

The Hill *October 2016*
resident

CELIA IMRIE
*On why living in W11 is
a breath of fresh air*

LOCAL TREASURE
*Celebrating Notting
Hill's vintage appeal*



**ARTIST *in*
RESIDENCE**

Transform your home into a personal art gallery

OCTOBER 2016

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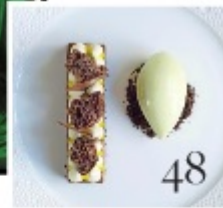
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Letter from the EDITOR



MARK KETTLE: MARK KETTLE FOR THE EDITOR; MARK KETTLE: MARK KETTLE FOR THE EDITOR

Art: the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, exploring the various branches of creative activity. This is something that really sums up our local area, don't you think? In its many forms, art takes centre stage in this issue, from the top of the arts industry with actor Celia Firth, to discovering the perfect wall art to hang in your home (and how you should position it).

Irric, a Notting Hill local, was the perfect person to launch this very special as the author on a new challenge of playing Gershard in *King Lear*. As she chatted away to Bethan Andrews, she couldn't help but point out the amount of artists who make up the blue plaques dotted around the winding streets of W11, and how it is still a place full of artistic legacy and heritage.

We had to agree and our feature delves into the 40th anniversary of the ward and wonderful world of Albee Antiques certainly goes some way to back this claim up. Founded in the '50s, the indoor market focuses on creating an antique shop that is accessible to everyone. It should be a market, after all, that is available to the masses so it's nice to see the Hill doing their bit to make this apparent. Will Gore went along to explore the treasure trove and find out more.

Perhaps you consider your wardrobe a work of art, and can't think of anything more beautiful than a perfectly formed skirt? Well, your luck is in this month as we feature Lucy Choi, the wonderful niece of Jimmy Choo, and talk all things shoe business. Staying in the tone of personal appreciation, we also talk to interior designer Jo Harrison as she shows us how to create your own grand design in west London, before Kara O'Reilly reveals the fine art of display in your home. Creativity, it seems, is oozing from every aspect of local life. Enjoy the issue.

Mark

Mark Kettle, Group Editor



BLANK CANVAS

Jo Hamilton has designed some of the most affluent properties in London as well as appearing on TV, but how does she keep up with her own grand designs?

With BETTIAN ANDREWS

From a young age, Jo Hamilton always thought she would be an artist and dreamed of creating big canvases. But things don't always turn out the way you thought as a child. Instead, Hamilton turned her creative passions into using a canvas much bigger than those she initially dreamt of: today, she is a successful high-end interior designer whose love of art transformed into a career she loves.

'I fell into interior design by accident. My big love is art and painting, so I always thought I'd be painting canvases in my spare time,' says Hamilton. 'But when you have to start earning money, my motivation became focused upon something that could be a good career, but that I could challenge myself creatively in everyday. I chose interior design because of this. Being able to indulge your creativity is a wonderful privilege – especially when you get to do it as your work every day.'

It's important to Hamilton that this art foundation is still integral to her work. 'Every home is like a blank canvas, as you're starting afresh with a different challenge every time,' she explains. 'You're working with different people from one moment to the next, and different buildings too. You can build a wonderful story and paint a fabulous picture for each. It is very similar to developing a canvas from scratch.'

Inspiration often comes from the clients for Hamilton, which isn't always the case with designers. 'I find people and their stories so interesting. I



definitely have a signature style, but I'm not interested in stamping this on every project,' she says. 'I'm working with a client at the moment who has travelled the world and has been an expert for their entire adult life, so they've got the most incredible story and journey. It would be a crime to go to their home and create a neutral, curcle environment.'

As an ambassador for *Grand Designs*, Hamilton has worked extensively with Kevin McCloud and George Clark, though she is very humble about this career achievement. 'I do public speaking while working on the *Grand Designs Live* shows,' she explains. 'I've been approached by the BBC to put

together a pilot for my own show, which was a surprise and very exciting!'

Which leads us onto her recent achievement of being asked to be a judge for the prestigious *WhatHouse? Awards*. Another passion of Hamilton's is helping those who are starting small – just like she did. 'I used to go to the awards when I was motivated in the early days of my career, and I have always held great respect for it,' she says. 'It really helps people and has a lot to offer the industry. It brings people into the limelight that wouldn't get there otherwise. It's an honour to be asked and I jumped at it, because I've seen the other side of it.'

As an artist, Hamilton chose to live and work in west London due to the abundance of inspiration on her doorstep. 'I love that we've got these completely unique areas that don't feel like London, but like little villages,' she says. 'Notting Hill is great for something special with a bit of a buzz, such as quirky places and chandeliers. Maida Vale is great for taking some time out.'

And where does Hamilton feel has the best examples of design in the area? 'It's slightly off track, but just so close, so I have to mention the fabulous Magenta restaurant at The Serpentine,' she says. 'I love that we allowed that piece of sculpture to be the heart of the city.'

The passion that Hamilton exudes is hard to ignore, and it could talk to her for hours about interior design. She's proof that some dreams do indeed come true.

See more of johamilton.co.uk



Hamilton's most recent work was a stunning Mayfair apartment, below.



The passion that Hamilton exudes is hard to ignore, and she is living proof that some dreams do indeed come true

