

NAKED AMBITION

DEEPA MANN-KLER lays her art bare

Deepa Mann-Kler, 37 years old, was born in Nottingham and spent her early childhood in India. Deepa now lives in Killyleagh, Co.Down with her husband and two children, Fynn, who is 5 years old and Bella, who is 16 months. An early interest in art and photography resulted in her winning the Daily Mirror/Olympus Young Photographer of the Year Award in 1984. Her career took a different path working for the European Parliament in Belgium but the self-taught artist developed her skills with a part-time course at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Brussels before moving to Northern Ireland.

Over the past few years she has become noted for her strong but sensitive portrayals of the nude female form in oils. Deepa has exhibited widely in group shows and completed commissions in 1998 for the Commission for Racial Equality NI; the Eastern Health and Social Services Trust and Belfast City Council. This Autumn sees Deepa's first solo show 'Larger Than Life' take place at the Down Arts Centre.

WHAT TO PAY: PRICES RANGE FROM £160 THROUGH TO £600

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHARA PENNIE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Deepa Mann-Kler on deepamannkler@googlemail.com or at www.deepamannkler.com



FACT FILE

LIVES: Killyleagh, Co.Down

WORK PRODUCED: Landscapes; group shows; private and public commissions

CURRENT PROJECTS: Her Autumn exhibition Larger Than Life features a series of studies on the female nude form in oils on canvas. Over the past two years she has been inspired by the female physical body and experimented with colour and light. Where women may appear vulnerable because of their nakedness, this is not the case in Deepa's work. Instead through the use of strong colours and light, the women all draw you into their world without ever looking at you.

WHERE TO BUY IT: Down Arts Centre, Denise Griffith, 44 61528

