

Jack Russell Gallery

The Ashes Collection



THE ASHES COLLECTION LIMITED EDITION PRINT

The Jack Russell Gallery is delighted to present this outstanding and unique collection of iconic Ashes paintings from the world's leading cricketing artist. Produced to the highest standard each edition is limited to 150 Giclée prints on museum quality acid free card and is available on a strictly first come first serve basis.

Each print is individually signed, numbered and titled by Jack by hand and comes backed by card and wrapped in clear cellophane for protection. Such is the quality that each print cannot be rolled in a tube, they require distribution flat packed in protective card and signed for on delivery.

Giclée: Seven colour printing process as opposed to the lithograph 4 colour process, producing outstanding quality of reproduction.

INTRODUCTION



“When I set my easel up on the boundary edge for the 1st Ashes Test, the boyhood excitement and memories came flooding back. The atmosphere was already building, and it was still only 8 o’clock on the first morning. The players hadn’t even started warming up yet! When they eventually did, I have to admit, I felt like getting my tracksuit on again and joining in, as there is nothing that gets my blood pumping more than a contest against the old enemy, nothing! As the morning went on and the spectators arrived, the atmosphere built to such a degree that you could have cut it with a chainsaw. It was electric, and I couldn’t wait for it to get started. To me, every single delivery in an Ashes Series feels like an event and is so crucial but the first ball in particular of an Ashes Test is always a special moment.

It’s for this reason that I set myself the challenge of painting the first ball of every Test of an Ashes Series. It’s something I’ve not seen any other artist do before. The magic of that first ball. The start of another ancient dual between two countries for the most prized trophy in World cricket, that tiny urn they call “The Ashes.” It’s every young cricketer’s dream to play against Australia. I was lucky enough to play in two series: one in England, and one Down Under. Priceless memories. Although I still felt like jumping over the boundary rope and joining in once play had started, I had to settle for what I considered at every Test in this series the best seat in the house to paint from. When you’re out in the middle as a player, you’re not always aware of the detail around you because of the concentration on the job at hand, but these locations gave me the perfect opportunity to get on canvas all of that crucial detail. And I can say without question that this series of pictures are the most detailed cricket paintings I have ever painted. Obsessed with getting things just right I had to account for such details as players’ body language. The ways in which they move. How they wear their headgear.

Hand positions for slips, for gully. A bowler's follow through, a batsman's back lift. How low does short leg crouch? Long sleeve sweater or short? Cap or sunhat? Sunglasses or not? Right down to badges, numbers and even the studs on the bowler's boot. Thousands of spectators were painted individually, and while they are not portraits as such, if you were at any of these matches and wore a specific colour or were situated in a certain part of the ground, you may be able to pick yourself out in the crowd. I won't forget the two spectators at Old Trafford who were still trying to find their seats whilst the first ball was going down! You can see them wandering on the steps in front of the site screen at the Old Pavilion end. If you were one of these spectators please get in touch, because you've been captured forever on canvas! Even if you weren't there at the time, I do hope I can take you there now to feel part of a series which witnessed some of the greatest Ashes cricket in history.

The paintings in this collection took almost a year to complete, and I can say it's some of the most challenging and enjoyable work of my thirty-year career as an artist, and I have loved every minute. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did painting them. Priceless!"

Jack Russell MBE





The Ashes ~ Edgbaston

(overall size 21" x 31" including a 2 inch border)



The Ashes ~ Lord's

(overall size 21.5" x 31" including a 2 inch border)



The Ashes ~ Headingley

(overall size 22" x 31" including a 2 inch border)



The Ashes ~ Old Trafford

(overall size 24" x 31" including a 2 inch border)



The Ashes ~ The Oval

(overall size 24.5" x 31" including a 2 inch border)

“The history of the Women’s Ashes goes all the way back to December 1934 when Australia hosted England in Brisbane for the first of a 3 Test Match Series. It was dominated by allrounder Myrtle Maclagon MBE who opened both the batting and bowling for England taking 26 wickets and scoring 279 runs. The contest took place a couple of years after Douglas Jardine’s controversial “Bodyline” series of 1932-33 and was aimed at trying to heal the wounds between both cricketing nations. In 2013 the series format was changed to include a points system based on results from one day international and twenty20 matches before concluding with a single Test Match. As I was fully engrossed in the Ashes for the Summer I couldn’t resist rushing down to Taunton with my canvas and painting box and setting up next to the Sir Ian Botham Stand on the river side of the ground. This gave me a wonderful angle for painting the famous church towers and I continued my theme of the Summer by capturing England’s Katherine Brunt bowling the first ball of the match to Australia’s Alyssa Healy. My first painting of a Women’s match, I was delighted to have had the opportunity to capture another moment in history.”

