



An exhibition by

SARAH-JANE SZIKORA

June 25th ~ July 14th 2018

Dear humans,

WELCOME TO URBAN ZOO, a collection of new artworks. The loose theme for this exhibition is a closer look at our four-legged friends. As a confirmed fur and feather fancier, I have never lived without animals. Beginning with my babyhood companion, Shane, an ex-police Alsatian dog, there followed a continuous line of pets through the years from angel fish to goats.

With the style of painting I regularly use, it was natural to anthropomorphize the creatures. I have no difficulty in crediting them with sentience and make no apology for being blatantly sentimental. Animal rights, welfare and protection are very important to me.

I don't mind the odd human either so I've included some of my favourites in the zoo.

Digital images online are never the same as viewing in the flesh but if you are unable to visit the exhibition in person, I do hope you enjoy the pictures here instead.

*Love,
Sarah-Jane*



1972: Shane and me. Despite my face, I would develop a huge passion for creatures.



1975: My brother and I with Soonie, Snoopy and Chip.

THIS WAY
TO THE ART





THE RENDEZVOUS

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 90 cm × 90 cm

Framed size: 107 cm × 107 cm

£3,900 **SOLD**

I'VE PAINTED SAUSAGE DOGS many times as they have great appeal to me on account of their extended bodies.

Living and working close to the seaside, I go to the beach especially to watch the dogs of Tyneside enjoying a social.

The couple in this painting are known to me.



A BIRD IN EVERY PORT

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 90 cm × 90 cm

Framed size: 106 cm × 106 cm

£3,800

SOLD

I WAS INVITED TO A BIRTHDAY celebration on board a boat and with a nautical dress code. As the drink flowed, I watched people around the decks socialising. Sometimes when you stand back to observe, you find loneliness in the midst of the happiest crowds.

I like to think her sailor will come back for good.



CHIPS

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 61 cm × 76 cm

Framed size: 77 cm × 93 cm

£3,600 **SOLD**

WE MAY LIVE AMONG MARAUDING vermin, incontinent pigeons and brazen, pasty-snatching seagulls, but all things considered, it's possible that humans are by far the biggest pests on the planet.



SCOOTING

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 76 cm × 61 cm

Framed size: 91 cm × 71 cm

£2,300

SOLD

AS WITH THE SAUSAGE DOG, IT IS the exaggerated features of the greyhound which I'm drawn to. Those elegant long legs and aerodynamic faces please me a great deal.

I had often thought about them for a painting subject and so arranged to meet a couple of rescue dogs with their owner. What many don't realise about racing dogs is that they are naturally very good at not racing too. They lie down a lot and don't need much exercise: I felt they should be given a break from running.



SCRUMPERS

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 50 cm × 60 cm

Framed size: 64 cm × 74 cm

£2,300 **SOLD**

THERE WAS A BADGER 'INCIDENT' in the garden of my friend who lives on the south coast. Until I saw his infra-red video footage, I didn't know that badgers were so prevalent in Sussex (we don't see them in urban Tyneside) or that they are such accomplished climbers.

My friend told me that his carefully nurtured young pear tree had been fully stripped of fruit one summer night. I attempted to sympathise (honest I did) but couldn't help being inspired by such audacious badger ingenuity.



BIRD BATH

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 91 cm × 70 cm

Framed size: 105 cm × 84 cm

£3,900

SOLD

WATER AND BATHING HAVE always been favourite painting subjects of mine, especially the medicinal pools found across Hungary. They are not for swimming but to float serenely within or to sit on the built-in ledges Roman-style. In this otherworldly place there is nothing to do except heal and think. It gives time to meditate on life or to conjure up more elegant scenes than the near-naked humans all around.



PETS AT HOME

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 39 cm × 39 cm

Framed size: 56 cm × 56 cm

£1,800 **SOLD**

RATS LIKE TO SAY THAT THEY are never more than 20 feet from a human.

Some of them even think we enjoy eating lettuce.



THE RED SHOES

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 46 cm × 36 cm

Framed size: 56 cm × 46 cm

£1,200 **SOLD**

THE RED SHOES IS A CLASSIC 1948 film for anyone who loves ballet. After seeing the wonderful Matthew Bourne live version last year, I wanted to paint a reminder of the magical performance.

