

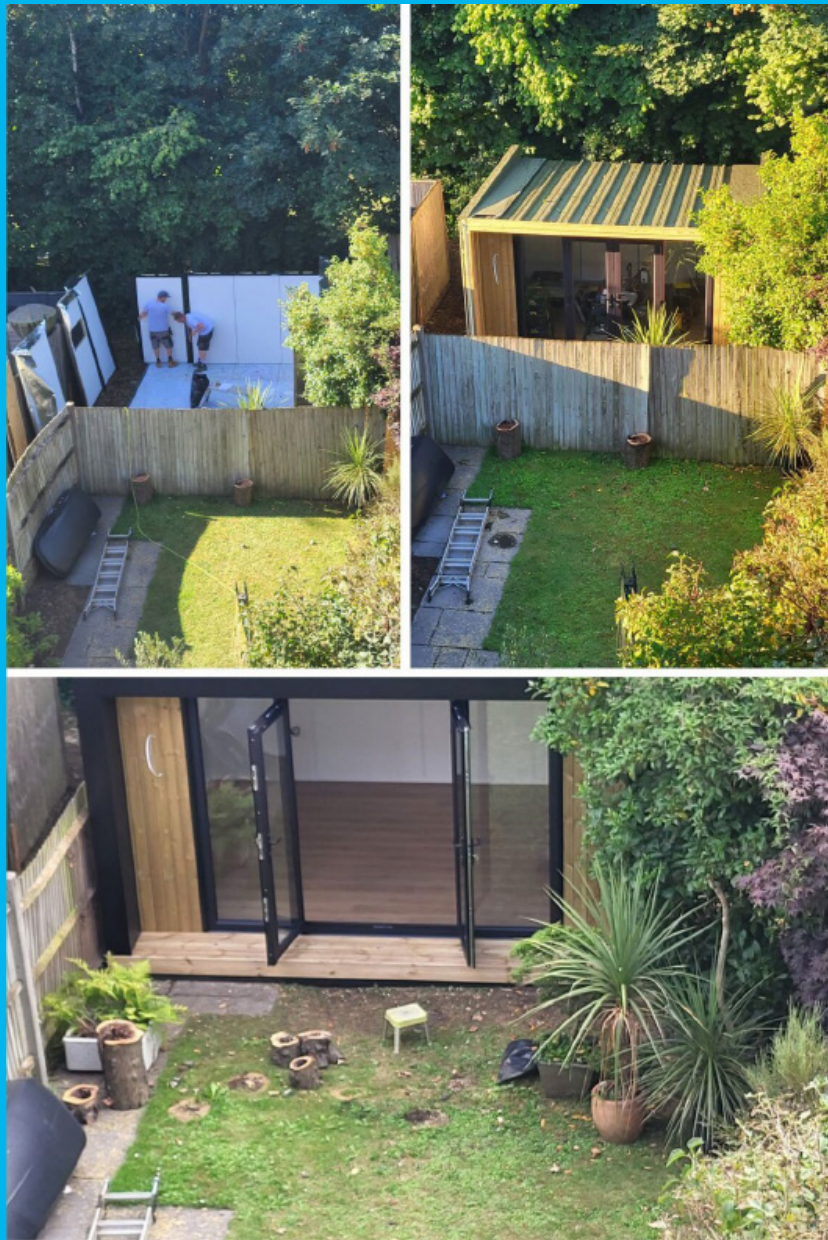


Life in the Tree House



August(ish)

Well, this is a slightly late August issue. It's been very busy here with various travels (me and the hubby popped over to Paris for an Olympic weekend) and having the garden room built, and the rotting deck and some fencing replaced. There has been stuff everywhere and there still is stuff everywhere – it's the chaotic stage before everything can start to go back into the right place or the new place - and we were just getting to the end of that stage when it was time to go on our summer family holiday, which didn't feel like the best timing, but that's just how it worked out, so we headed off for our first ever trip to Norfolk.

