



Life in the Tree House



September

The start of Autumn and, although it's a close-run thing, probably my favourite season of the year. I love the change in light, the long shadows and lovely sunsets on an evening walk, the misty mornings and digging out your favourite jumpers, fluffy socks and snuggling up to watch Strictly and Bake Off! And, of course, all the beautiful colours as the leaves get ready to fall and the spooky shenanigans of Halloween.



Artist Notes

Well, this is the first newsletter that I'm writing from the new studio. I'm pretty much moved in apart from a few bits and pieces. We have a couple of shelves to go up and some lights to set up a photography space, but that's about it. I've been using it for a couple of weeks now and it feels brilliant.

I had a lot of stuff that was tucked away in the house, so it's been quite nice to make some time to have a look through everything as I was moving in. Discovering things that I'd started and not finished or just work that I hadn't looked at for ages is all helping me to think about where I want to focus my time and how I want to move things forward.

I'm already feeling a lot more creative and my list of things to do is getting longer, so some proper planning will be needed, I think.

Something I am excited about going back to almost straightaway, is using oil paint again. I moved away from oils mainly because of the drying time and the lack of space to store paintings as they dried, but now that that isn't a problem, I'm really looking forward to working with them again. Acrylics are a great way to build up base layers, but I don't think they achieve the lovely softness or depth of colour that oils do. I'm going to treat myself to some quite swanky new oils from Michael Harding. These are traditionally made and have a high pigment content, making them particularly vibrant and durable. They do cost a bit more though, so I'll have to control myself and only purchase a few at a time!



Spotlight On ...

September Evening: Collage and acrylic painting on board.

I find September quite a magical month. Even though we're only just easing out of summer, you can feel the change in the season almost immediately. The stags in Bushy Park all start bellowing at each other, the light has a softer glow, and you get some beautiful sunsets.

This painting was inspired by one of our evening walks with Indie in Bushy. It's painted using acrylic and I used some vintage sheet music as collage to give some texture and to represent the natural beauty of an autumn evening and how it makes your heart sing.

The image shows a poem titled "Pause" centered on a light beige rectangular background. The background of the entire image is a dark, moody photograph of pink roses with green leaves. The text of the poem is in a simple, black, sans-serif font. The title "Pause" is in a larger, bold font at the top. The poem consists of a list of activities and durations, each on a new line, with varying levels of indentation.

Pause

For 10 seconds to take a deep breath.
For 1 minute to take in the view.
For a couple of minutes to brew a cuppa.
For 10 minutes to clear your head.
For 20 minutes to call your mum.
For half an hour to exercise your body.
For a couple of hours to read a good book.
For a day to find some fun.
For a weekend under the stars.
For a fortnight to recharge your batteries.
For a month to learn something new.
For a summer to be a kid again.
For a year to see the world.
For a lifetime to work out what it all means.
Or for just 5 minutes to do absolutely nothing.

What's Inspired Me

We have been very busy this month with all the various things happening in our house and garden. Not only moving in and organising the studio (and starting to work in it) but having the deck replaced, a new storage shed put in and a new induction hob and some electrics sorted. So there has been lots of comings and goings and plenty to sort out as each job is completed, which hasn't left a lot of time to think about what's inspiring me!

So, I thought I'd attach a poem – my favourite poem – which I have pinned to the wall above my desk. I saw it in a Jack Wills catalogue about 25 years ago and I've never been able to find out who wrote it, but it's a good reminder to stop every now and then, especially when life is a bit chaotic, and just take a breath, look around and notice the little things – your day is generally the better for it.

And now that I've paused to write this, I'm off to do a bit more digging in the garden as we want to get as much sorted as we can before it starts getting really cold or even wetter than it has been this week!

Trees x



Tree House Design

Based in Teddington, West London

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