



Life in the Tree House



June

Halfway through the year and at the time of writing, summer's still not here. Trying not to let it get us down though as there's been plenty going on. We celebrated our 18th Wedding Anniversary - 18 years and still talking! We also headed down to Cornwall for a week away over half term, staying in a little cottage on the Lizard. It's one of our favourite places - everyone's so friendly, they do their cream teas in the right order and there are gorgeous colours everywhere - hence the picture above. The GCSE's are almost finished and to celebrate them being done, me and our youngest are off for a weekend in Paris, which should be a bucket load of fun!



Artist Notes

Our week away was fab. We've been going down to Cornwall for several years, but had a break and went somewhere else last year, so it was lovely to revisit a few of our fav places and go to a few new ones again this year. We visited a mine for the first time and went to the Minack Theatre for our second visit (although it was about 20 years ago, so not sure that counts). It's such a magical place. The gardens are stunning and the view is amazing. We also had a long and wonderful chat to Anne, who has worked there for years and she was telling us all sorts of anecdotes and facts from the history to how they shift all the scenery up and down the cliff. I loved it.

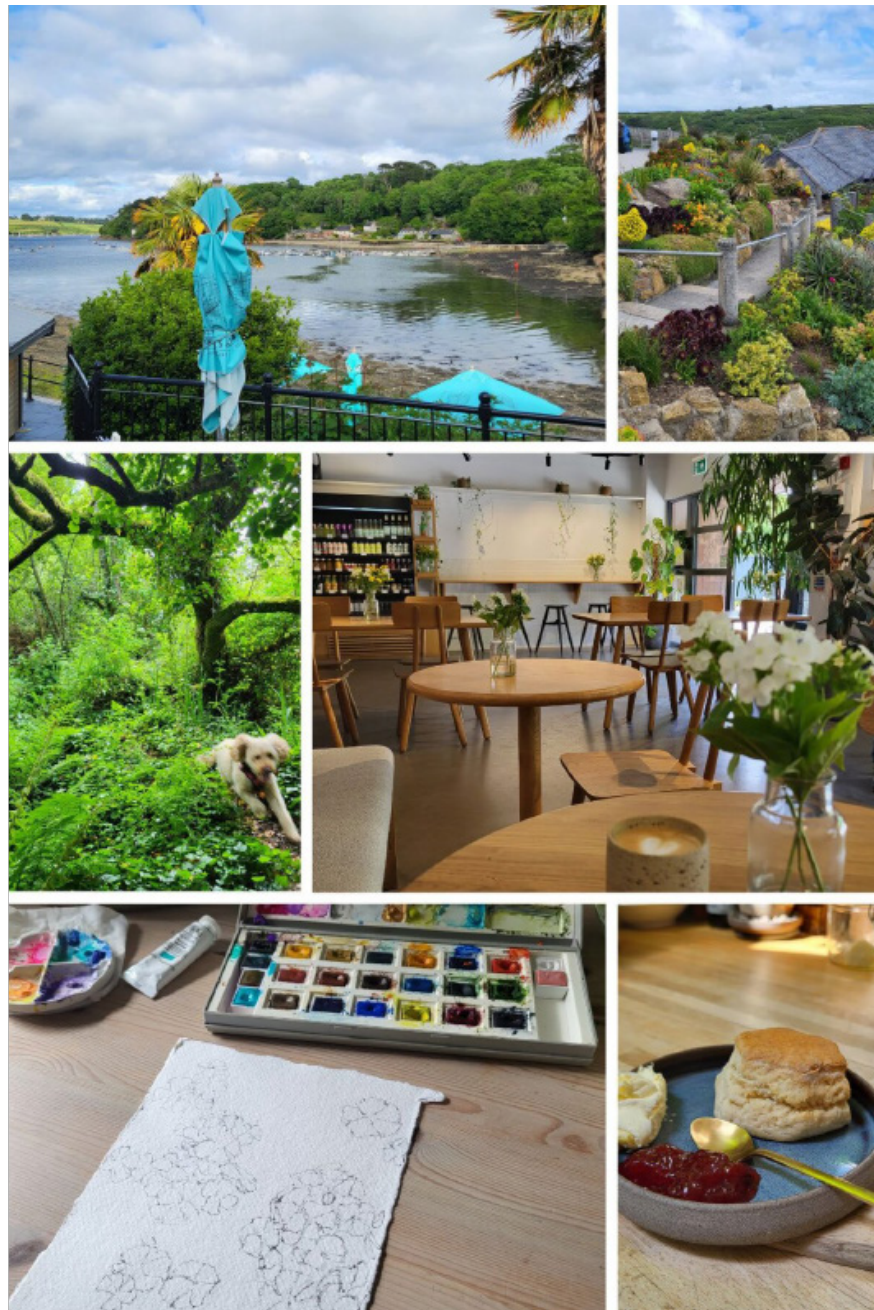
The sun came out, the sea was an amazing turquoise and the flowers popped with colour. We stayed there for ages just soaking up the vibe. As I said above, Cornwall is full of very friendly, creative people. We met several makers from plant growers at Sapling & Bud to jewellery and ceramic makers, and we brought back several bits and pieces. I always enjoy having a chat to them and buying something that has been handmade with love. Over the years I've created quite a few paintings and drawings in Cornwall, but this visit I painted some flowers my eldest brought with her and which still had quite a bit of life left in them. They were a gift from her other half for her 21st and I then gifted her the painting of them to remember them by. I've come back full of ideas for some new paintings, which I've just started with a few first marks and collage, so I'm keeping the holiday feeling alive as long as possible as I get on with these!



Spotlight On ...

Loe Bar Beach: This is one of our favourite walks from Penrose (National Trust) through the woods alongside the lake to the view of Loe Bar. This is a sand and shingle bank that separates The Loe from the sea. It originally formed the mouth of the river Cober which led to a harbour in Helston, but by the 13th century the bar had cut Helston off from the sea and formed

The Loe, which is now Cornwall's largest natural freshwater lake. The beach is not safe for swimming as it has very strong currents, but it's also lovely to walk along as the waves are always roaring and big, which makes it quite exhilarating whatever the weather. On the day I painted this, the weather was warm, sunny and windy and we could see a few people walking their dogs along the beach. We took a few photos and then headed back into the quiet, tranquil woods away from the noisy waves.



What's Inspired Me

I'm feeling particularly inspired by that view from the Minack Theatre and can't get it out of my head at the moment. The colours of the planting and landscaping were so vibrant against the backdrop of the sea, and even more so when the sun came out, so I really want to get stuck in on creating a series of pieces over the summer, which I hope will capture and express the feeling I had of being there.

Listening To:

Small Ways to Live Well podcast from The Simple Things magazine, all about slowing down, remembering what's important and making the most of where you live. This is a nice, friendly series of 6 episodes tailored for each season. I listened to the Spring Tonic as the Summer episodes haven't been released yet, and it was a bit like listening to someone's conversation if they're sitting next to you in a coffee shop. My favourite part though, was that there was a short story read to me in each episode. Perfect to listen to on the dog walk!

And just to tie in with remembering what's important and making the most of where you live, I had a brilliant evening with my bestie watching Sam Ryder at the Hampton Court Palace Festival. Plenty of laughing, singing and dancing – it was so good!

Trees x



Tree House Design

Based in Teddington, West London

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