

# Kingdom of Flowers Exhibition

## *A world of naturally different art*

Saturday 3rd March to Friday 30th March 2007

**One of the North East's rising stars in the art world is Alison J Best.** Alison's work has been described as dynamic and mesmerising. It provides a completely different perspective on the natural world from that of botanical or photographic illustration. Alison's work has been accepted by Commissions North East for their image bank of North East Art. Supported by the Arts Council, One North East and the European Regional Development Fund, Alison's first exhibition, *Kingdom of Flowers*, is to be held at the Lamplight Arts Centre, Stanley. With strong and unusual creations she describes as *Expressionist Stencil Art*, Alison hand cuts a stencil based on an original drawing and develops this into a stunningly beautiful contemporary work of art. Each piece is hand crafted from the concept and original drawing to the stencil and then from the stencil to completion. The work in this, *Kingdom of Flowers*, exhibition is the result of two years work developing *Expressionist Stencils* as an art form.

Alison focuses on the dynamics and patterns found in plants and flowers in the natural world. Her work is based on flower shapes, patterns of leaves, bark, trees, stones and wildflowers in the hedgerows. She is interested in the haphazard rhythms that occur naturally like the organic shapes and forms of wildflowers growing amongst green blades of grass. There are strong physical elements to Alison's work. This is demonstrated by the stencil cutting as a two dimensional sculptural form and the way her work is hand finished. In its purest form the picture is completed with black ink strokes that give the greatest contrast. Other pieces have been developed using different colours, qualities of inks, resins and paints to express the beauty of her flowers and plants. Alison has been strongly influenced by Byzantine art and how their mosaics captured light, used surface texture and had qualities that have become an important part of Alison's work. Nature as a symbol of life and the cycle of life is a recurrent theme of her work.



### **Kingdom of Flowers – An Exhibition of Expressionist Stencil Art by Alison J Best**

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