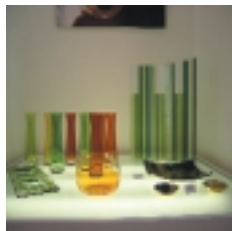
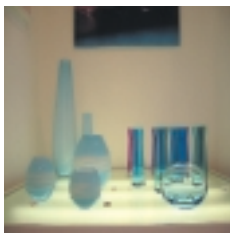


cutting edge on the coast

Now you no longer need to trawl the streets of London for a taste of the latest in Art and Design. Nick & Caroline Harris's new art space, Harris Interiors, is set to bring the best of contemporary art to a whole new audience – in Lower Parkstone.



A selection of German and Polish studio glassware.



Nick and Caroline with a seascape by Mike Perry.

You may not expect to find one of the most exciting new contemporary galleries outside of London nestled by the park in the Ashley Cross area of Poole, but Harris Interiors has attracted a considerable amount of interest since it opened in March.

When the gallery's owner's, Nick and Caroline Harris, moved to the area from London, after running their own interior design consultancy firm and managing two top photographic art galleries; Hamiltons in Mayfair and most recently HackelBury Fine Art in Kensington, they intended to swap their hectic schedules in the capital for some peace and quiet on the coast. However, with their experience and knowledge of the photography and contemporary art markets, they began acting as art consultants for various commercial and private development projects, and quickly decided to open their own gallery.

The couple started out with a clear vision of what the perfect environment in which to show contemporary art would be, and rapidly brought about a truly exceptional transformation of their premises in Church Road to turn this into a reality. The gallery has the sort of sparse interior and brilliant white walls that you would normally associate with a super-cool gallery in London or New York's SoHo, with wooden floors and pared down fittings, the gallery exudes an air of calm and tranquillity. The interior seamlessly flows into an outside area, designed and built by Nick, which houses an impressive geometric sculpture made specifically for the space by George Meyrick, whose work has been exhibited at venues such as the prestigious artBasel fair in Switzerland and the Centro Cultural de la Villa, Madrid.

The gallery aims to offer a wide range of British and European art and design, from photography and painting to ceramics, glass and sculpture. 'We wanted to show a variety of important artwork that has

its own place within the current contemporary market, and which has not been previously exhibited in this area,' explained Caroline. 'For example, our inaugural exhibition was work by four of the Magnum Photographers - original, signed prints by some of the Great Masters of photography; Elliott Erwitt, Martine Franck, Marc Riboud and of course Henri Cartier-Bresson. These works are primarily only available from selected galleries in London and the States or on the secondary market should they come up at auction through Sotheby's or Christie's'.

Alongside its strong line in works by artists with long-established careers, the gallery also shows work by up-and-coming artists. One such is photographer Mike Perry, whose large format seascape prints mounted onto aluminium received critical acclaim after his show in Cork Street earlier this year. 'Mike's work is amazing', says Nick, 'the sheer scale of the prints (152 x 122cm) makes you feel like you are actually standing on the seashore when you view them. We have had several clients comment that it is unusual to see a piece that makes you feel like you are actually there, let alone one that makes you feel you can actually hear the sea'. The gallery has something for everyone, with sculptural studio glass and ceramic vases starting at £20, right through to seriously collectable works of art priced upwards of £1000.

Harris Interiors also runs a research and consultancy service to private and corporate clients and can offer advice on establishing a collection as well as sourcing artwork to fit in with individual requirements and budgets. The gallery is currently working on providing artwork for a new restaurant venture in Poole, as well as having supplied artwork for the recent Harbour Heights Hotel refurbishment and to various private developers. Now, more than six months into the business, the gallery is going from strength to strength and Nick and Caroline are finding themselves heading back to the hectic lifestyle they thought they'd left behind, 'new projects are evolving all the time and we are now working with various clients who want to commission a series of original works for their homes or offices. Commissioning artwork is a very exciting process for everyone concerned – the client gets a piece of artwork unique to them and the artist gets to work through a series of interesting challenges and problems.'

So what does the future hold for Nick & Caroline? 'We are constantly working to heighten the awareness and appreciation of contemporary art and design and have started working with various specialists in lighting, furniture and manufacturing, to bring together a high quality, innovative, bespoke design service exclusive to the gallery. We want to offer clients individual pieces that complement and reinforce the modern aesthetic of the artwork we already exhibit'. The Harris Interiors gallery and art service can be found at:

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Harris Interiors.

