

Time to be Inspired!

Newsletter for Autumn 2020 from Rebecca de Mendonça



Welcome to my newsletter! It's been a while since the last one, but I hope it will be worth the wait. Read on to find out about a live zoom demo I will be giving this week, new work and my new range of prints.....

In this strange time, it feels as though hope may be in the air this week, in many areas. As the weather closes in today (it's still dark at midday and I am sitting by a roaring fire) we can maybe be more hopeful, inspired and creative in the months ahead. I am missing seeing my students so much, but on the plus side, steam is rising from my studio as new projects unfold.....

I hope you are well, and finding ways to enjoy this new normal.

If you have messaged me over the last few months and not had an answer, please try me again on rebeccademendonca@gmail.com. I am very sorry if you didn't receive an answer, I didn't realise that some parts of my website haven't been functioning as I thought. I did reply to you, but you just didn't get it. Please do get in touch!

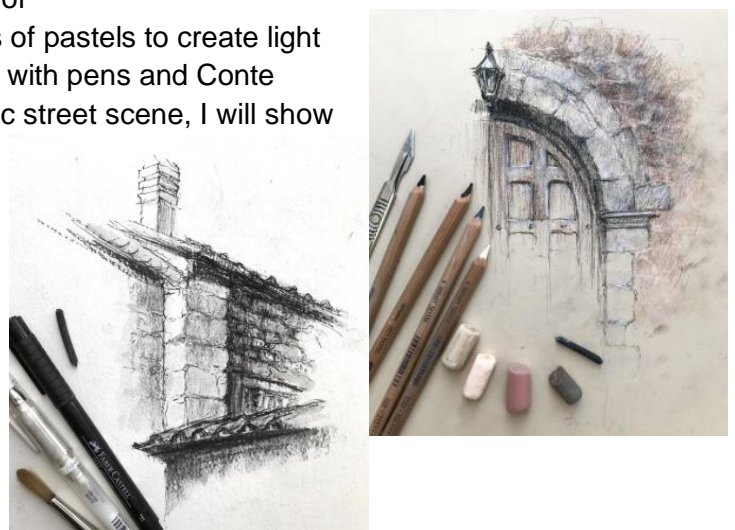
Live demo

Street scenes and Architecture in pen and pastel, Thursday Nov 19th, 2.30 pm GMT

Join me this week on a live zoom link to the Watermill in Italy, to experiment with pen and ink, and various pastel media, to capture the atmosphere of street scenes and the character of historic buildings. I will demonstrate how you can vary your materials and simplify your subject matter to make your life easier.

Architecture is a subject that can seem daunting for pastellists, but there are ways to use the softness of pastels to create light and atmosphere, but also get detail and structure with pens and Conte crayons. As well as demonstrating an atmospheric street scene, I will show and explain examples of sketching buildings with other media. Combinations will include ink, pastel pencil, soft pastel, charcoal and water.

You can ask questions during the demonstration, and the video will be available to watch afterwards, so that you can have a go yourself, in your own time, as long as you register. For more details and to register contact lois@medialliance.net.



Exmoor Pony paintings and prints



I have been very lucky to be working with the Exmoor Pony Project to produce some pastels of their beautiful ponies. These are also now available as a series of Limited Edition Prints, and half of the profits from the print sales go to the project.

The Exmoor Pony Project is home to more than 30 Exmoor ponies, one of Great Britain's oldest and endangered native pony breeds, and is run by Nick and Dawn Westcott from their farm in the Porlock Vale, Somerset.

The project encourages understanding and empathetic treatment of Exmoor ponies, promotes the breed, and campaigns for welfare improvements.

The ponies are fantastic and complex characters, with so much life and energy to capture. Dawn has allowed me to sit quietly, observing and sketching them in their barn, and then photograph their lovely exuberance out in the sunshine. Here's me snapping away like mad, behind the safety of that electric fence! (It's a big herd...just saying...)



You can see more of the original pastels and prints on my website, and buy the prints directly from <https://rebeccademendonca.co.uk/product-category/limited-edition-prints/>. Prints start at £29, I am hoping that they will be great for Christmas presents!

Extraordinary Exhibition at Wildwood Arts Gallery, Dartmoor

November 14th to December 24th 2020

After a tricky year for artists and galleries, Cheri at Wildwoods Gallery near Tavistock has asked the artists that she represents to submit work that they are most proud of from the last few months. It has resulted in what she asked for, an 'Extraordinary Exhibition'.

I got completely carried away and have produced quite a few large pieces, inspired by the great outdoors, and the horses that I am lucky enough to have on my doorstep this year. The exhibition is on until Christmas Eve, and the gallery will be doing 'Click and collect', and viewings by appointment, restrictions permitting.





New Equestrian paintings

You can see my equestrian work on my website at <https://rebeccademendonca.co.uk/product-category/original-pastel-paintings-and-drawings/original-art-and-equestrian-pastel-paintings/> .

Other work

I have also been producing work inspired by the beautiful landscapes of the South West, and have returned to one of favourite subjects, days on the beach.

You can see my original pastels at <https://rebeccademendonca.co.uk/product-category/original-pastel-paintings-and-drawings/>



Books and pastels

I was thrilled to discover that the first print run of my book sold out before the end of the first year of publication, and it is now well into the reprint. It makes me very happy to think of all the people who may be enjoying pastels for the first time, or are developing their skills at this time when we all have more time for art.

I have also been working closely with Unison Colour over the summer to help people enjoy their pastels, with a downloadable PDF and short videos for beginners.

Our beautiful New Pastel School pastels are still available from my website if you are making your Christmas list!



Courses

We do have dates in the diary for New Pastel School courses next year, but we are just waiting for a little bit longer to announce them, as it is so difficult to plan at the moment. We don't know just yet exactly how many places we will have on each course, due to distancing restrictions. Could you all please keep your fingers crossed for these vaccines!

I am waiting until the new year to make dates for my studio courses in 2021.

For those of you who paid deposits for courses this year that I am still holding, please let me know if you would like me to reimburse your payments. The plan is still for new dates to be available next year, but at the moment I cannot plan when that will be.

Email me on rebeccademendonca@gmail.com .

Do get in touch

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about any of the above, either by email at

rebeccademendonca@gmail.com

Or call for a chat

01392 840132

0771 9585957

As I said, if you have tried to get in touch previously and you received no reply, please try again, I have simplified my contact page and it should work much better now!



All the very best and may your autumn be full of sunshine, and your Christmas be all that you hope for!

Rebecca x

November 2020