



The Show Must Go On!

Sarah-Jane Szikora

**A Brand New Collection of
Original Paintings**

Curtain rises... enter, stage left, the artist, blinking in the footlights...

Welcome and thank you for joining me in my small theatre after four tumultuous years. No sooner had I presented my last collection of new paintings than life delivered a series of shocks for which I was ill prepared, closely followed by that for which none of us were prepared – the pandemic.

The enforced interruption of lockdown, while painful, gave us all a valuable opportunity for reflection. My solitary daily walks helped me to make sense of what had gone before, locate myself in this suddenly changed world and contemplate the challenges ahead. Then, after two years of creative standstill, I picked up my brushes.

This has been no linear journey and my new paintings do not adhere to any overt theme; rather, I am sharing with you my responses to the places where I found myself and to what was unfolding around me.

Circus imagery appears occasionally: the Big Top is an effective metaphor for life (and an excuse – should one require it – for feathers and tights). Sadly the world around us remains in turmoil so, please, join me and allow me and our ensemble to distract you for

a little while...

Sarah-Jane x

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Performing Animals



1

The Lobster Joke

King Edwards Bay, Tynemouth, has a hip seafood place. You might even find dressed crab.



Acrylic on canvas
Image 80 x 80 cm
Framed 94 x 94 cm

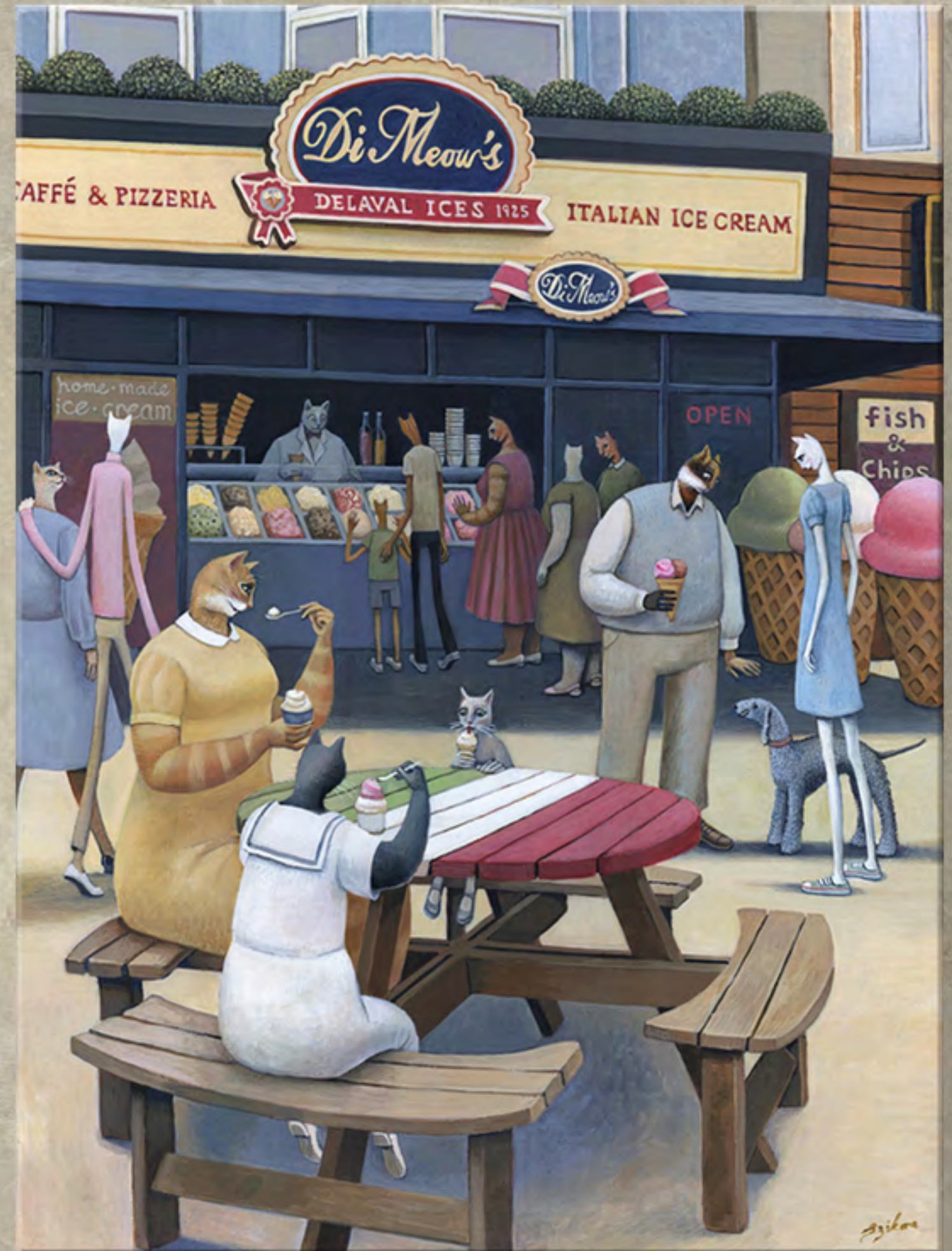
2

Gatto Gelato

This family run parlour in Whitley Bay is where all the cats get the cream.



Acrylic on canvas
Image 59 x 79 cm
Framed 76 x 95 cm





3

Foxy Music

Over the summer of 2022, I enjoyed a number of outdoor music performances while on my wanderings. They were a welcome return, if not exactly to normality, then to a freedom from the restrictions of lockdown. In celebration, I have blended and located them in this handsome bandstand in Saltwell Park, Gateshead.

Acrylic on canvas
Image 51 x 61 cm
Framed 67 x 77 cm



4

Guys 'n' Gills

Meandering through the City of Durham on a pleasant June evening, I happened upon this tiny gem of a bar on the ancient Elvet Bridge. Gin and warm evening sunshine worked their magic. I did my best to capture the scene on canvas.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 50 x 60 cm

