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DARREN BAKER

WHITEWALL
G A L L E R I E S



“THRILLING & VIRTUOSIC
The Sunday Times

DARREN BAKER

Contemporary Realism

This is a small selection of artwork from Darren's stunning collection 'Contemporary Realism'. Please enquire in the gallery to view the full collection of previously unseen original paintings.



Darren Baker is one of the leading painters of the Classical Realism genre and his style displays the influences of both the Dutch Masters and the contemporary Realist School. His original oils have won him numerous awards including The Garrick Prize from Christies, London and hang in private collections including those of the House of Lords, Downing Street and St James's Palace.

Baker's unique status was recently confirmed by two prestigious invitations. Appointed as an official artist to the 2012 Olympic Games, he has also just completed an official portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II, an accolade only accorded to a small number of painters in the monarch's lifetime. The portrait will be presented to Her Majesty as part of the British Legion's 90th birthday celebrations.

As official artist to the Professional Footballer's Association for many years, Baker has produced an impressive portfolio of portraits for sports clubs and personalities including Dame Kelly Holmes, Lewis Hamilton, Jonny Wilkinson and Steven Gerrard, while his non-sporting portraits include HRH Prince Charles and Tony Blair. His portrait of Pope John Paul II was greeted with a personal message of appreciation from the Vatican.



Westminster Night

7" x 5"
Original Pastel on Canvas



Darren's work and the techniques he employs achieve a finish that is comparable to photography. It is the result of meticulous preparation and minute attention to detail at every stage of creation.

“ I prepare and stretch all of my canvases personally, priming and sanding down to an almost mirror-like surface, to ensure the smooth application of paint.

After outlining the subject with a HIGHLY DETAILED 'ARCHITECTURAL' DRAWING, I work on the under painting in tones of sepia oil paint, which I brush, rag on and airbrush in various areas. This gives a foundation on which I begin to build in colour. ”

Study for Venetian Light

8" x 6"
Original Charcoal Study



D. Bird



Ballet Sweet

7" x 5"
Original Pastel on Canvas

V i s i o n S X I

20" x 18"
Original Oil on Canvas



D. Baker



Darren's equestrian portraits have won him international acclaim. Elements of these pieces have led to comparisons with the Dutch Masters, where the extreme accuracy is reminiscent of their astonishing portrayals of fabrics and textures.

“ My intention in these works is to bring these BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS TO LIFE ON CANVAS. To do this I apply the oil colour to my foundation work using a fine technique of glazing which uses thinned out paint in many layers according to a technique of Vermeer's. I work from background to foreground and from dark to light using a low gloss medium in my oils to render the brush strokes almost invisible. ”

