

# INSPIRED BY THE COAST

Having spent 15 years living and working in Brighton, artist Simon Royer still finds the sea is a very strong influence in his work, although he now lives inland in the Welsh mountains

WORDS **Susie Moss**



## SIMON ROYER Artist

‘**T**he great thing about the sea is there is such a variety of life and topics to draw from it,’ says Simon Royer, who

specialises in oil painting. He takes inspiration from the marine environment and strives for a balance between realism and abstraction in his detailed and technically accomplished work. He is drawn to the shapes and beauty of coastal creatures, shown through studies of, for example, a mackerel – ‘their jewel-like colours are stunning.’

Simon began his career in advertising in London but being made bankrupt 20 years ago pushed him to start a new life. ‘I had loads of time on my hands and no money’ he says, ‘so I took up painting.’ When he dropped a painting of his into a gallery for framing and they offered him £500 for it, it was time to take his hobby more seriously. He got a studio in Brighton and worked there for 15 years. His inspiration moved from canals, lakes and birds to seascapes and marine life. He has had solo

exhibitions in London, Denver and Brighton and his works hang in private and corporate collections worldwide.

Simon loves to spark interest in creatures we may otherwise neglect to look at. Edible crabs, sea shells and lobsters – he was moved by seeing them on sale in Padstow and reading of their age and life cycle. ‘We should pay more to eat these spectacular creatures,’ he says. He likes to give information and provide the Latin name on his works, hoping it may offer a visual exploration of certain species and an awareness of the depletion of our natural resources.

Recently Simon has decided to make his work more accessible and affordable; producing a range of small collectibles alongside his large oil canvases. This includes coasters, jigsaw puzzles, mugs, tea towels and handy tins. He now works from a studio in Brecon and is consolidating his work and building up his online shop. Though now far from the sea, he still finds it is the coast and marine life that drives his interest and this remains his most popular work.

### FIND SIMON

- **Granary Studio**, Penpont, Brecon, Powys LD3 8EU
- See Simon’s work online at [simonroyerpaintings.com](http://simonroyerpaintings.com)
- Shop at [simon-royer-natural-history-in-art.myshopify.com/](http://simon-royer-natural-history-in-art.myshopify.com/)
- Keep up to date with Simon on Facebook – **Simon Royer Natural History in Art**
- Or join his mailing list – he can be contacted on email at [royerpaintings@hotmail.com](mailto:royerpaintings@hotmail.com)

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CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT Simon has more affordable work on offer as well as his oil paintings, including this Giant Squid storage tin; Humpback Whale coaster set; the Paleo Mugs Collection; the Shoreline storage tin; a selection of Simon's prints and other work can be purchased online

