

CAPTURING LIFE

In a world where many of us rush from one place to the next, two artists are taking the time to capture what most of us would probably miss as we race to work or dash to pick up the children from school. Pochade painting is an exciting movement currently taking place in the art world and Antony Bridge and Carl Melegari are fast becoming known for being at the forefront of it.

Pochade (pronounced posh-ard) paintings are small works of art that are created in situ and capture the atmosphere and colours of a scene. Once completed, they are sold online to a worldwide audience who delight in being able to own an affordable work of art bought straight from the artists themselves.

Antony and Carl have set themselves the challenge of each creating a new pochade painting every day. New paintings therefore grace their online gallery (www.pochadegallery.com) each and every day of the week. With such an ever-changing gallery, it is easy for art lovers to collect unique paintings and build a collection to rival even the biggest galleries. It is also a great way for people to own a one-off piece of art without a gallery price tag attached to it.

The pochade box is the essential tool of the pochade painter. It is usually of smallish proportions and contains the artist's palette. It has a hinged lid, which not only rests at the correct angle to form an easel, but also serves as a storage space to safely transport works – pochades can therefore be painted anywhere and allow artists to seek out new challenges and places to paint. It certainly gives Antony and Carl the freedom to capture life as it exists in any given moment.



As Antony and Carl explain, "The artist sees inspiration, opens the box, pours out his soul and then closes the box, leaving him free to experience and be inspired again. The result is a three-dimensional capture of line, colour, tone and mood."

Antony and Carl create paintings that will make audiences smile; evoke memories; give time to consider and remind us all to stop once in a while. Painting *alla prima* using oil paints and their pochade box, Antony and Carl's inspiration primarily stems from the roots of *plein air* (outdoor) painting. Subsequently, their efforts combine years of travelling, pochade box in hand, encapsulating the vitality of nature on site through the medium of oils. Working on millboard in a loose and painterly manner, although their main focus is landscape, they also have a strong passion for still life and figurative painting too.

The relatively new movement of pochade painting is changing the way that art can be viewed, bought and collected. It is affordable, can be done from anywhere in the world and allows artists and collectors to connect. It is an exciting way for those who want to decorate their surroundings with more than a print bought from the high street.

Antony and Carl's daily paintings range from what they find in the great outdoors, to the things that surround them in their studios – the Malvern Hills, a Bristol tobacco warehouse, Slovak mountains, a supermarket car park, a Converse trainer and even a toilet roll have all been subjects so far for these explorers in paint.

Fans of Antony and Carl's work can subscribe to their daily emails, which showcase the latest works to be added to their online gallery. Bids can then be placed online to buy any of the paintings that capture the viewers' imagination.

"Art should be for everyone without explanation", says Carl.

www.pochadegallery.com

About the Artists

Antony Bridge trained in Illustration and has been making a splash in the creative world with his presence ever since. With three solo exhibitions, as well as displays of his work at Silverstone, the Goodwood Festival of Speed and the Royal Western Academy, Antony's reputation as an artist is being spread far and wide. Antony has pushed the world of the pochade box globally, having started the UK Pochade movement site, www.pochade.co.uk. Antony lives and works in the picturesque town of Malvern in Worcestershire – a place where there is plenty to capture his imagination. "Being at one with the essence of nature is to be at one with yourself", says Antony.

Carl Melegari was born in Denbigh, North Wales to Italian parents. Ironically, only at the age of 16 did he realise he had a passion for art, when his P.E. lesson was replaced with an art class one rainy day. From then on, there was no turning back. After completing a degree in Illustration at the University of West of England, Carl launched his own studio in Bristol, where he is now based. Colour, tone, light, shape and placement play an integral part in Carl's observational aims. "I have a real passion for depicting day-to-day scenes of the world we live in. It's a continual visual journey capturing moments of everyday life. Discipline becomes easy when you love what you do", says Carl.

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To view Antony and Carl's daily paintings, go to: www.pochadegallery.com

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