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EXHIBITION THRUSTS LOCAL ARTIST INTO LIMELIGHT



Gemma Quinn / 2012-06-03 19:50:09

It was back in 2005 that the Leader first met 'Artist Ron' as part of our People and Places series. Ron had been in Spain just two years at that time, originally helping his parents make the move, he also decided to stay and was forging a successful business panel beating and vehicle painting, the trade he trained for in the UK. But Ron was also getting a name for himself in the art world with his impressive murals adorning walls of the local restaurants and bars across the region.

Ronen Zlotogovra is a self trained air-brush artist. Originally going in to the hotel and catering industry he soon left that to follow in his father's footsteps of working in a garage and trained in vehicle crash repair and panel beating. However, his interest in art remained with him, "I did some repairs and paintwork for my friends and it was while I was at college I found a magazine on airbrushing and I thought this is for me.

I took it to my teachers on the course who were as impressed as I was but they didn't know much about it." Ron rang a number of studios and artists he found through the Yellow Pages but each one came to a dead end with the industry appearing very secretive and protective. "I offered to work in exchange for them teaching me airbrushing but many just hung the phone up on me!" Undeterred, he bought himself an airbrush and started practising. Even when he moved to Torrevieja he found a popular artist who said he couldn't train him as he would take all his customers! "So I started airbrushing like a lunatic, getting helmets out of bins, repairing and painting them. I had magazines and videos and went to some exhibitions in Germany and met a lot of good artists from all over the world."

Having quickly got himself in to the industry Ron has produced some amazing murals and commissioned pieces like helmets and bikes and this is where the our story ended.... Artist Ron was busy airbrushing and he was preparing to move to Jijona with his pregnant wife.

But now, four years since we last met, Ron is back and happy to chat to the Leader about his new challenges that lie ahead. "Jijona was great, we had a lovely finca with studio space and I started airbrushing courses but the house had bad water and bad electrics and needed a lot of work doing so we have just moved to Dolores."

Embarking on a new home with his family Ron is also embarking on a new direction in his career and is



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trying to enter the world of fine arts. Having met his now good friend, José Antonio, known in the artist world as 'Pastrana' he is inspired and ready to paint what he wants to paint rather than what he is asked to paint for customers.

“José Antonio is quite renown in his own right as an artist and is a respected professor of arts teaching at a number of universities across Spain.” Ron continues, “He came to me to teach him airbrushing as he had never really come across it before and it was quite a taboo subject at one time so he never learnt about it so I began to teach him and we became friends and he is teaching me about fine arts, helping me get my artist CV together and approach galleries.”

Ron is now devoting much of his time to producing a hyper-realistic series of paintings on American classic cars, the first of which won the advanced category in the Avalon sponsored art competition at last week's Homes, Gardens and Outdoor Living Show, something he is particularly proud of having not won a competition since he won the Halifax Bank painting competition when he was 9 years old! As well as the series on cars he is working on tropical and underwater scenes, inspired by his love of scuba-diving, many of which can be seen at his forthcoming exhibition.

“It is my first exhibition and I am exhibiting with Pastrana which is such an honour. A lot of people have asked him to exhibit and he has said no so for him to join me is a privilege.” The exhibition is entitled Alfa-Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet representing the first exhibition for Ron and the last for Pastrana. It is running from 15th-25th June at the Casa de Cultura in Dolores so anyone interested in knowing more about Ron's work can go along. Or visit his website www.artistron.com where you can also find out more about Ron's courses.



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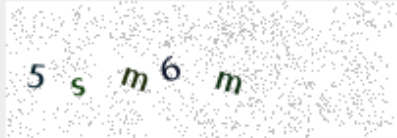
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Tel.: +34 96 673 0057 / Fax.: +34 96 677 3655 / Email: office@theleader.info / Web: <http://www.theleader.info/>