keep patronising us with the slogan 'we're all in this together' but it doesn't feel like it. Especially when we find out the bill for politicians travel fees (paying for big cars to drive them around) was over £7million this year...But I do think all will come good because it always has done. We have come through recessions before, and I think one of the reasons we ended up back here is once again because we didn't learn from the mistakes of the people who made them the first time around!

**Tony Blair in a Ramones T-Shirt at your "Ramones Department" Painting. Looks like you are against excessive Merchandising from legendary Bands:)?**

No of course I don't mind merchandising from legendary bands! The idea is where this merchandise department is based, in Marks and Spencers...a very nice 'middle class' tasteful chain we have here in the UK. It's more a comment on how even anti-establishment becomes establishment, punk becomes something 'nice' to wear on a t-shirt.

**It seems that you are also into Fashion, especially into Vintage. Was this a reason to move to Brick Lane? Because of the massive amount of good Vintage Shops? 😊**

Brick Lane does have an abundance of Vintage shops...but crickey they are expensive now! There is one brilliant place called Beyond Retro which is a very exciting big warehouse space full of interesting bits and bobs and hasn't stuck huge price tags on.



## VEET WITH THE DS

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we are getting close to 1k, thx about an

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**Was the Credit Crunch the rebirth of the British Art Scene like the "Independent" meant in an Article?**

I think recessions and financially strained times do seem to help creativity flourish. People turn to art for all sorts of reasons, both as viewers and as artists. Spaces that are empty become available for artists to work in at nominal prices and so art gets encouraged and becomes more accessible. I think it also helps inspiration! People get passionate when there are things to fight against.

**Many Young Artists are coming up in an environment which is really tough for those who decide to make Art. Do you have some favourites which our reader should not miss?**

One of my best friends and fellow artist Tinsel Edwards is brilliant and I really love Wanda Bernadino's paintings. Other artists I love which are more mainstream are Mitch Griffiths, Bob and Roberta Smith, Greyson Perry is also someone I am really finding inspiring at the moment. And of course I could not go without mentioning my dad and artist David Troughton who taught me to paint! I love his paintings too! The list could go on and on though...do you want more names? I can send some over.

**What are your Projects for the Future?**

Me and Tinsel have just curated an exhibition to be held at The Outside World Gallery on Redchurch St near Brick Lane. We've got 11 artists including ourselves and the line up has ended up being all female which we are really excited about. The feeling of the exhibition is very nostalgic but also very current just like the themes in both my work and Tinsel's.

I'm also starting a new collection of works and am building towards a big show next year. Me and Tinsel are going to have a joint show but of our own individual works. We haven't confirmed the venue yet as we are looking for somewhere to perfectly fit what it is we are aiming to create!