

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christmas Open Studio to Cheer and Inspire London

NEW CROSS, LONDON - **31 October 2018**

Award-winning local artist Jan Bowman has announced her first Open House in Deptford. Visitors will be able to buy her elegant, optimistic prints of London and other cities, including a new series of images of Venice, Italy, and discover how she found new inspiration and creates her work.

From Scotland via Canada, Jan is an architect-trained illustrator and author whose lyrical, cheerful pictures of people and places capture unexpected angles and overlooked corners. Her first book [THIS IS BIRMINGHAM: A Glimpse of the City's Secret Treasures](#) (a history of the 18th-century Lunar Society) spent nine months on Waterstone's Recommended list and gives such a positive account of the City's history that it is now used as an award in Birmingham schools. Now Jan aims to do the same for Deptford and its history.

Jan said "It's too often assumed that to be a socially aware artist you should emulate 1930s artists such as Otto Dix or George Grosz, and draw attention to how awful people can be; but today's zeitgeist is very different from then. Society has lost faith in itself. Humanity is underrated everywhere. The world is full of tragedy and horror, but it's also full of beauty; and I think the artist's job should be to counsel against despair. My pictures aim to show the best aspects of 21st-century civilisation – and Deptford is full of hidden gems."

Jan is now working on a visual history of Deptford and John Evelyn, and seeking a publisher for her second book, ARTHUR: the graphic memoir of a resourceful scout leader and bicycle mechanic who grew up in the shadow of World War II.

Jan's Open Studio is the first weekend in December, at 241 Glenville Grove, New Cross SE4 8BT - two minutes from Deptford's bustling market and High Street, and two minutes from New Cross Station (which is just one stop from London Bridge). Open from 12-6pm on Saturday and Sunday 1-2 December. The Private View is 6pm-9pm, Thursday 29 November. Jan is available for interviews.

ABOUT JAN BOWMAN

Jan trained at the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow and has been a professional artist for 15 years.

RECOGNITION

Radar magazine feature, August 2011
Winner, Moseley Society Art competition, 2010
AOI Images Annual 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010
Birmingham Life magazine interview, January 2009
3x3 Annual 2007, 2008
Communication Arts Annual 2005

WORK IN EXHIBITIONS

Brockley Art House, 2018 (solo)
Soho Print Store, 2017 (solo)
Greenwich Library, 2016 (solo)
Deptford Does Art, 2015 (solo)
Art In Action, 2013, 2014
Moseley Exchange 2010
Royal Birmingham Society of Artists 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010
The Bond, 2010 (solo)
Brighton Artists Open Studios, 2009
Qube Gallery 2008
Birmingham Museum & Art Galleries 2007
The Eclipse, London 2004 (solo)

Yours sincerely,

Jan Bowman