



# Made in Cornwall



## ARTIST PAULA MAY OF NORTH HILL

Words by **Jula de Buhr**

As a child, artist Paula May preferred painting to reading. "I was about four when I first started with crayons, and at school I was always good at art," she recalls. Ever since, she has worked on broadening her skills and style, and is now comfortable with techniques going way beyond crayon, ranging from watercolours and oil to acrylics.


Paula indulges her passion for painting at home in North Hill, near Launceston. "I live to paint, and every day in the beautiful surroundings of Cornwall brings new scenery for a painting," she explains. "I paint for my own enjoyment and satisfaction. Listening to the birds or the calming silence makes me feel at one with nature, and inspires me to look at the beauty around me. My garden studio provides the tranquillity and peacefulness I need to be creative."

Even in midst of the not-so-quiet Made in Cornwall gift fairs, you'll find Paula completely immersed in painting. Stroll past her stall, and you'll witness her in the process of creating

another of her incredible acrylic paintings, while simultaneously selling her masterpieces. "It makes me happy when others appreciate my art enough to buy it and hang it in their own homes," she says. "I'm reasonable on price as I want to be able to share my art with as many people as possible." That's why her range starts with greetings cards (£2) printed from original paintings, while originals cost from £35 up to £400, covering most media and commissions.

Paula is passionate about vibrant colours, in particular orange - I glance at her bright orange hair and her even brighter orange sweater - and especially loves painting flowers, such as poppies. "Sometimes I go for a walk, pick up some of those lovely wildflowers Cornwall has to offer by the sea, and take them home to paint them in my little studio at the end of my wonderful garden.

"But I really do a great mixture of everything: flowers, seascapes and landscapes, but also portraits of people, dogs and horses." In fact, animals seem to have a special place in Paula's heart: when she found out about the Hugs Foundation, an organisation that rescues mistreated and abandoned animals, she launched a series of horse paintings and donates a portion of the profits to the charity.

Paula is self-taught artist: "I just tried until I got it right - my studio is covered in paint," she laughs. However, from January 8, Paula will host six-week art classes at The Red Chair Shop in Launceston (PL15 9DX). The courses are designed for absolute beginners and those lacking in confidence, offering participants an insight into drawing from the very basics up to painting onto canvas. "You could actually be a great artist and not know it," says Paula, encouragingly. 

Find Paula May on Etsy @[paulamayart](https://www.etsy.com/people/paulamayart)

Paula May is a member of the Made In Cornwall approved origin scheme operated by the Trading Standards services of Cornwall Council. For further information, visit [www.madeincornwall.com](http://www.madeincornwall.com)