

Fiona Hawthorne

Artist

Endless colours, endless brushes, endless possibilities

Two hundred square metres of blank canvas can be overwhelming for even the most accomplished artist, but for Fiona Hawthorne, it's all in a day's work. A leader in the field of digital art, Fiona has used Corel Painter on virtually every project she's done for the last 25 years. Her commissions include a 100 metre Aspects of Carnival installation for London's Portobello Road, a portrait of Barak Obama which hangs in the Library of Congress and the portrait of a new watch for high-end Swiss manufacturer, Rado.

And now she's completed Project Ramp – an eclectic and vibrant work of art that has transformed the ramp and stair area of a large housing estate on London's Ladbroke Grove into a walk-in sculpture. Celebrating the heritage of Wornington Green, Project Ramp is a collage of historical photographs sourced from its 3000 residents, as well as images which Fiona has captured of the people, market stalls and shop windows that give Wornington Green its unique identity. The photographs have been layered in Corel Painter with her own imaginative drawings.

Unrestrained spontaneity

"With digital creating you can try out marks and ideas fast and furiously, and with real spontaneity. You can just "undo" things if they don't work," Fiona remarks. "You simply could not do this highly creative and experimental mark-making with real paint."



Project Ramp comprises historical photos from the estate's residents, recent images of the area and unique artwork.

Wrapping the walls of the ramp entirely in art was no small feat. The artwork is printed on panels of bright vinyl which are encased with an aluminium composite and have a weather-proof seal.

Painter®

Case Study



OVERVIEW

NAME:

Fiona Hawthorne

www.fionahawthorne.com

LOCATION:

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, London

INDUSTRY:

Arts

PRODUCT:

Corel Painter®

PROJECT SUMMARY

London-based artist Fiona Hawthorne has embraced Corel Painter as an expressive and experimental creative tool that has enabled her to fuse her love of painting with the spontaneity of digital artistry to produce inspired, energetic and colourful commissions that resonate with local communities and have a global impact.



The project presented a number of technical challenges, not least making sure that the imagery was laid out to avoid unsympathetic cropping at the production stage.



Fiona had to ensure there were no cuts through someone's face or a framed photograph and that the art would flow along the curved wall. This involved a lot of maths to ensure the correct sizing, cropping, scaling and numbering of the panels.

"You simply could not do this highly creative and experimental mark-making with real paint."

Fiona Hawthorne

Painterly Paint and the natural tools such as crayons and pens, with the odd crazy digital line thrown in are Fiona's favourites. On Project Ramp the sumi and cloning brushes were her tools of choice, as she likes to paint with a patterned texture. "I like painting with text and I rather like filling spaces by pouring in weaves. I also love the things you can do with layers – turning an

"The biggest challenge for me was the file size and number of files accumulating on my computer as the project progressed. Working with high-resolution files that could be scaled up for large format printing meant that I ended up with terabytes of art as I had so many versions and formats for each panel: the riff file so that I might return to layers in the future, the jpeg to show the printer the crop guides and the tiff for printing," she says.

image into 'hard light' or 'magic combining' it with another layer," she explains.

In describing the creative process using Corel Painter, Fiona says: "I constantly try new brushes and undo marks if I overwork them; my marks must have integrity. I try to be ruthless and critical and sometimes start again, taking a different approach with different brushes. I paint freely and for the joy of painting and I love that Corel Painter has endless colours, endless brushes and endless possibilities."



Project Ramp celebrates the heritage of the Wornington Green area by reflecting its residents, market stalls and shop windows.



Fiona was undaunted by two hundred square metres of blank canvas. The result? An immersive walk-in sculpture and an inspiring entrance ramp for the residents of Paul House.

Creativity unleashed

Creating live art at events is another of Fiona's passions. Audiences can watch the creative process unfold on a large screen as they are taken on an enthralling journey where marks emerge and colours appear and mix.

In addition to giving her more artistic freedom, Fiona has high praise for the way in which Corel Painter has enabled her to be more courageous in her use of colour. "Putting bright, explosive colour onto black backgrounds is something difficult to achieve with real paint and paper, but it is one of Corel Painter's most joyous achievements," she admits. "I've had some lovely results with bright colour on black that have been my best-selling pieces. Now I want to take them out of small frames and put them onto the sides of buildings."

Making art more accessible

Eager to share her experience and encouraged by her own children, Fiona has introduced Corel Painter to schools through a number of projects over the past 15 years to nurture children's innate freedom of expression. "But now my own kids are through school what I really want is to work with architects and urban planners to wrap buildings and public spaces with vibrant, colourful large-scale imagery, which is now possible with Painter and modern print technology."

Learn More
For special offers, news and useful tips and tutorials, visit www.painterartist.com

