

# ‘I like the fact you can have happy accidents’

Chase correspondent **AMY FORDE**, marketing and communications assistant at Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance (ROAR), meets artist Teresa Sayner

**P**ART of ROAR's key role is to support emerging artists in and around Rotherham so it was intriguing and rewarding to sit down and chat to Teresa Sayner, a new member of the organisation, about her creative practice and how it is evolving.

Aptly, printmaking is where we begin.

Teresa recently attended a workshop at ROAR run by artist and printmaker Adrian Barron, which she really enjoyed: "I have always been interested in print but I have never done wood cuts. I have done relief printing on lino cuts but never on wood. I found the material really interesting."

She tells me that art has always been in her life. She was someone who was always sketching, drawing and making things.

She has fond memories of her dad who, although he struggled with language, could draw anything.

He would create big lines and scribbles on paper and they would sit together and find images in the shapes.

It is a game she now plays with her nieces.

It wasn't until 2009 when she formally trained, studying for an Illustration degree at Lincoln, and this was where she discovered her love of printmaking, something she says she will "always goes back to".

What is it about printmaking in particular which she really enjoys, I wonder.

Teresa explains: "I like the fact it is a one shot deal, two if you are lucky. If it

works you've got to try and figure out what you did to make it work again. If it doesn't work you have to figure out what you did to make it not work and not do it again. I like the fact you can have happy accidents."

There seems to be something quite liberating about this process, which she agrees with: "I like the fact it's a surprise every time you turn over the paper."

The process of creating work is quite fascinating to me, and something which we discuss with particular reference to the role of digital technology.

Teresa highlights how using social media has connected her to other creatives: "I think people enjoy seeing the process you are going through which is also something new to art. Normally people would see a finished piece of work in a gallery; now with social media it means you can see the whole process of what is happening."

She is always keen to upkeep her practical skills as well, attending workshops and keeping old techniques alive.

After our interview she is off for a "jolly" in Bath attending a marbling course, something she tells me has now been classified as "a critically endangered craft".

Teresa's most recent work is looking at rural landscapes and the natural world around us. As she talks about this I see her face light up: "Throughout my life I have always been connected to nature. There is something beautiful about nature; it never gets it wrong. The colours it puts together, the gnarly trees, they are beautiful."





**I have no intention to leave Rotherham. I don't have any aspirations to move to Spain or anything. I love my town. I think it's warm and friendly and full of what I call genuine people.**

On a recent trip to Butlins she spent 20 minutes taking pictures of these unusual, uprooted trees where the trunks had been stuck back in the ground so the roots then became the canopy. It was an obsession that her two nieces who accompanied her just couldn't understand.

Teresa's connection with Rotherham runs deep. Having lived her whole life in the town, her rather large family still live here. She says: "I have no intention to leave Rotherham. I don't have any aspirations to move to Spain or anything. I love my town. I think it's warm and friendly and full of what I call genuine people."

She currently works running buildings and helping those community groups who use them.

I ask if she can bring her creativity into her work. She laughs and in her down to earth way explains: "Apart from the fact I think I am rubbish at poster design, I like to be warm and friendly and engage with people. That's what I try and bring into my work, a connection with things."

Reinstating this she references her mother who used to say "you catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar", a quotation which is now solidly placed in my bank of favourite sayings.

Moving her practice forward was one of Teresa's primary reasons for joining ROAR. Her work has also been helped by the building of a large studio in her garden which she says has revolutionised her creativity. Having the space where she can mess, leave things out and pin images to the wall has really aided her practice: "It's quite interesting. You put things up which you like and you end up with this hectic

space on your wall. And then I think, why do I like that? And then you start examining that and that process of examination influences your work."

Teresa has also been asked to take up a wall as a gallery space for a local business, something which she is really excited about. She explains: "It's the first space I have really had to have my work appear on a regular basis. I am quite pleased with that."

With the dictaphone off, I lead Teresa out the office and I realise there is a real energy about her. Things are really starting to align and come together. It's great to see.

**\* You can see more of Teresa's work on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/teresasaynerart/](http://www.facebook.com/teresasaynerart/) or on Instagram @thelittlewhitehen.**

## National Express Driving Design competition

# CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS

**Y**OUNG creatives have just a few days left to try and get their artwork onto a huge space.

Coach firm National Express is offering artists a supesize canvas to show off their skills - a whole coach!

Aspiring artists are being offered the chance of seeing their work come to life across the side of one of the company's 14-metre-long vehicles.

The UK's largest coach operator's Driving Design competition is open to creatives between the ages of 16 and 30, who would like to get their artwork seen by millions of people up and down the land.

All UK-based artists are eligible to submit one piece of artwork for consideration in the form of a painting, drawing, or digital design via email or post before midnight on Monday, June 10.

The designs will then be shortlisted by a panel of judges before appearing on the National Express website for a public vote.

Along with the main prize, the artist with the most votes will also receive a free 12-month coach pass, two tickets to Hampshire's Boomtown Fair in August featuring artists including Lauryn Hill, The Streets, and Chase and Status, and a one-to-one development day with an established artist resulting in their work being showcased at this year's High Vis Festival in Birmingham in September.

Chris Hardy, managing director at National Express UK Coach, said: "This is a unique opportunity for up-and-coming artists to showcase their work on a huge platform for a full 12 months."

"The winning design will remain on one side of a National Express coach which will then carry hundreds of passengers to their destinations every day.

At 14 metres long, it could be the largest canvas they get to work on.

"Driving Design heavily supports our Youth Promise which we feel very passionately about. We are a big brand with national reach, and we want to use this to help young people get a head start in life.

"We are pleased to be working with the artists of the High Vis Festival. This is a fantastic opportunity for an ambitious artist to not only get their work showcased on a huge scale but to also be mentored and guided by an established group of artists who have been in the industry for over 30 years."

Now in its second year, the High Vis Festival is a vibrant and energetic showcase of the ever-growing arts community from some of the UK's most creative cities.

Craig Earp, artist and co-director of the High Vis Festival, said: "We are excited to be involved in this competition. We are all about championing up-and-coming talent and look forward to working with the winning artist to produce something exciting this summer."

"We cannot wait to see their work exhibited amongst those of professional artists at this year's High Vis Festival. It's time to get creative!"

Entries need to be submitted by email to [driving.design@nationalexpress.com](mailto:driving.design@nationalexpress.com) or by post to Driving Design, National Express House, Mill Lane, Birmingham B5 6DD. Artists can share their designs on social media using #NXDrivingDesign.

All entries must include name, age, contact number, email address, a few lines about why the artist would like to win, and must arrive before the deadline of midnight on June 10.

For full terms and conditions visit [www.nationalexpress.com/driving-design](http://www.nationalexpress.com/driving-design).

