



IT'S A RAP

After 12 years bringing a diverse selection of artists to Tunbridge Wells, Iaysha Salih of Bluemoon Gallery on Camden Road is moving on. She tells us about her expanding art consultancy and her farewell exhibition



I Love You - Canvas - 120cm x 85cm Edition of 50

When Iaysha Salih opened Bluemoon Gallery her ambition was to show the people of Tunbridge Wells the amazing impact of a well-chosen piece of art. She wanted to expose residents to artists we may not normally have come across and to give us access to works from Royal Academicians to new, undiscovered artists who have grown to have very successful careers.

Bluemoon Gallery was the first gallery in town to showcase a Banksy, and Iaysha has been delighted to introduce up-and-coming artists to her regular and casual visitors to the gallery. But now she is focusing on expanding her art consultancy.

"I have sourced artworks for clients throughout my time running Bluemoon. I get a real buzz understanding what a client is hoping to achieve, what they like, what connects with them, and then finding the perfect piece for them, so this is what I will be concentrating on in the future," she explained.

THE FAREWELL SHOW

For her final show at Bluemoon Gallery, Iaysha has decided to showcase Kent pop art legend Sir Peter Blake. Probably best known for his iconic cover for the Beatles' classic album

American Trilogy - White Diamond dust - 84cm x 63cm



SIR PETER BLAKE

At Bluemoon Gallery,
Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells
7th June to 5th July

OPEN GALLERY

SATURDAY 5TH JULY

Visit the gallery for the grand finale to celebrate the works of Sir Peter Blake and Iaysha's new venture.

For more information about Iaysha's art consultancy, visit www.iaysha.com

Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, at 81 Sir Peter remains a considerable force in the contemporary art world. In April he unveiled a specially commissioned mural Appearing At The Royal Albert Hall, celebrating more than 400 stars who have graced the stage since the Hall opened in 1871, as well as a limited edition print to commemorate 75 years of the Beano comic.

"For me it made sense," said Iaysha. "He is one of Britain's best-loved artists, he is an icon and his work still has an edge. I love his early watercolours, his collages are intriguing and he is a great painter. Over the years of exhibiting his work I have noticed people coming into the gallery and loving his work, not even realising whose it is. I feel his work really holds its own, whether you know him or not."

Iaysha has got to know Sir Peter during her 25 years working in the art world: "He is such a wonderful person, very considerate and always has time for people. He has inspired so many generations of artists and contributed so much to the world of art."