

'The only rule is my husband and I have to agree we like it'



■ LESLEY McATEER, 39, RUNS A COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY BUSINESS WITH HER HUSBAND IN GLASGOW

“ I’VE always liked visiting art galleries but when I was younger I couldn’t afford art – I was either a student or on a low wage. It’s only in the past few years that I’ve started buying original art. I’ve been going to the Glasgow Art Fair since the first year really. I tend to buy one piece every year and I do tend to buy it there because there’s such a great representation of galleries.

For someone like me who has a full-time job, has kids and is really busy, it’s fabulous because it’s a one-stop shop, and it brings in galleries from all over the place.

One of my favourite pieces is a Catriona Miller that I bought two years ago. On that occasion I did go to the Art Fair thinking, ‘I would probably like to buy a Catriona Miller’. She had jumped up in price since the year before and I wanted to buy one while I could still afford to.

I loved the painting as soon as I saw it. It’s called *Miss Terri* and it’s a portrait of a woman. She has a beautiful face and I love the colours. I tend not to take anything else into consideration when I’m

choosing artwork. I don’t think about how it would sit in my house, I just think, ‘I love it and I have to have it’. The only rule is that my husband and I have got to agree that we both like it.

The Catriona Miller cost £1,400, but I tend to buy my artwork through Own Art, the Scottish Arts Council scheme, which makes it affordable. I pay a 10 per cent deposit and then the balance, interest-free, over the next ten months, and you can take the picture away as soon as you pay the deposit. It means it spreads the cost over the course of the year, and, of course, by the time the next Art Fair comes around, you’ve paid it all off.

It’s very exciting bringing a piece of artwork home. You know you’re bringing in something that you’re going to have for a long, long time and you know you’re going to treasure.

When I buy a piece of art I like to live with it for a while and maybe put it on different walls in the house before it finds its final resting place. Then I might change it all if I buy something else. The Catriona Miller has moved twice, from the hall to the lounge and back to the hall again, but to a different place. I wasn’t looking at it properly before, but where it is now, I look at it every day.

EMMA COWING

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