I chose the fox because it's a creature that must keep on its toes in life.



DANCE TI' THY DADDY

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 60 cm × 50 cm

Framed size: 75 cm × 65 cm

£2,300 **SOLD**

*Dance ti' thy daddy, sing ti' thy mammy,
Dance ti' thy daddy, ti' thy mammy sing;
Thou shall hev a fishy on a little dishy,
Thou shall hev a fishy when the boat
comes in.*

THIS IS MY HOMAGE TO Northumbrian and Geordie folk music. Those old enough will remember the song in use as the 1970's TV theme tune to *When the Boat Comes In*.

Neither the song nor TV series features cats.



BUTTERFLY COLLECTOR

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 80 cm × 80 cm

Framed size: 99 cm × 99 cm

£3,900 **SOLD**

SOME PEOPLE COLLECT STAMPS
or teddy bears. Some people
collect people.



REX

Acrylic on canvas

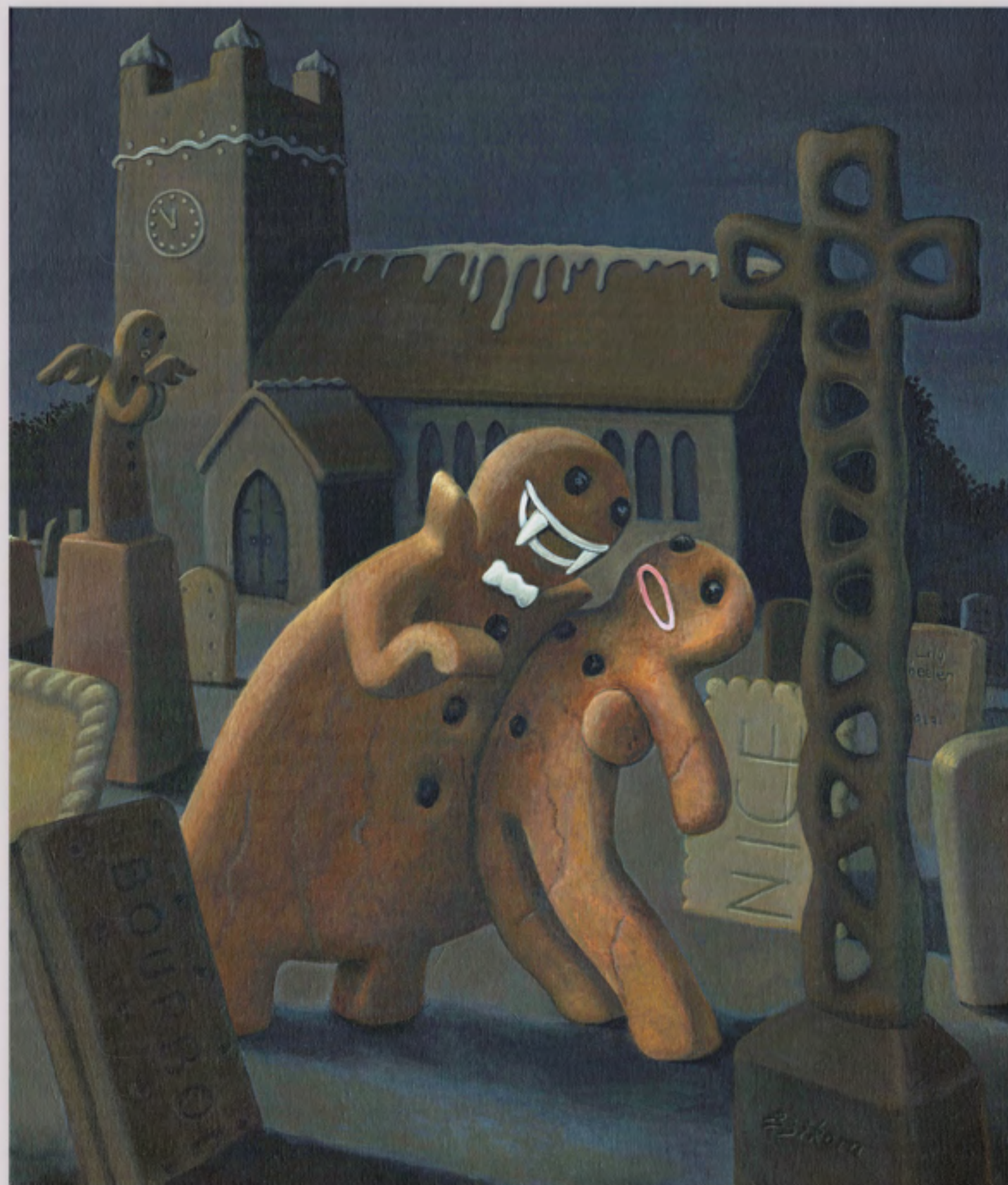
Canvas Size: 25 cm × 35 cm

Framed size: 39 cm × 49 cm

£1,200 **SOLD**

AS EARLY AS 1570 BC, THE COLOUR known as Tyrian or 'Royal' purple was achieved by crushing the mucus from a specific type of sea snail. Extracting this dye involved tens of thousands of snails and a ludicrous amount of work. As a result, the dye was highly valued and is the reason that it was used as a dye only for select ceremonial and imperial robes.

This little mollusc has more right to wear purple than most, so he has been crowned accordingly.



LOVE BITE

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 60 cm × 50 cm

Framed size: 65 cm × 75 cm

£3,300

SOLD

WHEN BISCUITS GO BAD. I felt it was time for a nod to my Austro-Hungarian heritage and acknowledge that my roots are shared by those who inspired the tale of Count Dracula.



2.4 KIDS AND A DOG

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 35 cm × 25 cm

Framed size: 49 cm × 39 cm

£1,300 **SOLD**

THE DANGEROUS DOGS ACT exists for a reason.

