

7th January 2007 - For immediate release

Abstraction explored: Bold visions, vibrant colours, fascinating textures and stunning subjects from two rising names in British art



Two female contemporary artists exhibiting at Gallery 27, Cork Street 21-26 January 2008

Artists Ali Cockrean and Robin Eckardt have, on first impressions, little in common. Robin's work focuses mostly on cityscapes and captures in movement, texture and light the mood and vibrancy of urban life. They're busy, energetic works which immerse you in her vision of the world. Ali, by contrast abstracts her work from a different perspective. If a landscape is her inspiration it is abstracted in bold colour, patterns and textures creating a distinct emotional style of work.

Together they offer an intriguing insight into contemporary art. Both women are evolving a visual identity which is both arresting and challenging: they are creating work which is appealing and accessible, yet provocative.

"Artistically, I've never stood still." says Ali Cockrean. "I am perpetually exploring and developing new ideas. Ultimately this translates into fresh and, hopefully, intriguing images. In the last year I have produced contrasting styles of work, yet the essence remains the same. For me, colour is a pure expression of often hidden worlds, moods and feelings. Texture is also a constant and essential element of my paintings. Acrylics allow me to be spontaneous, working rapidly without being inhibited by the materials I use."

Robin shares Ali's love of texture, but her creative process is quite a contrast. "I would say there is more time spent in thinking through my work than painting, but my techniques can be time consuming. I am a multimedia artist, sometimes using very unusual materials. And to achieve the textures I want can be a painstaking process building layers of paint, translucent gels and varnishes and resins" she admits. "Nevertheless, it is the interaction of colour and texture which I think lies at the heart of what you might call my signature style."

Both artists will be sharing an exhibition at Gallery 27 in Cork Street, Mayfair from January 21st – 26th 2008. (Private view from 6pm on Tuesday 22nd January).

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