

## Caledoniart®

Scottish Contemporary Art



Two of our members, **Amanda Brock**, and her husband **Ross Duguid**, have found a good way of bringing a little bit of Scotland to their life together in London.

Originally from Crieff (Amanda) and Giffnock (Ross), the couple now live in Crouch End. Amanda works as a lawyer for a software company, and Ross is an architect, but they make time for a family business as well. Together with Amanda's father **Charles Brock**, they run **Caledoniart**, a company specialising in the sale of contemporary Scottish art outside Scotland.

From an initial interest in collecting art, nourished by artists like John Lowrie Morrison, and from Amanda's involvement in two charity exhibitions, came the idea for **Caledoniart**. Caledoniart now runs several exhibitions in London each year, concentrating on Scottish landscape and animal paintings. Amanda is a trustee of both Scotscare and Borderline. She is keen to ensure that the exhibitions "give something back", e.g. by sponsoring the Borderline carol service.

Amanda believes that there is a lot of artistic talent coming out of Scotland, and that there is a lot of interest from customers in the rest of the UK who have lived in Scotland or holidayed there. This includes some folk from Crown Court. At the exhibitions Amanda loves talking to people, and meeting new people who don't treat her as a lawyer! She also enjoys meeting the artists, and prefers to represent artists whose work she admires and whom she likes personally.

The exhibitions are set up by Amanda and Ross, often with help from their friend **Ruari McCulloch**. A 'hanging day' before an exhibition can be like Christmas, as they rip open the brown paper on the paintings. Amanda acts as curator, choosing the best spot for each piece, as the paintings are carted around by Ross and Ruari.

Shortly after their wedding, Amanda and Ross admired some paintings by John Lowrie Morrison (often known as "Jolomo") in a local Crieff gallery. Despairing of ever being able to afford a painting, they contacted the artist direct. Jolomo invited them to his studio, and agreed to sell them two paintings in return for 18 post-dated cheques. And did the newly-weds have to wait 18 months for their paintings? No, Jolomo clearly trusted them, handing over the paintings that day. A good start to a relationship which continues today, as Amanda describes John as a kind and spiritual man, and Caledoniart is presenting Jolomo's 9th Annual London exhibition. Here are some questions posed by the Editorial Team of *The Chronicle*, which Amanda answers after speaking to the artist in March 2010.

**Many of Jolomo's works contain crofts or cottages, a human presence in the landscape. Is this a symbol that he uses consciously in his paintings?**

Yes, John does pick up on man's presence in the landscape. It's not only crofts—he has been known to paint distilleries, lighthouses and churches. John explains with some glee that he has always loved painting the less attractive parts of the Scottish landscape from school days to the present day and proceeds to list some of them— "telephone poles, red phone boxes, red post boxes, ladders against a wall, broken gates, washing lines blowing in the wind, beached boats, light-houses; etc. In a nutshell, man's imprint on the landscape".

**Jolomo's vibrant, high key colour is a key characteristic of his painting style. How did this evolve? Does he see Matisse and the Scottish Colourists as artists who have influenced his work?**

Yes, travelling in Europe John was influenced by the European Expressionists, Chagall, Soutine, Pascin, Nolde, Kokoschka, as well as the Scottish Colourists. The "gloaming" as John refers to it, or twilight in the big Scottish sky, has lent itself to his azure blue, and many of his paintings are at that time of day. The moon, out before its time, is also there. "I have always had an obsession with moons since I was 10 and have to stop myself painting them into every work", John admits.

*Lismore Lighthouse looking out to Ben Cruachan: Jolomo*

**In addition to your landscape-based pieces Jolomo has also produced work based on biblical themes. Can you tell us something about this?**

John does like to draw or paint 'religious art', work based on Scripture, but rarely sells this. Iona, a very spiritual place, has also been the subject of many of John's paintings.♦



### John Lowrie Morrison "Jolomo" 9th Annual London Exhibition A Hebridean Light

Scottish Landscape painting by renowned Scottish artist Jolomo

**Monday 17th May—Saturday 22nd May**

10am - 6pm daily (4pm Saturday) (later by appointment)

The Air Gallery, 32 Dover Street, Mayfair, London W1S 4NE (nearest Tube: Green Park). Presented by Corrymella Scott Gallery (Scottish Art Specialists) and Caledoniart (Scottish contemporary art).

See full exhibition at— [www.corrymellascottgallery.co.uk](http://www.corrymellascottgallery.co.uk)

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