(I said I wasn't going to paint any more gingerbread men, but sometimes I forget and it's like slipping on a comfy pair of old slippers.)



SNAKEDANCE

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 25 cm x 35 cm

Framed size: 39 cm x 49 cm

£1,800 **SOLD**

THIS IS AN EXOTIC BISCUIT.
Her audience is spellbound
as she wiggles her ginger curves
to the sound of an Arabian flute.



WHITBY WEEKEND

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 60 cm × 80 cm

Framed size: 75 cm × 95 cm

£2,900

SOLD

I WENT TO THE FAMOUS WHITBY Goth weekend a year ago and was mightily impressed by the costumes on display. Arriving on a dark and stormy night, the proliferation of Victoriana and steampunk threw me both backwards and forwards in time.

I intend to create my own Dracula inspired outfit so I can return in style one day.



BAILE DE ZORRO (DANCE OF THE FOX)

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 40 cm × 60 cm

Framed size: 58 cm × 78 cm

£1,800

SOLD

IN 1914, THE TANGO EARNED a papal denunciation for being 'damaging to the soul.'

Surely, it's nothing short of the exact opposite. Performed well, there is a visual thunderbolt between the couple. Strutting electrifying moves, they create the sort of drama that those of us with two left paws, can only dream of.

I always paint first and think of a title when I'm finished. For this picture, I looked up the Argentinian (Spanish) word for 'fox' and was utterly thrilled to discover that word was 'zorro'.



BUNNIES

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 60 cm × 60 cm

Framed size: 78 cm × 78 cm

£3,500

SOLD

HUGH HEFNER WAS A TRADER of women and for that I cannot admire him. However, I do have a grudging fondness for the bunny costume and bizarrely, Hefner did fund the conservation of an endangered marsh rabbit.

Bunny girls have been suspiciously uniform for decades – So Hef, here are some lovely ladies who probably wouldn't have passed your body shaming tests to enter the playboy mansion.