Framed 66 x 76 cm





5

“Never say ‘Rabbit’ in a Boat”

This ancient wisdom was imparted to me by a friend, with the injunction that it must always be delivered in a Cornish accent. My research told me that the phrase originated with seafarers. In the days of wooden vessels, having rabbits on board was seen as so hazardous that, eventually, even mentioning the creatures by name was thought to summon the Devil.

**Acrylic on canvas
Image 34 x 44 cm
Framed 48 x 58 cm**



6

Hop-a-Long

As I was painting the 'you-know-what' in a boat, it occurred to me that the poor things just cannot win: Seen as agents of misfortune at sea, around the world, the rabbit – or its severed foot – is seen as quite the opposite on dry land. Not so lucky for our bob-tailed friends.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 34 x 44 cm

Framed 48 x 58 cm



7

Bird of Pray

I'm too sexy for my perch,
Too sexy for this church,
So sexy it hurts.

Acrylic on canvas
Image 42 x 60 cm
Framed 55 x 73 cm



8

Winter Fox

Gazing out upon the grey waves;
you can't read his mind; it's as
fathomless as the sea itself.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 80 x 80 cm

Framed 94 x 94 cm





9

CBT

Cognitive Badger Therapy

Acrylic on canvas
Image 35 x 45 cm
Framed 44 x 54 cm



10

Tynemouth Priory

I would pass this view of the Priory ruins on the cycle or walk home from my studio. Local foxes sometimes do their courting here.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 57 x 76 cm

Framed 66 x 86 cm



Side Shows



11

Temet Nosce

Keep a steady hand – you will be tested.



Acrylic on canvas
Not for sale

12

Balloon Animals

Tiger claws are always retracted when handling balloons or cubs.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 29 x 29 cm

Framed 38.5 x 38.5 cm



13

Hinnie

Here is a portrait of my friend, Margi – a Northumbrian lass with a character as vibrant as her smile. She often jokes that, had she lived in the days before female depilation was commonplace, she would have been on display in a Victorian sideshow. Actually, she has a lovely head of hair, of which I am deeply envious.

‘Hinnie’ is a Geordie term of endearment for women.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 29.5 x 39.5 cm

Framed 37.5 x 47.5 cm



14

Red in Tooth and Claw

We all have our bears to cross.
It is best not to provoke them.

