

Deep Impressions

The work of Kim and Kay Vaudin

By Peter Rowlands

When I moved down to Plymouth in the southwest of the UK a few years ago I started getting my tanks filled at Sound Diving and that is where I first met Kim Vaudin. She worked there part time (and still does) but it was not until quite some time later that I discovered her other side – as an extremely accomplished artist and part of a duo with her mother Kay.

Plymouth born and bred, Kim was brought up in a diving family but found her first attempts at underwater photography disappointing so she decided to use her artistic talents to take control of the image making process by producing underwater scenes with acrylic paints rather than pixels and she persuaded her mum to team up with her. The work of Australian artist David Stacey was a major influence and she wanted to depict underwater scenes from British waters initially.

The use of acrylic paints enables them to achieve the delicate backwashes and vivid colours required in recreating a tropical reef, as well as the more muted tones of temperate waters. Although Kim and



(Top) Kim at work.

(Above) With her mother Kay at a Dive Show

(Right) "The Wall" available as a fine art print. Please note that UwP's repro quality cannot capture the fine detail of Kim's work.





Kay normally work on their own, whilst demonstrating at exhibitions they can interchange throughout a painting. The only slight difference in their style can be detected by their varying colour differences, Kay favouring the more subtle tones whilst Kim prefers brighter combinations.

Kim's style is to work from existing photographs, or elements of them, to build either a single image or a composite. The latter can take up to 2 months to complete and, by her own admission, they are commercially uneconomic but she just likes doing

them. The solution with these was to have fine art prints produced on 300gsm quality paper using light fast inks to Fine Art Trade Guild standards and each print personally signed by the artist. Kim and Kay have a very finely tuned eye for colour and it took some time before they found a printer who could produce a faithful result. In addition their paintings are available as greeting cards.

Original acrylic paintings vary in price depending on size and complexity but all are extremely fine in detail and vibrant in colour.



(Top left) Cuttlefish gully

(Above) Finely detailed lobster. 520 mm x 385 mm prints are available for £35 plus £5 posted in tubes, unframed.

(Right) Kim at work taking photographs for her next painting





In addition they accept commissions where they work with you to produce a personal painting to remind you of that special dive, a particular fish, reef scene or favourite dive site. You could even be in it yourself!

Kim and Kay sell their work direct through their website as well as attending the 2 main dive shows in the UK.

In the last few months Deep Impressions has branched out into the 3D world by producing a new range of sea creature models, wall plaques and even a full sealive chess set! These have been produced in a variety of finishes, moulded in cold cast bronze,

(Above) Darwin arch

(Top right) Marble resin plaice on a ceramic tile

(Right) Marine life moulds come in a variety of finishes.





copper and marble resin, some with 24ct gold leaf applied and all hand finished.

They teamed up with local model maker Scott Glead to produce the finely detailed mouldings which start life as blobs of modeling clay which Kim sculpts into exquisite shapes. Prior to this point Kim had never sculpted anything in her life but she went to the local art shop and came back with a handful of tools and she took to it like a proverbial duck. The only slight problem with this material is that it becomes soft if handled too much in warm temperatures so half finished works were often put in the fridge to cool down and her partner Mike had to be warned when opening the fridge that “There’s a half finished lobster in there!”

The resulting mouldings recreate the original fine detail beautifully and the chess set is most impressive. The designs for this had to be chosen carefully as they had to be free standing and vertical. The resulting collection is a joy to behold.

As with all artists Kim dreams of a studio of her own but is sensible enough to realize that such



overheads could prove problematic so she contents herself with living and working from her trawler yacht in Plymouth and working part time at Sound Diving where she enjoys dealing with and chatting to customers. The two work well. The solitary life of painting and sculpting contrasting with the human interaction at the dive shop.

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*See more of Kim & Kay's work at
www.deepimpressions.co.uk
 Please note details of the sculpted pieces
 will be on the website shortly*

Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques - Balanced light, composition, etc

Locations - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards

Subjects - Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

Equipment reviews - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

Personalities - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.
E mail peter@uwpmag.com**

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 144dpi

Size - Maximum length 15cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 15 cm wide and verticals would be 15cm.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.