50 SHADES OF GREYHOUND

Acrylic on canvas

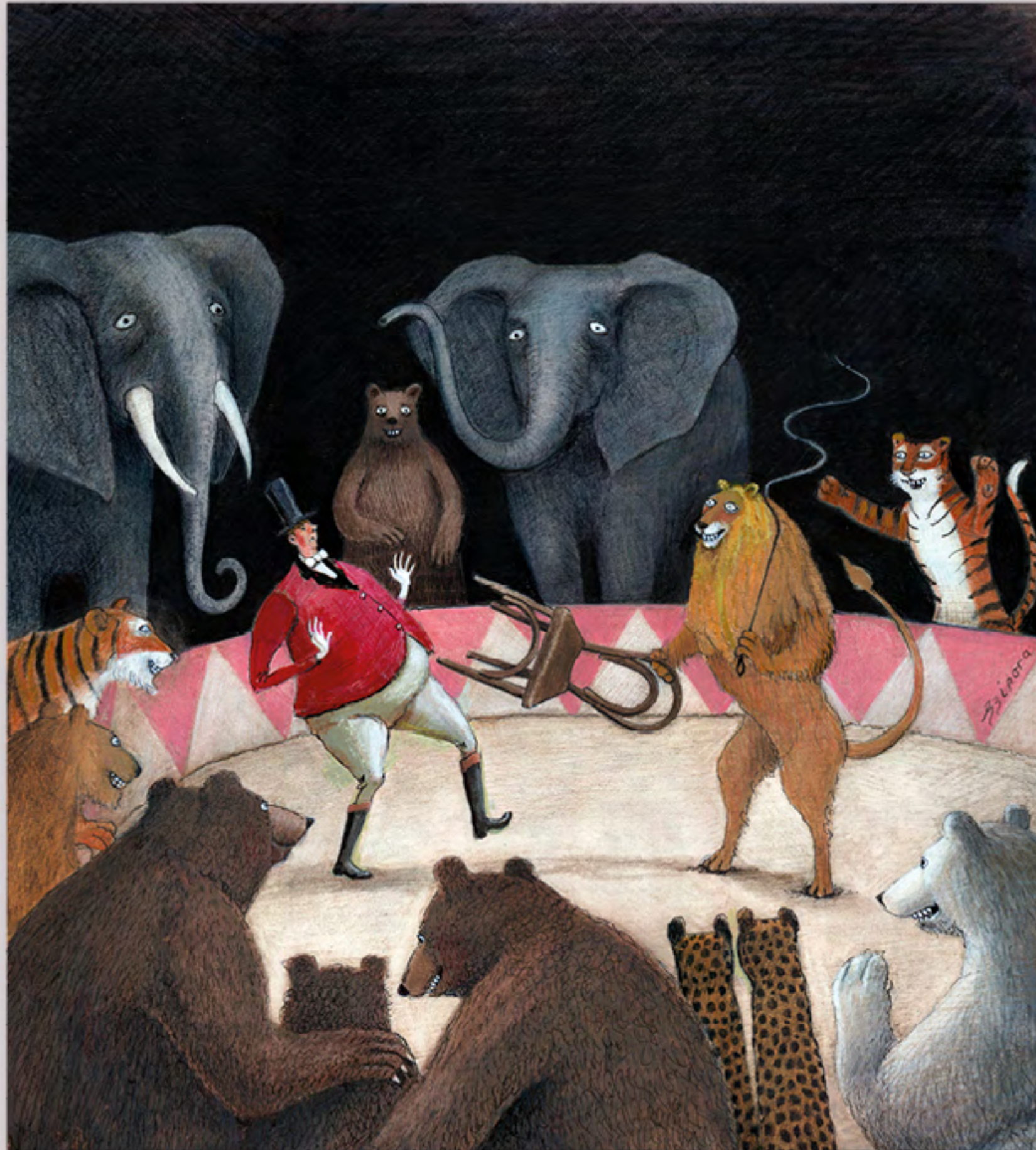
Canvas Size: 60 cm × 50 cm

Framed size: 75 cm × 65 cm

£2,900

SOLD

SOMETIMES IT'S BEST TO LET
a painting speak for itself.



THE MOST DANGEROUS BEAST OF ALL

Pencil and ink on paper

Canvas Size: 46 cm × 48 cm

Framed size: 72 cm × 74 cm

£1,100

SOLD

AS A GIRL, I ONCE SAW A BEAR chained to the roof of a truck flanked with loud speakers, advertising the circus. I felt sick with shame to be part of the human race that day.

Magnificent wild animals must be left where they belong.

The full proceeds from this drawing will be donated to the RSPCA.



THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 91 cm × 122 cm

Framed size: 110 cm × 141 cm

£4,500

SOLD

"I have always been a romantic, one of those people who believes that a woman in pink circus tights contains all the secrets of the universe."

