

JOANNA MAY



"I first visited Le Manoir in 2003 in celebration of entering a painting at Christies, and was immediately struck by Raymond Blanc's vision of interior design, and the synergy between this and my work."

"My aspiration of creating something different with wildlife painting is to produce hauntingly beautiful animals, framed in unusual compositions. The Chinese traditionally believed emotion was expressed through the eye of the artist. In my pictures it is the spirit of the beast which emanates from the eye."

"In 2006, when I re-visited Le Manoir and met Raymond Blanc, it was obvious we had a great understanding and cohesion of art meeting interior design. He loved my work, and we set about discussing the passion for his latest vision, 'Lemongrass'. The task at hand - how could we tell the story of creating a room from a mountain with rice fields he saw in Malaysia through a painting?"

"I agreed to take a departure from my usual style of wildlife, and create a landscape. I set about producing a drawing showing the rice fields in evocative swerves, with sheaths of rice on the right

- echoing art deco in its asymmetrical design. Raymond was thrilled, but wanted to include the whole mountain, so we expanded to a triptych with a central painting of rice fields on the mountain and mirror imaging my design to flank the central painting."

"There is an inner power to my African Wildlife paintings which Raymond particularly admired. Clients are awe-struck by the spellbinding depth of the Black Leopard's sensual jade-green eyes enshrouding the bedside with their regal protective gaze, and complimenting the colour and feel of 'Lemongrass'. Le Manoir also now boasts a cheetah and leopard in 'Sandalwood', another bedroom with an African theme."

Joanna has talked about her life and art on BBC's Spring Watch in June 2006 focusing on a favourite wildlife subject of hers, 'the British Brown Hare' which she is greatly acknowledged for. She has an entry in 'Who's Who in Art' and also owns and runs her own gallery in Marlborough 'The Joanna May Studio Gallery Ltd'.

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Opening Hours Thurs, Fri, Sat 10 - 5. Please ring the mobile number outside these hours.