



In each edition of The Indie we showcase a local artist or maker. If you'd like to be in with a chance to be featured, the first step is to sign up for an IndieMe membership at www.joinindiecambridge.com. We'll be in touch to let you know who we'll feature in the next issue in November.



Ask An Artist David Wood | Painter

Just imagine what a dull place the world would be without art. But for most artists, making a living from their work is not easy – so why do it, why not just get a 'proper' job? This is the question we asked Cambridge-based artist David Wood. "I did have what you'd call a proper job – but I found the full-time hours took me far too away from where my passion lay. I still work part-time in arts administration (to bring in some money), but fundamentally having a regular job is not what makes me happy. Being an artist gives me the freedom to create on a daily basis – it's a need I have and the life I choose. It also gives me the time I need for my art practise. I follow author Malcolm Gladwell's advice in his book *Outliers: The Story of Success* in which he explains the '10,000-hour rule',

and how the key to achieving expertise in any skill, is, to a large extent, a matter of practicing the correct way.

As a representational painter, being mindful and observing the world around me is crucial to being an artist, allowing me to capture single moments, either of a particular time of day, atmosphere or a figure in action. Painting 'En Plein Air' (in the open air), is very much a part of my art practise now, responding directly to the subject, in the elements, creating a stronger connection between the subject and the art."

David also teaches drawing, watercolour and oil painting. See more of David's work at www.davidwoodfineart.com