Tom Robbins

AT TIMES, WE MUST ALL JUMP through hoops, juggle with fire and keep plates spinning. Sometimes we get a custard pie in the face – such is the circus of life.





BODY AND SOUL

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 30 cm × 100 cm

Framed size: 35 cm × 105 cm

£2,300

SOLD

BEING A SENSITIVE ARTY TYPE, I have a tendency to panic attacks. After Christmas this year, I was frightened to go back to my studio. Among other worries, I was sure I'd forgotten how to paint. Paralysed for a few days, I eventually picked up my brushes and painted how I felt.



DEEDS NOT WORDS



Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 120 cm × 50 cm

Framed size: 132 cm × 62 cm

£3,600 **SOLD**

"I do not wish them [women] to have power over men; but over themselves." **Mary Wollstonecraft**

2 018 MARKS THE CENTENARY since (some) women were given the vote. The Suffragettes courage and sacrifice has made a monumental difference to the lives of women. We have gone on to achieve much that we can rightly be proud of but there's still a long way to go and by jiminy, we will keep fighting!



ARTISTS

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 120 cm × 50 cm

Framed size: 132 cm × 62 cm

£3,600

SOLD

FROM ARTEMISIA GENTILESCHI and her muscular Baroque paintings via the impressionists, expressionists, surrealists and contemporary genres, these are a handful of my heroes (difficult to shortlist). I've added the German painter Michael Sowa to the end of the line-up. He may not be recognised by the art establishment elite, but I'm no snob, there is something magical and atmospheric about his work and I refused to leave him out.



MY 5 YEAR OLD...

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 60 cm × 40 cm

Framed size: 72 cm × 52 cm

£1,900

SOLD

INSPIRED BY ALL THE PARENTS with crayon-wielding infants.

I met a 5 year-old genius once, when I was an art student helping out at an infant school. A very special little boy named Graham; he could spell and draw every single known dinosaur. I watched slack jawed as he rattled off a full comic strip, drawings and words, without pause. (He was also writing a book about the French revolution).

Graham will be a grown man now and I hope he is still drawing.



TROPHY HUNTERS

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 35 cm × 45 cm

Framed size: 47 cm × 57 cm

£1,900 **SOLD**

I CONSIDERED PAINTING THE 'RUG' in his birthday suit, but whether to display completely flattened buttocks was proving too much of a dilemma, so I spared us all.

