



Jack Russell MBE

Former International Cricketer Jack Russell has been a Professional Artist for more than 30 years. Awarded an MBE for Services to Cricket in 1996, he was capped 94 times for his country whilst playing 23 years for his beloved county, Gloucestershire. He became an artist as a result of the boredom of sitting in cricket pavilions whilst rain stopped play. In frustration, and saying to his teammates "If Rembrandt can do it, so can I," he stormed out of the dressing rooms at the New Road cricket ground in Worcester in 1987 and went into town to buy a sketchpad and pencils. Wandering up and down the river Severn close to the Worcester ground he started sketching. "I was too nervous to let anybody see what I was doing," he explains "In fact my very first sketch was of a man sat under a tree reading a newspaper from a distance of about 50 yards! I still have the sketch, it's one of my most prized possessions. People kept telling me if you want to learn to paint you first need to learn to draw, so I started drawing. Eventually my confidence grew and I started sketching at the grounds during breaks in play. At the end of that season I took a few of the sketches into a Bristol art gallery to get them framed so I could put them on the walls at home as souvenirs. Having just been picked for my first England cricket tour, the gallery owner recognised me and said that if I came back from the tour with some good sketches he would give me a solo exhibition. Being the reserve wicketkeeper on that tour I only played 3 days cricket in 8 weeks so had plenty of time for sketching!"

The following Summer an exhibition of 40 sketches sold out in 2 days. Commissions began to flood in but after a couple of years of drawing between matches Jack decided to put the pencils down and concentrate on painting in oils. "It wasn't easy at the start. On many occasions I was going to give up. Most finished canvases I would throw straight in the bin but every so often a square inch of paint would work out fine and that kept me going." Determined to succeed he was rewarded in 1991 with a solo exhibition of 30 oil paintings at the same Bristol gallery. The exhibition was a sell out.

"It was at this point I made myself 3 promises. Firstly, to open my own gallery. Secondly, to have a book of my paintings published, and thirdly, live until I'm 100 so that I can paint all the pictures I need to paint!" In 1994, The Jack Russell Gallery opened in Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire. In 1996, London publishers Harper Collins published the first of The Art of Jack Russell series of books with Caught on Canvas. The third promise, well, Jack says he's still working on that one.

Inspired by Rembrandt, Constable, Turner and John Singer Sargent and with a great admiration for contemporaries Trevor Chamberlain ROI, David Curtis ROI and the late David Shepherd CBE, Jack paints a wide range of subjects. These include landscape, seascape, architecture, horses, military, portraits, vintage transport and other sports.

“I love atmosphere, I love history. To try and capture moments in time is the challenge for me. Whether it’s the first ball of an Ashes Test Match or a derelict mill, the winning moment of a Cricket World Cup Final or the glint in someone’s eye, I can’t help myself, it’s an addiction, I have to do it. Like my previous career as a cricketer, painting has taken over, it’s my life.”



His portrait commissions include The Ten Field Marshals of the British Army which required sittings at Buckingham Palace with HRH Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Duke of Kent. Other sitters include Eric Clapton CBE, Sir Norman Wisdom OBE and Eric Sykes CBE. From Bowral in Australia to The Tower of London and from North America to the Middle East, his work is displayed in museums and private collections worldwide. His 30th Anniversary one-man-show at Chris Beetles Gallery, St James’s, London in 2018 was an acclaimed success. His wealth of cricketing knowledge and experience as a former Test Cricketer makes him not only a leader in the field of cricketing landscapes but his dedication to capturing the moment in a range of subjects makes him a favourite with collectors.

“I don’t take anything for granted,” Jack explains “I get up everyday thankful that I do what I do and I’m determined not to waste a minute. The fact that people want to hang my pictures on their walls is the greatest compliment an artist can receive. I get as much pleasure from that as I did when running out to play for England. I hope the collectors enjoy their paintings as much as I do painting them. If they do, to me, that’s priceless.”

