

# ACCESSIBLE ART

Having a father who's a fine artist, as well as a degree in graphic design and a diploma in interior design under his belt, James N Swan is a natural creative talent.

Over the years James has always loved sketching and painting but it's just in the past few years that his passion for abstract art has come into its own. Combining his two passions – his career as a kitchen designer and painting abstract canvases – James designs and paints bespoke pieces, tailor made for individual interiors. A Christian from north Belfast, James now lives in Portadown with his wife Sue and their little girl, Olivia. 'I've always loved art and believe this is a gift from God. Over the years I've always sketched and painted for friends but it's just more recently that I've focused on the bespoke abstract canvases,' says James, whose paintings are signed Nicholas, his middle name. 'With my father, James Swan being a fine artist, I decided to use Nicholas to avoid any confusion!'

What started out as a hobby has become an enjoyable sideline for James. A full-time kitchen designer for Robinson Interiors, James paints in his leisure time. His first painting was for a friend who'd just moved into his first house. 'I was finding that a lot of my friends were buying houses and having trouble finding affordable art to decorate their walls and bring personality and depth to their interiors. A lot of people find galleries intimidating and the sky's the limit for pricing art. My aim though, is to make it affordable and accessible. I offer a bespoke personal service where I meet with the client to discuss their colour and style preferences. I will also visit their home to see the room in which the painting will hang and if desired, can take swatches of fabric from the soft furnishings then I'll mix paint especially to suit.'



Photography by Rory Corrigan.

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James' career as a kitchen designer goes hand in hand with his paintings. 'More and more people have open plan kitchens with living and dining areas and a lot of our clients like to complete the look of their new room with art. A selection of my canvases are on display in the Robinson Interiors showroom so this gives clients a feel for my work. With my background in interior and graphic design, I feel that the two sides, kitchen designing and painting, go hand in hand.'

With a selection of his work on display locally in cafés, restaurants and hair salons, James' paintings have a signature style. His love of colour and shape can be appreciated in each piece yet part of their appeal is that each painting is a one-off. The client can specify how they want their painting to look or if you prefer to let James loose on the creative, you can simply give him a colour scheme and leave him

to his own devices. He will always meet with you for a follow up consultation once the initial sketches are drafted so there's always the opportunity to make adjustments. 'I have a portfolio which clients can browse for ideas. Each canvas is unique and can be any size, within reason so you can go for a discreet piece to tie in with a colour scheme or go to the other end of the scale with a large statement piece.' Rather than trawling galleries, you can relax in the surroundings of your own home or pop into the showroom at Robinson Interiors to see James' work. Abstract paintings at affordable prices, this could be just what you're looking for to add that essential finishing touch to your living space!

For further information visit [www.jamesnswan.com](http://www.jamesnswan.com) or phone 07881 954707.