THE LION AND THE UNICORN

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 50 cm × 60 cm

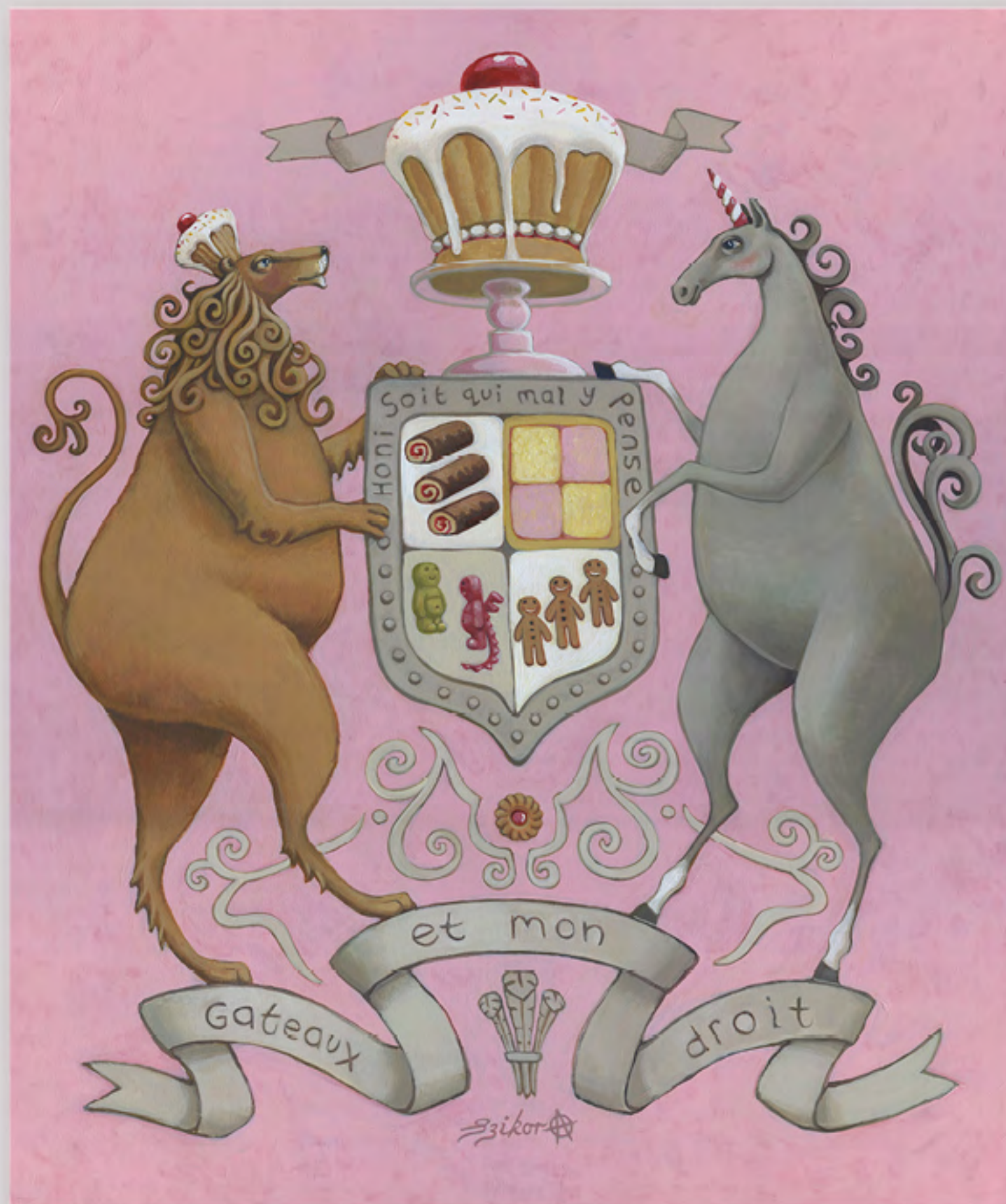
Framed size: 69 cm × 79 cm

£2,500

SOLD

BEING PART OF A EUROPEAN FAMILY felt natural and it makes me sad to be leaving the EU. It is undoubtedly a creaky old machine that needed some parts updating... but which brought about great change not just for human rights, but animal welfare too. We must keep these positives and make our looming independence work.

Perplexing conversations then happened over the colour of our future passport, stay burgundy or go back to navy? Never mind any of that... pink, I say. I've designed my own and when our government has seen the light, I'll be happy to give them the copyright for free.





ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 95 cm × 30 cm

Framed size: 108 cm × 38 cm

£2,700

SOLD

I'M NOT RELIGIOUS BUT I CAN appreciate a decent saint and my favourite is St Francis of Assisi, seen here in orange.

DONKEY RIDES

Acrylic on canvas

Canvas Size: 61 cm × 51 cm

Framed size: 76 cm × 66 cm

£3,500

SOLD

NOT ONLY IS THE HUMBLE DONKEY forced to carry human passengers (and their worldly baggage) up and down mountains but he is a widely mocked creature and not given nearly enough respect for his efforts. Even 'lucky' donks have been given the dubious honour of being a seaside attraction only to endure being sat upon by millions of small bottoms.

From Afghanistan to Skegness, I'd retire every last one of them to enjoy a twirl of their own.

The white building with the dome is known as Spanish City and originally opened as a concert hall in 1910. It was named Spanish City after the 'Toreador Concert Party' who first performed there.





The treats supplier for this exhibition is **NORTH chocolates**, a small Newcastle company who hand-make artisan (100% gorgeous) chocolate bars - **Thanks North!**

Further limited edition prints will be published from this collection in late summer/early autumn 2018.

For information about original artworks or any other enquiries, please contact:

jam

Jam Studio Gallery
207 Park View
Whitley Bay
NE26 3RD

Telephone: 0191 2894613 or 0792 514 4431

Website



Looking at art online is never the same as seeing it in person; colour and tone vary widely on different monitors.

We can organise viewings, or send detail close-ups or frame shots on request.



All artwork prices include VAT @ 20% and delivery.

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