

jo de banzie

With all the colours of magic in her personally-printed art paper portraits, new Fellow Jo creates perfect examples of imperfection. With the charm of a snapshot, a glimpse or a creative accident her images are perfect for today's stylebook.

At first glance, the twenty images in Jo de Banzie's Fellowship sequence hold together because of the beautiful colour palette created by inkjet printing on cotton rag paper. The choice of output method, matched in here hand-made workbooks for the judges, is Jo's personal choice whether for client prints or qualifications and awards. The whole styling of the images starts with the art-paper, almost watercolour look in mind.

"Colour is my thing", Jo said after learning she had been given the portrait Fellowship, the only FMPA to be awarded in the summer 2010 judging.

"Jo creates pictures which look as if they have faults – like the blade of grass crossing the eye in one print", commented



Above: Andrea, for *Dramatico Entertainment*, London. For album sleeve illustration. Below: Marlee, Spain.

the chairman of the A&F judges, Kevin Wilson FMPA. "But when you study the picture, it is not accidental and it looks right.

Kevin picked out the way in which Jo uses layered effects with random organic-looking textures in a very subtle way. They do not interfere with the important skin tones, adding an aged or distressed look only to backgrounds or darker shades.

"How refreshing it was for me as chairman on this occasion to see a very clear and refreshing style emerging", added Kevin.

We can not reproduce the exact look of Jo's prints in the magazine as our printing inks and paper are very different. They appear more luminous and pure in the originals.

Based in London's Notting



Hill, Jo has an artistically aware clientèle; she uses locations like Hampstead Heath close to home, but much of her photography now takes place abroad. She was due to be up at 3.30am to fly off for another Mediterranean portrait session the day after the judging session held at Clow Beck House, near Scotch Corner.

Apart from her photoshoots in the south of France, Spain and the Balearics for private commissions, Jo has commercial clients who love her style.

Music industry artist management and children's fashion houses alike provide her with subjects all over the UK. Nearly all of Jo's Fellowship images were taken by existing light, except our choice for the cover of the magazine which is a studio flash shot. Though using a soft light, Jo was careful to ensure it created perfect circular catchlights in the eyes and to avoid adding extra lights. Part of the natural look of all her work is down to the natural reflections or catchlights in the subjects' eyes – you never see that telltale cluster of studio flash highlights.

– DK



This page: top – Sisters, South of France; portrait commission, available light. "As opposite as two sisters can be, blonde ethereal Tia and fearless tomboy Anouska adopt almost matching poses". Centre – Anouska in an olive tree. Bottom – Livvie, Wells, Norfolk. A shot for Frocks Away children's clothing boutique.

Facing page: top two pictures of the same fashion model, Sarah. Left, in Hampsteads Heath, taken for Sophie Harley Designs. Right, commercial shoot at a location in Worcestershire. Bottom: left, a portrait commission in Norfolk – "woken for an early start, a sleepy Karina sits on the kitchen table pulling a brush through her hair, while her mother hovers nearby"; Right, Florence, London, a commercial shoot for Dramatico Entertainment. Part of a PR shoot to accompany the singer's first release.

