

Artist is making a big mark

A BUDDING artist is making an impression in Hertford by using an innovative style of flower photography.

Claudine Fignon's colourful images, now on display at the Hertfordshire Gallery in St Andrews Street, are offering a unique perspective on plant life.

By printing the pictures on to canvas the Ware artist has been able to make her images larger, emphasising the detail of the beautiful flowers.

"I've always had an interest in small things, and like to look closely at what I'm photographing," said Claudine. "When I first got the images on to the canvas it was amazing. I felt confident they would work because people can't always visualise what I've captured here."

The method is quite unusual and has not been used by many artists. It has been inspired by recent developments in the printing industry, which enables people to print good quality photos on almost anything.

Claudine, now 27, studied fine art at Exeter University after completing an access course at the prestigious St Martins College of Art and Design in London.

"The course gave me a chance to try out different areas of art," she said. "It helped me find direction and allowed me to discover exactly what I wanted to do."

She initially worked for Sony, where she was responsible for the digital art

By Tom Sandham

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directory, before moving on to a wedding website where she photographed dresses.

But she made a move into freelance work so she could devote time to her art. Now at Fine-Focus, she is involved in new media, photography and branding services, and at the same time gets to pursue her first love.

"I found that I could make a living out of my skills, but wanted to give my art a proper go," she said. "I believe that people have to take a chance on what they really want to do. I'm doing that with my art and it's going well, so if people don't try then they will never know how much they can achieve."

And those around Claudine think she is making the right choice, particularly fiancé Richard West, who has been bowled over by the images.

"It's great," said Richard, who is a music teacher. "I'd never really thought of looking so closely at flowers, but these spectacular images bring them to life."



Claudine Fignon with some of her work

Rod Lewis owns Hertfordshire Graphics Ltd, where the gallery is based, and is delighted to have Claudine's work on display.

"We opened the gallery 18 months ago to get some exposure for the talented artists in and around the town," he said. "The art is of a very high standard and mostly contemporary. It's inspiring people who want to use it in their home."

"We hope that more people will be

encouraged to have the confidence to use their talent and we're look forward to seeing more local art here."

Claudine's work is on display at the St Andrews Street gallery for an indefinite period, for more details contact Rod Lewis on 01992 503636.

To see more of Claudine's art visit the website at www.fine-focus.co.uk. Cards can also be bought at The Ware Card Centre and Dandelyons florist.