

COS ARTIST NEWS

A CLOSE UP ON OUR ARTISTS, BY [ROB WILKINSON](#).



GABOR HORVATH

Inspired by the landscape on Cowal Open Studios' West Route

Waste not, want not so goes the adage. It's an apt description for the approach of Tighnabruaich-based collage artist Gabor Horvath, although it's highly likely that you will want one of his artworks!

Gabor will be opening up his studio for the annual Cowal Open Studios (COS) weekend, September 22nd to 25th, as one of six venues that make up the 'West Route' and over 50 artists and makers in total from across the Cowal peninsula.

"I use the colours and images from old magazines, as well as beer cans, to create paint," explained Gabor who hails originally from the North West of Hungary and moved to London in 2007 to work at the prestigious Goring Hotel where Kate Middleton stayed prior to her wedding with Prince William. He relocated to the picturesque village of Tighnabruaich in 2019 with partner Karmen to run the Tregortha Guest House and has a two-year-old child.

“I have to pinch myself whenever I see the views out over the Kyles of Bute,” he added “and we are so lucky to be living in such an inspirational place. I will never tire of the landscapes around here whatever the weather chooses to do!”

Gabor’s painstaking attention to detail helps him create spectacular and colourful works that have attracted commissions from across Scotland and the UK and led to a number of gallery exhibitions. A selection of his works will be on show at the Burgh Hall in Dunoon in October.

The 49-year-old gained a Masters degree in Finance and Economy in Hungary but opted to work on a cruise ship as a waiter in order to see the world which included an 18 month stint in the mesmerizingly beautiful Pacific islands of French Polynesia.

Gabor went on “My collage art started back in 2016 when I decided to use old, unwanted copies of magazines that were in the hotel’s guest rooms although I have dabbled in art all of my life.

“It’s a process that requires a lot of patience but one that gives me, and indeed my customers it seems, a great deal of satisfaction.

“This will be the third time I’ve opened up my studios as part of the COS weekend and I do enjoy welcoming people into my work space. Being part of the Cowal Open Studios network has led to far more people seeing my artworks,” he explained.



MARIE BRIGGS

Marie Briggs, based just around the corner from Gabor on the seafront, is another accomplished artist opening up to the public in September.

From Otter Ferry to the Kyles of Bute to the views out over Arran from Ostel Bay, much of Marie's art is a like a mini tour de force of Argyll's most iconic lochs and seascapes.

"I try to capture the ever-changing light over the water using acrylic oils and occasionally glass," explained Marie who grew up in Ayrshire before spending much of her working life in Glasgow as well as six months in Oban.

"The waters around Argyll cast their spell upon me a long time ago and my husband Andrew and I decided to move here full-time just a few years ago.

"I got into painting almost by accident just over 15 years ago. I enrolled in a stained glass course at college that turned out to be oversubscribed. They offered me a place on a painting course instead and I haven't looked back since although I've always enjoyed craft working.

"My father always used to say that I seemed to only buy paintings which featured water. Now I can see it all the time from my studio window and it never ceases to inspire me," added Marie who enjoys spending time in

her boat alongside John, a structural engineer and accomplished 'skipper'.

Marie is taking part in her fourth COS weekend and added: "It's very gratifying to welcome folk into my studio and I normally get around eighty visitors over the four days."

The other 'West Route' venue taking part is Hayshed Gallery, and painters who are making a welcome return to the schedule with a retrospective.