Cricket



Dulwich College



Trowbridge CC



Chester-Le-Street



Evening At The Rose Bowl

Landscapes



Stickle Tarn



'V' For Victory Tree



Last of the Snow



Stickle Ghyll



The Red Sled



Bamburgh Beach

Seascapes



Gigaro Waves, St Tropez



Watching Cloud

Architecture



Chipping Campden



Dickens House



Old Bailey



Royal Courts of Justice



Chipping Sodbury

Wildlife



Young Bull



Jaguar, Not for the Road

Horses



In Retirement



Blaze



Black Beauty



Good Friends

Military



Bader's Pipe



Seconds from Hell

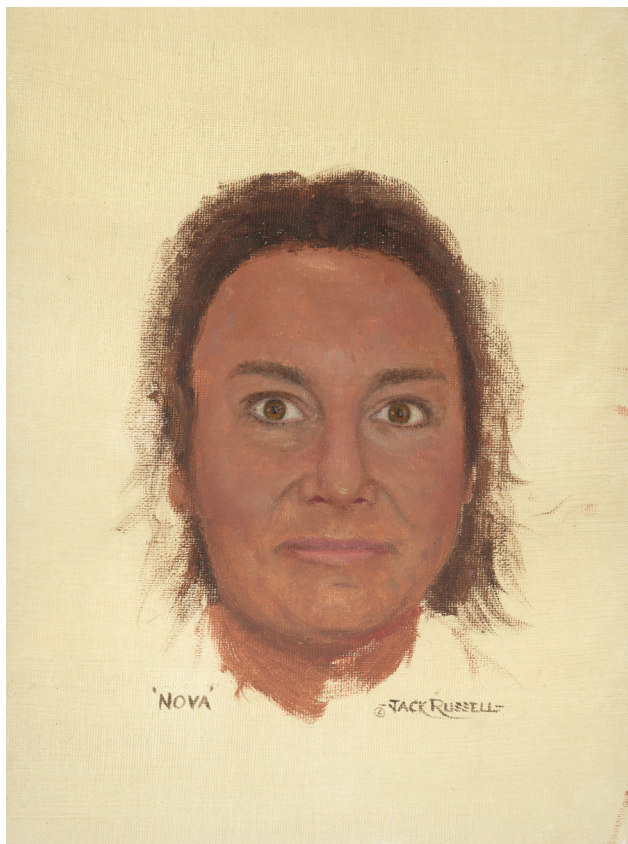
Portraits



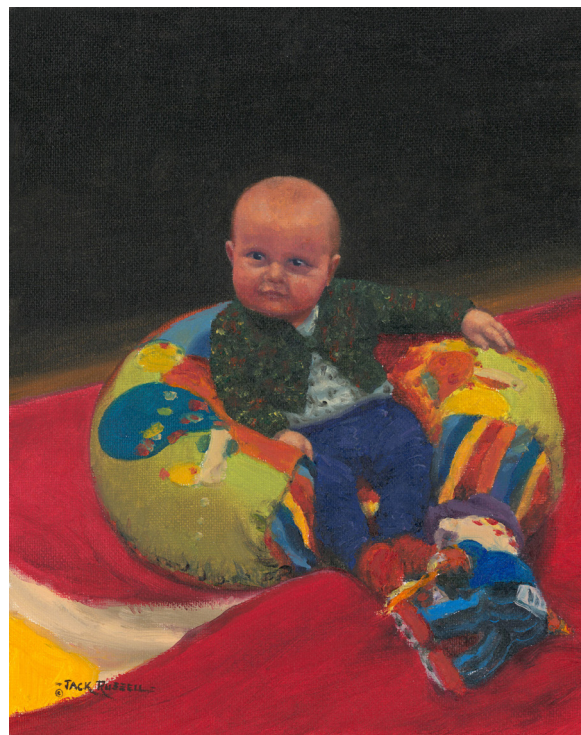
Eric Clapton CBE



Sir Norman Wisdom OBE



Nova



Bean Bag & Toys

Vintage Transport



Alvis & Citroën



Rolls Royce



Taw Valley Rain



Duchess of Sutherland

Other Sports



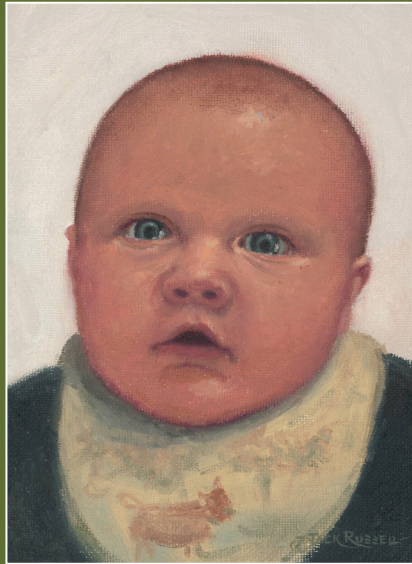
Goodison Park



The Crucible



Saracens



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