Jack Russell MBE





Women's Ashes ~ Taunton

(overall size 21.5" x 31" including a 2 inch border)

HEROIC ASHES INNINGS

“With England already one nil down in the series after the first two Tests and after being bowled out for 67 in the first innings of the 3rd Test at Headingley, then on the last day being 286 for 9 and still needing more than 70 to win with Number 11 Jack Leach at the crease, who would have really believed an England win would be possible? Just one man, Ben Stokes. He’d already played one of the greatest innings in cricket history during England’s amazing nail biting victory a few weeks earlier in the World Cup Final at Lord’s, now he had to somehow engineer the miracle of all miracles. I have to say I’ve witnessed some amazing Ashes matches over the years including Botham’s Ashes in 1981 and I was lucky enough to paint during that brilliant series in 2005, but I’m certain I’ve never seen a match like this one or in particular such an heroic batting performance as this one by Ben Stokes. At one point he had scored just 2 runs off 70 odd balls faced before ‘exploding’ to produce a brilliant 135 not out off 219 balls faced. Also surviving a crucial 17 deliveries and scoring possibly the greatest 1 not out in Ashes history was Number 11 Jack Leach. As the winning line got closer and closer Stokes began to show his full repertoire of shots including an outrageous reverse sweep into the massive crowd, one of his 19 boundaries. Even then the game could have been won by Australia when a golden opportunity came for an easy run out but the ball was fumbled and Leach made his ground at the non-strikers end. The elation when Stokes smashed the winning runs to the boundary is something I know I’ll never forget. The whole ground erupted. It was such a momentous occasion, not just to level the series at that point but to win from the most improbable and impossible position, I had to paint it. One of the greatest moments in Ashes history, if not the greatest. Even the games great players that were commentating on the day were stunned by what they had seen. Sir Alistair Cook said it was the most extraordinary innings ever played by an Englishman and Ricky Ponting, arguably one of Australia’s greatest batsman of all time, said he was lost for words and that it was one of the best days cricket he’d ever seen and one of the best innings he’s ever seen in a test arena. While describing Ben Stokes’ innings he said “His team were gone. Down and out, but not while that man was at the crease. Stokes was having none of it. He has played an unbelievable innings.” I can’t argue with that.” Jack Russell MBE



Heroic Ashes Innings

(overall size 21.5 inches x 30 inches including a 2 inch border)

SCORECARD

3RD TEST ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA, HEADINGLEY 2019

Australia 179 & 246

England 67

England 2nd Innings

R. Burns	c Warner	b Hazlewood	7
J. Roy		b Cummings	8
J. Root	c Warner	b Lyon	77
J. Denly	c Paine	b Hazlewood	50
B. STOKES		NOT OUT	135
J. Bairstow	c Labuschagne	b Hazlewood	36
J. Buttler		run out	1
C. Woakes	c Wade	b Hazlewood	1
J. Archer	c Head	b Lyon	15
S. Broad	lbw	b Pattinson	0
J. LEACH		NOT OUT	1
		Extras	31
		TOTAL 9 wkts	362

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-15, 3-141, 4-159, 5-245, 6-253, 7-261, 8-286, 9-286

ENGLAND WON BY 1 WICKET



"I can say without question this series of pictures are the most detailed cricket paintings I have ever painted"

Jack Russell MBE

For further details on how to add any of Jack's Ashes Collection
to your own collection
please go to **www.jackrussell.co.uk**

For special rates on multiple orders
please email **jack@jackrussell.co.uk** or call **01454 329583**

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