



> The work of Helen Poremba



> Jane Murray



> Helen Poremba



> Flowers by Jane Murray

Triple whammy of art talent

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ART lovers in Northumberland are spoilt for choice with the work of three artists on show – although one is perhaps slightly more famous than the others.

This summer, the Granary Gallery in Berwick will host a new exhibition of works by one of Britain's most famous artists: JMW Turner.

Turner: Northern Exposure traces the artist's first tour of the North of England, which culminated in his arrival at the village of Norham in Northumberland.

His northern journey included Yorkshire, Durham, Tyneside, Northumberland to the Tweed Valley, and on to the Scottish Borders before he travelled to Cumbria and the Lake District.

The exhibition in Berwick will include 12 colour studies by Turner which represent the entire route of his 1797 tour. These works, on loan from the Tate, will be displayed alongside two of his sketchbooks of the Tweed and the Lakes.

Three additional works will also be on show in Berwick, two on loan from the V&A Collection – Holy Island, Northumberland (1829) and Warkworth Castle, Northumberland (1799) – plus Dunstanborough Castle, Northumberland (c1829) from the Manchester Art Gallery collection.

The loans are supported by the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund. Created by the Garfield Weston Foundation and Art Fund, the programme is the first ever UK-wide funding scheme to enable smaller and local authority museums to borrow works of art and artefacts from national collections.

After finishing in Berwick, the exhibition moves to Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery in Carlisle.

Turner: Northern Exposure will be at the Granary Gallery 2nd Floor, Berwick

YHA, Dewar's Lane, TD15 1HJ from May 25 to October 13 (Tues-Sun 11am to 4pm, closed Mondays). Admission is free.

If you can't wait until then, Gallery 45 in Felton, near Morpeth, is hosting a joint exhibition by Jane Murray and Helen Poremba until May 30. Entitled Flower Garden, it celebrates the artists' joint interests in flowers, gardens and all things botanical.

Jane, who studied for a degree in fine art at Leicester and Hull, has drawn and painted all her life and after years painting vague abstracts in oils, started designing greetings cards. She decided to enlarge her designs and sell them as pictures, and looking at flowers in detail led her to become interested in the intricacies and beauty of all natural forms.

Now a renowned botanical artist, Jane works mainly in watercolour but with the occasional use of gouache and ink. Her work varies from detailed botanical studies to larger, tending towards abstract, compositions.

In recent years, Jane's love of natural forms has focused on autumn leaves and trees, but flowers remain an abiding interest and she grows irises and poppies each year to paint. Jane has exhibited widely and has enjoyed running art classes and workshops.

Helen completed a textile degree as a mature student and has since flourished and grown as an artist. Her work is created using recycled fabrics and an old Singer sewing machine, and reflect her love and detailed knowledge of the flowers that grow in her garden.

She creates her beautiful work 'painting' with a vast selection of colours of fabric and 'draws' with stitch, using the technique of free-motion embroidery.

Helen works from her studio at home, from where she enjoys running small one-to-one workshops. A large part of her work is creating pieces on commission.

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