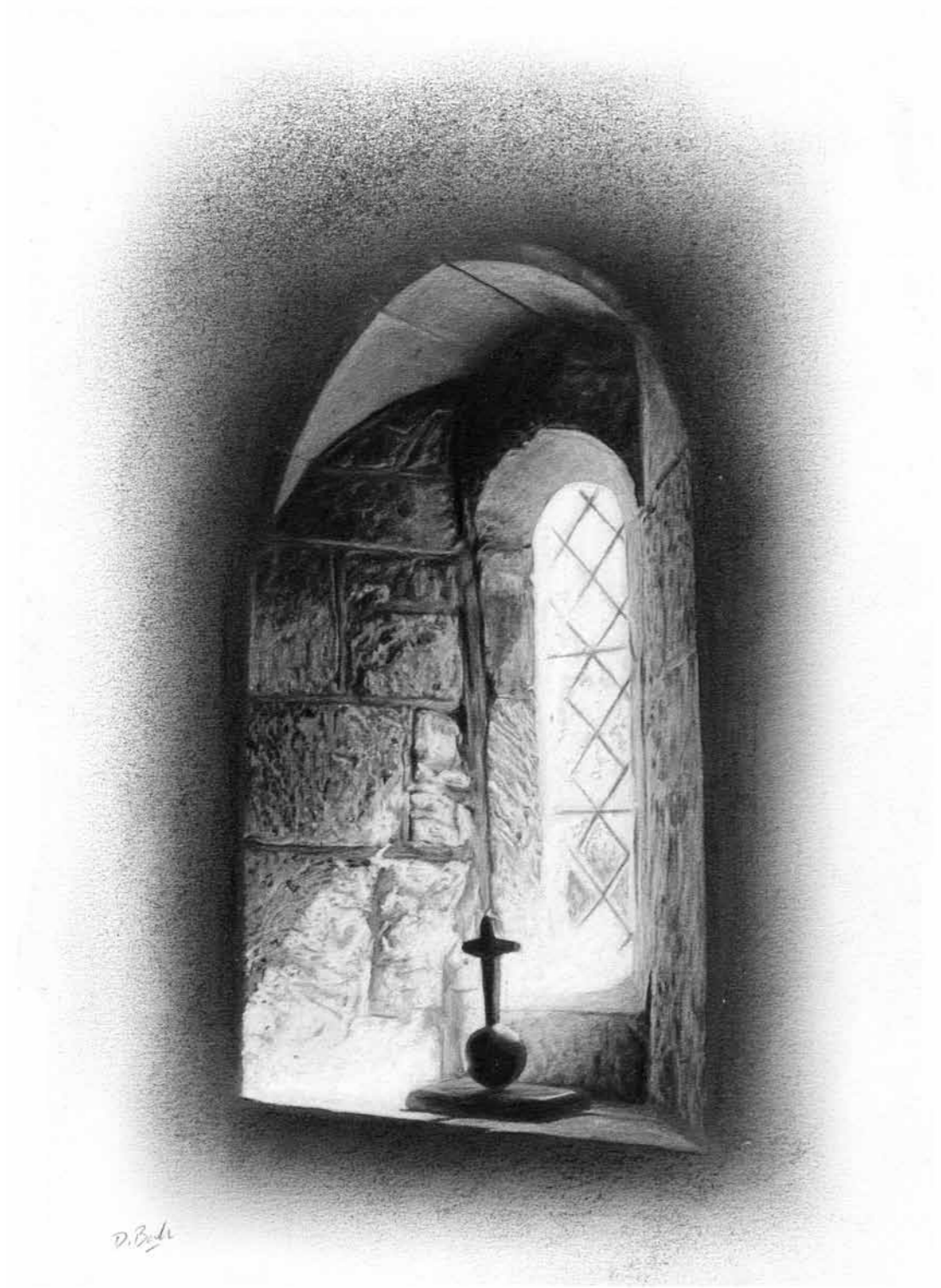
E q u i n e I V

7" x 10"
Original Oil on Canvas

Twilight Fatale IV

9" x 6"
Original Oil on Canvas





D.B.H.

Study for Window Solitude

8" x 6"
Original Charcoal Study



THE QUEST FOR PERFECTION ...

SERIES OF MINIATURES

Over the years I have become increasingly preoccupied with hyper-realism and have spent longer and longer periods overworking small sections of a painting in order to create the work I have envisaged.

This series of miniatures grew out of a desire to indulge my interest, some may say obsession, with detail.

I chose to use graphite, pastel and conte pencil as this gives such wonderful scope for contrast. When you are working in miniature **contrast is everything**, as much of the detail does have to be implied rather than recreated, but I was very excited to see the degree of accuracy I was able to maintain.

Once the series was complete I gave a lot of thought to the presentation too. Because of the intricacy and intensity of each image I felt they needed some space to breathe, so have set them within a wide deep mount to eliminate any surrounding distraction. This was a very personal project for me as working to such a small scale was a major challenge, but one that I relished as it was both incredibly demanding and hugely rewarding.



G a t e s h e a d M i l l e n n i u m B r i d g e I

2" x 1.5"
Original Charcoal



G a t e s h e a d M i l l e n n i u m B r i d g e I I

2" x 1.5"
Original Charcoal