A CHANGE OF ART

Join **Emma Bovill** as she opens doors to art and explores the creative scene in Somerset





PHOTO: JOHNKLUKAS

Stella Maris, archival pigment print by John Klukas

Dedicated to art

'I believe whole-heartedly in their work and they believe in my unending support,' says art collector turned gallery founder Danielle L Newns Fein. 'I don't believe there's any other way to run a gallery; you have to have passion for the work and its creators' drive or what is the point?'

There are passionate gallerists and then there are passionate gallerists. Danielle pours her heart and soul into representing her chosen artists from her 'very personal endeavour' amid the thriving Bruton arts scene. 'They are all quite diverse in medium and style, however the uniting theme is their compulsion to create,' she explains.

Officially opened in April 2024, FEIN Collections [made in new york city] is so named because of the influence life in the Big Apple had on Danielle. She studied art history and later law there (specialising in art law and Holocaust restitution claims) while developing an eye for collecting art.

'The philosophy I work from is that I must be in love with the artist's entire corps and oeuvre,' she affirms. 'I first begin by collecting from the artist myself. Then a relationship forms. I've known and become close with all of the artists I represent – I need to know their processes and their visions.'

If validation were needed, featured artist John Klukas was a finalist in the Best International Artist category of the 2024 VAA Artists of the Year Awards run by the art community-focused Visual Artists Association. Former classical ballet student Danielle was dancing on air when the news was announced earlier this year, but you sense her belief in her discerning taste means she equally wasn't surprised when the explorative photographer was selected.

Danielle possesses the enviable quality of saying it as it is and brings this conviction to her work as a gallerist. 'Being a New Yorker does allow your feelings to manifest consciously rather than repressing artistic compulsions,' she suggests. She currently represents seven artists, showing their work in both group and solo exhibitions. Initially settling in London on moving to the UK and studying art business at Sotherby's Institute, the arrival of daughter Juniper prompted a move to Somerset for Danielle and her family.

Based from the Old Mill Business Park in Bruton, she enjoys the process of connecting clients with artworks, as well as continuing to raise the profile of artists. 'I am truly dedicated to gaining my featured artists' works homes in appropriate venues,' she says.

'I also intend to facilitate the insertion of FEIN's artists into internationally tiered art market platforms and the art world's historical canonical structure.' Her ambition is direct, refreshing and you sense the self-confessed 'nerd' means every word. ●

feincollections.com
@feincollectionssomerset
45houses.com
@johnklukas

STITCHING TOGETHER

Based from the Ammerdown Centre near Bath, the progressive Stitch Textile Artists group has landed at ACEarts Somerton for a diverse exhibition exploring the concept of collections across a variety of media and techniques.

Led by Siân Martin, who contributed to the award-winning *Red Dress* embroidery project created by Somerset artist Kirstie Macleod, the Stitch Textile Artists' show presents tangible artworks that aim to prompt both an immediate response and deeper reflection.

Using fabric, paper, print and stitch, *Collections*, which runs from November 16 – Christmas Eve, includes a life-size 'broken' doll, a set of constructed women's coats with interwoven narratives and an intricately printed and stitched child's dress.

Sylvia Grant's spherical sculptures *Kintsugi*, carefully constructed in paper, yarn and metal wire, capture her enthusiasm for the Japanese art of mending broken pottery with gold lacquer to create aesthetically pleasing results.

'Stitch Textile Artists is a super group of creative textile artists with whom I've been involved with for many years,' says Siân.

'This exhibition is the latest of many and we've all been busy working on this theme for the last two years.'

Siân Martin also recently took part in the *Traces of Time* exhibition at Black Swan Arts in Frome alongside photographer and printmaker Lesley Roberts and painter Pauline Lerry with all three artists responding to the environment of the Avalon Marshes following a yearlong study.

acearts.co.uk
@acearts_somerton



PHOTO: SYLVIA GRANT

Kintsugi by Sylvia Grant