

The Art of Giving

As the year begins to draw in, I always find myself thinking a little more about giving. Not the hurried, last-minute kind, but the lovely part that comes before - thinking about the people you know well and that small thrill of finding something that feels completely them.

It was with this in mind that I found myself back at KATA.

I've always loved the feeling of this space. Beautiful jewellery glints from the cabinets, but your eye is just as easily drawn upwards to the artwork on the walls. Everything feels connected by the hands that made it.

This season brings together artists Caroline Martin and Heidi Langridge, whose work could, at first glance, hardly be more different.

Caroline's abstract seascapes are full of movement. Sweeping blues, aquas and soft washes seem to ebb and flow across the canvas, punctuated by unexpected flashes of coral and metallic warmth. Inspired by music and nature, particularly water, there is something wonderfully immersive about them - the longer you look, the more you seem to find.

Then there are Heidi's birds. Still, characterful and beautifully observed, they perch against bold fields of pink, blue and green. There is a playfulness to them that makes you smile, but also a simplicity that allows each little subject to command the canvas.



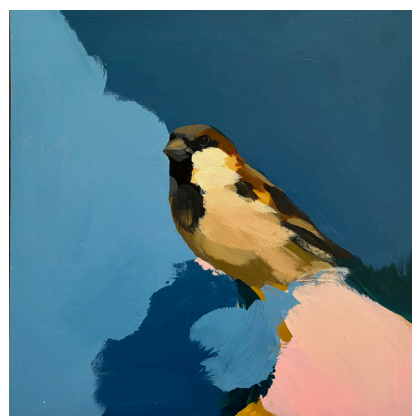
And yet, together, the two artists feel completely at ease.

Perhaps that is what makes the space so distinctive. Different forms of creativity sit alongside one another, allowing you to discover something you hadn't necessarily arrived looking for.

A beautifully handcrafted piece of jewellery might become the treasure someone wears for years. An original painting could transform a familiar corner of their home. Or perhaps it's something smaller - an unframed print, an art bookmark or an art bauble - a little piece of creativity chosen simply because it made you think of someone.

I think that's the secret to really good giving. It isn't about size or extravagance. It's the moment of recognition when you see something and instinctively know who it belongs to.

And at KATA, there seems to be rather a lot to make you stop and think, I know exactly who would love that. ■



KATA Jewellery & Arts Gallery
48C St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells
Featuring Caroline Martin & Heidi Langridge

