

JANUARY 2008

DevonArts

The shocked owner of an art gallery in Budleigh Salterton has been given a limited-edition Damien Hirst print as a gift after a chance meeting with the artist.

Angela Yarwood, who owns Brook Gallery in Fore Street, was at a London studio for a meeting, and Mr Hirst was there working.

The two were introduced, and after a brief conversation about his work and Angela's gallery, Mr Hirst presented her with a personally signed, diamond-dusted silk screen print of his controversial work For The Love Of God. The arresting diamond-encrusted skull became the most expensive work of contemporary art by a living artist when it sold for £50m this year.

Angela said: "I don't imagine ever selling the print. It's not about the money, it's about the gesture.

"He was a really nice, unassuming man. It was a really generous, spontaneous gesture. It's a once in a lifetime happening and a great coup for a Devon gallery."

The work was hung in the Brook Gallery until Christmas, but is now pride of place in Angela's home.



FEBRUARY 2008



Angela Yarwood, Lynn Maylor and Julia Manning



Ann Salter, Di Smith and Terri Cook



Budleigh Salterton mayor John Shiels, Kevin Flowers and Angela Yarwood

Julia Manning, Brook Gallery, Budleigh Salterton

Guests enjoyed wine and canapés at the Brook Gallery, Fore Street in Budleigh Salterton, to celebrate the opening of local artist Julia Manning's exhibition.

Julia's colourful and vivid work was shown alongside controversial artist Damien Hirst's print of the diamond encrusted skull, given to gallery owner Angela Yarwood during a recent trip to London.



John and Vivien Barnes, with Nigel and Eileen Dutt



Thursday, March 20 until Saturday, April 19

Sir Peter Blake, 75, British pop artist and visionary of popular culture, has produced some of the world's most iconic art appealing to and influencing people of all ages. Budleigh Salterton's Brook Gallery's new exhibition, entitled *Montage of Generations*, reflects this allure and combines a broad range of well-known work in limited-edition screen prints and etchings such as the Beatles' album sleeve *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

Sir Peter first came to prominence in the late 50s and his name became synonymous with the popular culture of the 60s. His life in the 60s combined travel, teaching art and forging new friendships with leading figures of the London scene like Ian Dury, whom he met while teaching at the Royal College of Art and for whom he produced the tribute album sleeve, *Brand New Boots and Panties*, in 2001 (limited-edition print for sale at the gallery). Other works on show include *3 Matchboxes* and the emblematic *Coca Cola Bottle*. Screen prints and etchings of Sir Peter's work are available to purchase at the gallery or online with prices starting at £600.

Sir Peter was made a Royal Academician in 1981, a CBE in 1983 and in 2002 he was awarded a knighthood for his services to art. His enthusiasm for his art remains undiminished and, as testament to this, he will be paying a visit to a local primary school, where the pupils have produced their own series of artwork inspired by Sir Peter emphasising his creative influence on yet another new generation.

Angela Yarwood, owner of Brook Gallery, said: "The composition and quality of the work in the exhibition is extraordinary and we are delighted to welcome such an influential artist to Devon."

Sir Peter Blake, together with artist and print luminary Brad Faine of Coriander Studio, will join Angela at the gallery on Wednesday, March 19, for a private view to launch the exhibition. Brad has been instrumental in editioning Sir Peter's work in print form for many years as well as working with other celebrated artists, such as Damien Hirst and Sir Terry Frost among many others.

The Brook Gallery continues to offer original and limited-edition prints of artists by Picasso and Matisse as well as local talent, with works available to buy both in the gallery and from its website at www.brookgallery.co.uk. Details: 01395 443003.