



Lily Hunter Green
and Jelly Green

SIBLING'S SHOWCASE

When the world of classical music descends on Suffolk for the Aldeburgh Festival this month Snape Maltings will be showcasing the extraordinary and diverse artistic talents of sisters Jelly Green and Lily Hunter Green. **Anne Gould** finds out more



Two very different art exhibitions launch on the same day by artists of the same name at Snape Maltings this month. Both have roots firmly in Suffolk, both have strong connections to our landscape and environment and both artists are in the first flush of youth. These similarities are no coincidence.

Painter Jelly Green and music and sound installation artist Lily Hunter Green are sisters who grew up in Rendham in a home that thrives on ideas and creativity. While it's not unknown in the creative world for siblings to have successful parallel careers, this month could well launch the public start of a dynasty that shapes the British art world for years to come.

Already they are carving out their names on the big stage – Lily has recently been interviewed by a leading New York arts magazine, her work has been featured on Radio Three and she's in talks for a

commission in Australia. At the age of 21 Jelly has had solo exhibitions in London, Wales and Suffolk, she's been mentored by distinguished artist Maggi Hambling since her teens and perhaps what's more extraordinary and laudable, in a competitive art world, she's earning her living from painting.

Maggi says, "I first saw Jelly Green's painting when she was sixteen and still at school. Her talent was immediately apparent and since then she has been developing fast. Rare in someone of her still tender years, she is completely committed, above all else, to her work. When I heard Lily Hunter-Green's musical composition 'Decomposed' I decided at once to include it in my selection for 'Private Passions' on Radio 3 last year. The piece takes me on a lyrical and mysterious journey into unknown territory. Both Jelly and Lily are experimental and brave and they are both finding their own voices as artists."

The launch of both exhibitions though is a coincidence – Jelly was asked to create a solo show for the main Snape Maltings gallery a year ago but Lily's invitation to SNAP – the Aldeburgh Festival art show has been much more recent. Of course both artists are well known in artistic circles in Suffolk – both have exhibited at the Alde Valley Spring Festival and at Snape, but these new shows are something different.

Jelly, has departed from her famous cow pictures with a show entitled, Sky. "I was living in London last year and came back to Suffolk in the autumn because I wanted to do something different and paint some landscapes. I knew this exhibition was coming up but I didn't want to do more cows. In December they asked me to send over an advance image and I didn't know what to do. ►





Jelly and Lily with Maggi Hambling



In the meantime I'd had a ten-day art residency in Cumbria, thanks to Jason Gathorne-Hardy, but I went there and it just rained and all I could get was pictures of trees. When I came back to Suffolk I started getting up very early in the morning and was blown away by the sunrises. I love colour and our skies here are so colourful and that's how it started."

Jelly says her route into the art world has been somewhat different to most aspiring young artists in that she's done it without university. "I met Maggi Hambling when she came to our house when I was school. I had just won an award for my GCSE painting which was in the top ten in the country. She asked me if I was serious about art – and I hadn't really thought about it. But she asked me to go to her art class at Morley College in London once a week. I had to get special permission from school to do it and I was really nervous, I was the youngest in the class by 20 years." Jelly was then invited to go on art trip to the Isle of Wight with the class and she encountered some cows on the beach and started painting. "My grandfather is a dairy farmer in Dallinghoo so when I came home I think I painted every cow

in his herd – and people really liked what I did. I have been unbelievably lucky though – Maggi has been unbelievably generous with her help."

Lily meanwhile has been down a very different route – she originally went to Brighton University to study theatre but changed courses into music and visual art and it was a piece she did for her degree show, 'Decomposed' that really captured attention. It helped her become runner up in the prestigious 2013 Brighton Festival but it's her latest project, 'Bee Composed' that's turning the eyes of the world on her work.

Lily, 23, wants to bring attention to the plight of bees, which over the last decade have been dying because of chemicals in the environment. So she's installed a colony in a piano at Middleton Farm Shop and with the use of contact microphones, a sound board and web cams is recording all that goes on. By playing her recordings into a computer she's been able to establish that bees buzz in C# B or D and she's using the chords they make as a basis for musical composition. It's an unusual project and as a result has been picked

up by SNAP – offering her the opportunity to have an installation on the Henry Moore lawn at Snape Maltings as part of the Aldeburgh Festival.

"There will be an old piano with various hive like creations coming out from it allowing people to listen to the bee music and see via a web cam the bees in action at Middleton." This project has not just been given Arts Council funding. Thanks to a successful crowd funding project – launched to buy the Queen Bee and items of equipment – it now has supporters right across the globe. As a result talks are also underway to take this project on tour.

So what do the sisters think about their successes? Well they are both clearly delighted for each other. "What we do is really different and it is exciting that we are both opening at Snape at the same time," said Jelly. "It's brilliant and special," added Lily.

INFORMATION

lilyhuntergreen.com
www.jelly-green.com