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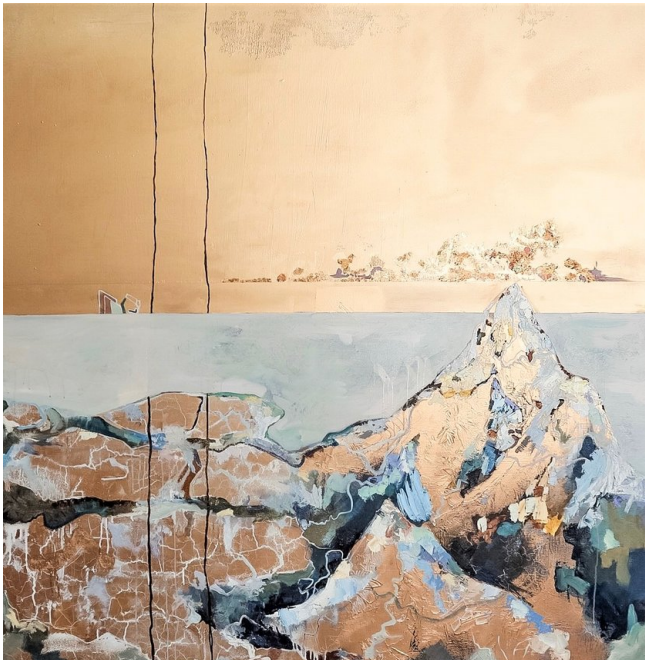
ARTBAR UNVEILS FIRST SUMMER EXHIBITION

New collection celebrates graduate talent from Bath Spa University

A contemporary exhibition of undiscovered student artwork will adorn the walls of the Abbey Hotel's ArtBar this summer.

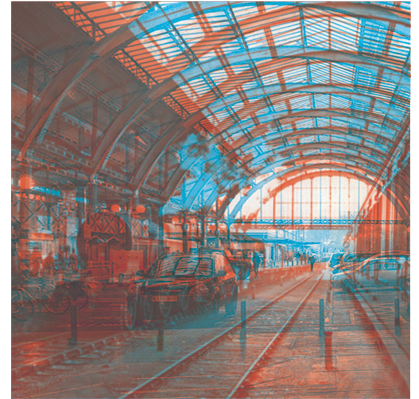
Giving graduates a platform to share their work locally, the 'On the Horizon' exhibition will showcase fine and graphic art, lino print, knitwear and textiles by 10 2019 graduates from Bath Spa University. The displayed artworks were chosen from hundreds of final year projects by the hotel's artist-in-residence, Emma Taylor, herself a local painter.

All artists will have their creations displayed at ArtBar until 30th September and for many, this will be their first professional exhibition since graduation, giving hotel guests and city residents an exclusive viewing of original and emerging talent.



The artists include Lucy Baker, exhibiting her dramatic 'Frozen Lake' oil on canvas painting, Hannah Gaskin's wall hangings and Alice Clement's screen print entitled 'The Fertility Tree'.

Graphic artist Georgina Morgan was awarded the 'ArtBar Winner's Award' for her series of 12 images of Bath, entitled 'See Bath', which encourages tourists to view some of the city's most historical buildings and locations through a different lens – via 3D glasses – which will be available alongside her work for an interactive experience.



In recent months, the ArtBar has been transformed into an eclectic cocktail gallery space featuring quarterly-changing collections, overseen by Taylor, while taking décor inspiration from the chicest of artist's studios. Paint-splattered high-top tables and stools, scattered sketch books and colours and pendant lighting made from vintage glassware draw in visitors to learn more about Bath's artistic heritage.

The ArtBar's transformation includes the installation of snug booths, perfect for social get togethers or business meetings, with attentive service from morning coffee through to an evening night cap after a day of sightseeing. The bar's food menu mirrors the French-British brasserie flavours of main restaurant Koffmann & Mr.White's, boasting its iconic French onion soup with cider croutons and gruyère; classic croque monsieur and sharing board of English charcuterie and sourdough.



Emma Taylor, ArtBar's resident art curator, says:

"I was immensely impressed by the talent and creative vision on display at the undergraduate art show and we're delighted the ArtBar is able to showcase a carefully chosen selection of some of the varied and gifted work."

Kerry Curtis, Head of School, Bath School of Design, adds:

"It's been great to work with the Abbey Hotel on this amazing opportunity for our graduating students. We know how talented our students are and it's wonderful that this exhibition means that people in Bath can see that for themselves. I would encourage everyone to come and take a look at the outstanding works on display."

Josh Watts, General Manager at the Abbey Hotel, comments:

"We're thrilled to build on ArtBar's offering locally as Bath's 'cocktail gallery', a place where visitors can immerse themselves in the city's dynamic arts scene, while enjoying an expertly-mixed cocktail. ArtBar is committed to supporting Bath's emerging creative talent and we're proud to be giving these students their first exhibition. The hotel's 'REDEFINED' exhibition has been a real success locally, with a number of pieces snapped up by buyers – we hope to see the same for the incredible works going up this July."

The exhibition will be on display between 10th July – 30th September, free entry via Abbey Hotel.



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Notes to editors:

About Abbey Hotel

The Abbey Hotel is a charming boutique hotel with Bath's top attractions quite literally on the doorstep. The independently-owned hotel has 62 individually designed bedrooms including family rooms. It also boasts Koffmann & Mr. White's, the first Marco Pierre White and Pierre Koffmann English/French brasserie in the UK offering good quality, affordable food in a relaxed and unpretentious environment. The hotel's ArtBar offers a vibrant space for bespoke cocktails, wines and champagnes and The Escape, a former World War bunker under the hotel, provides a contemporary private event and function space. The independent hotel was bought by KE Hotels in early 2018. For more information, please visit: <https://abbeyhotelbath.co.uk>

About Bath Spa University

Bath Spa University is where creative minds meet. Offering a wide range of courses across the arts, sciences, education, social science and business to 7,000 students, the University employs outstanding creative professionals which support its aim to be a leading educational institution in creativity, culture and enterprise.

Based in stunning countryside just a few minutes from a World Heritage City, Bath Spa University ensures its students graduate as engaged global citizens who are ready for the world of work. In fact, 94 per cent of graduates find themselves in work or further study within six months. www.bathspa.ac.uk

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