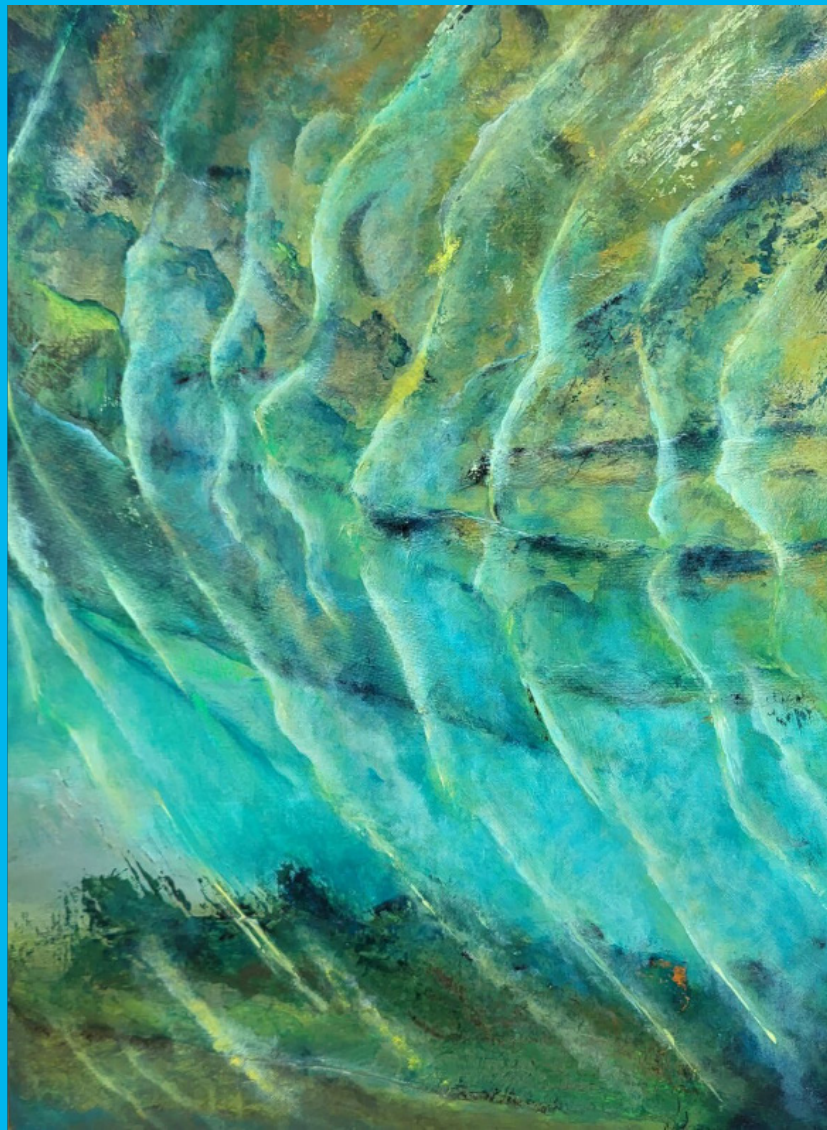


Artist Notes

Well in the space of about 3 days for base, build and electrics, I have a garden studio! It was pretty amazing to watch, and the guys did a brilliant job. Now comes the fun part of organising and moving in. We've bought a few Ikea bits and pieces such as adjustable worktables, shelving and storage and the rest will be from my existing space in our bedroom. I'm actually one of those weird people who loves building flat pack furniture, so I'll be in my element for the next few days while it all comes together.

There's still loads to sort especially garden wise as we want to add a lot more colour, interest and inspiration to encourage the birds, bees and butterflies, but that'll be over the next few weeks and months.

In the meantime, and now that we're back from our lovely break in Norfolk, I'm just itching to get in the studio and start creating!



Spotlight On ...

Beneath the Surface: Acrylic and mixed media collage on canvas.

This is a painting which started life looking very different and is one of those times when you make something you like and therefore don't want to paint over it, but you know it's not what you really wanted, and you end up being stuck and unable to move it forward.

So, what did I do? Well, I basically put it out of sight for about a year until I came across it again when I was looking for something else!

By this time, I wasn't as attached to it, so I quickly added some collage for texture, began to paint over it and instantly felt the energy return.

What I really like about this painting is that it's about looking into a rockpool to see what lies beneath – the colours, shapes, textures – so it ended up being quite fitting that I'd created something else (that you can still see in places) beneath the surface.



What's Inspired Me

As there's been so much going on, it's been a very inspirational month with almost too much to write down, so perhaps I'll go for some key points, so you don't all fall asleep reading this! Here we go then ...

- Arriving in Paris and experiencing the excitement of the Olympics everywhere we went, listening to cheers erupting and La Marseillaise being sung at every opportunity.
- Climbing the Eiffel Tower and looking out over all the venues around the city and watching the lightning flashing in the distance until it finally surrounded us. It started raining just as we got to the bottom and I uttered the immortal words 'Oh this is quite romantic, visiting the Eiffel Tower and walking along in Paris in the rain'. Unfortunately, that was when the heavens really opened. Everyone scattered to find whatever shelter they could. We found a few trees with several other nationalities, but that didn't work for long. We were so wet and so cold in the end, it was just funny!

- Watching the hockey in the Stade Yves du Manoir and the Men's cycle race outside the Musee du Louvre.
- High-fiving all the volunteers when we left the hockey stadium.
- People watching around the city and guessing all the different nationalities (outfits or blow-up kangaroos made this much easier!)
- Heading off for our first visit to Norfolk and totally loving it.
- Exploring some beautiful little villages and so many gorgeous, creative independent shops.
- Going for windy walks along lovely sandy beaches.
- Enjoying family time, eating outside and watching the sun going down.
- Arriving back home and getting excited all over again that there's a bloomin' studio in the garden!

And talking of which, I really have to go and build some furniture!

Trees x



Tree House Design

Based in Teddington, West London