Acrylic on canvas

Image 23.5 x 30 cm

Framed 33 x 39 cm





15

Contortionists

Relationships twist and bend under pressure; only the strongest endure.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 39 x 39 cm

Framed 48.5 x 48.5 cm

16

You Are My Sunshine

Turn on your full beam; even momentarily, it may illuminate someone's world.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 39 x 39 cm

Framed 47.5 x 47.5 cm





17

Fortune Cookie

"A life lived in fear is a life half lived"

Baz Luhrmann



Acrylic on canvas
Image 50 x 60.5 cm
Framed 60 x 70 cm

18

Bareback

In the right troupe, you will be raised up and encouraged to your finest performance and feats of daring.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 51 x 61 cm

Framed 60 x 70 cm





Actors



19

Family Tree

My mother died in 2019. She slipped away after I left her briefly during a long bedside vigil. On the drive home, at around 2 am, a white owl flew over. I had never seen one before; it appeared like an angel, and I choose to believe it was a final goodbye.



Acrylic on canvas
Not for sale

20

The Path

If you lose your way, ask for
directions. Guidance can always
be found.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 78 x 78 cm

Framed 93 x 93 cm



21

Skin Deep

“Everything has beauty,
but not everyone sees it.”
Confucius

Oil on canvas
Image 49 x 119 cm
Framed 63.5 x 132.5 cm



22

Dressed to Impress

*"Sugar and spice and all things nice,
that's what little girls are made of."*
Actually no; mainly we are made
of oxygen, carbon and nitrogen.



Acrylic on canvas
Image 91 x 122 cm
Framed 108 x 137 cm



23

Whitby Whalebones

You can be alone in the light;
it's when it gets dark that you
need a friend.



Acrylic on canvas
Image 50 x 50 cm
Framed 60 x 60 cm

24

Phoenix

After being burnt to the ground,
there is nothing else to do but
unfurl new wings and fly again.



Acrylic on canvas
Image 75 x 100 cm
Framed 89 x 114 cm





Ginger Scenes



25

Bicasso

First there was 'Cubism' and from this grew the school of 'Cubiscuitism', the artistic aim of which is not always taking life too seriously. Critics remain divided.



Acrylic on canvas
Image 40 x 58 cm
Framed 55.5 x 72.5 cm

Sand-Dancers

During the lockdown, I had South Shields Marine Park almost entirely to myself. Lovely in its own right, I originally painted the bandstand empty of figures but it looked too lonely. The addition of Sand-dancers (the name given to people from the town) lends a more sociable feel. By coincidence, Queen Elizabeth II died while I returned to the painting to include them. I completed it on the day of her funeral and it seemed natural to ice the bandstand in her honour.

Acrylic on canvas
Image 70 x 90 cm
Framed 84 x 104 cm





27

Holy Breadlock

Marriage is in slow decline around the world.

I may be a 'Thornback' (a recently discovered term to describe an unmarried woman over a certain age) but even I feel a little blue that fewer people are marrying their sweethearts.



Acrylic on canvas
Image 29 x 60 cm
Framed 44 x 75 cm

28

Sweet Sorrow

We all have a unique expiry date,
so we must remember to do our
best-before.



Acrylic on canvas

Image 24 x 34.5 cm

Framed 38 x 48 cm



29

Hanky Panky

The barefaced cheek of whoever painted this!

Acrylic on canvas
Image 20.5 x 28 cm
Framed 35.5 x 43 cm





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Sarah-Jane Szikora

To purchase, arrange a viewing, or for any other enquiries, please contact us:

Email

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Text or call

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All prices include framing and UK delivery.
Limited edition prints will be published in 2023.

sarah-janeszikora.com

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Catalogue design: guycallaby.co.uk

The Show Must Go On is my tribute to those who kept me on my feet when the ground beneath was shifting. Thank you.

Thanks also to Guy and Bruce for providing order to my chaos. (Please don't ever retire).

Viewings

Looking at art online is never the same as seeing it in person; colour and tone vary widely on different screens. We can organise viewings, or send detail close-ups or frame shots on request.

