



## Return flight

A couple who left London to establish a now burgeoning outlet for British print makers are briefly coming back to the city to showcase new work by their stable of artists. By **David Nicholls**

**F**our years ago the print maker Angie Lewin and her husband Simon moved from London's East End to north Norfolk, where they established a screen-printed textiles company called St Judes. They have since carved out a niche for unusual, artist-designed prints, made in small runs in Britain. Without exception, they burst with personality. The most recognisable are by Lewin, whose distinctive style sees spindly seed pods, branches and flowers printed on to muted shades of sage, mauve and stone. Although they recall Lucienne Day's mid-20th-century prints, they are sophisticated and joyful abstracts in their own right.

As the business outgrew their home and the Lewins longed to collaborate with more artists, the couple opened a gallery-cum-shop in Aylsham. As well as selling St Judes textiles and stationery, the space also sells original screen prints by Lewin and 22 other artists including the dynamic young illustrator Alice Stevenson (who has created book covers for Faber and Puffin) and the late war artist and print maker Edward Bawden. It has proved such a success that later this month St Judes Gallery is moving to a larger space in Itteringham. But first, the Lewins are heading back to London for a selling exhibition called St Judes in the City, featuring new work by seven of its artists.

Among them is Mark Hearld, whose work features highly stylised animals, from cockerels and



**Top right** Mark Hearld's *St Paul's Pigeons*, 210x105mm, £275 framed. **Top left** Jonny Hannah linocuts: *Killer Diller*, 200x200mm, £65 unframed, and *Barnacle Bill*, 180x240mm, £60 unframed; *Spy* linocut by Chris Brown, 90x55mm, £90 unframed. **Above** *Moonlit Cup* linocut by Angie Lewin, 430x560mm, £295 unframed

foxes to scampering hares, created through the mediums of collage, linocut and lithograph. His textiles range for St Judes is called Doveflight, and for the exhibition Hearld will present a similarly themed collage called *St Paul's Pigeons*. In a nod to the show's London setting, the artist's curious doves have been transformed into rather more frazzled birds perching on urban rooftops, set against a swirling London sky with St Paul's Cathedral towering in the background – an example of Hearld's knack for layering colours, materials and broad brush strokes to create vibrant and eccentric scenes. Hearld will also unveil a new fabric that he has designed for St Judes.

Also taking part is Jonny Hannah, best known for his linocuts and screen prints that incorporate illustrations and typography. For the exhibition the artist is submitting a series of bold pieces featuring lighthouses and 'Killer Diller' boxers. There will also be new work by Christopher Brown and Johnathan Gibbs, and – curiously – the classic British workwear company Old Town is launching a 1930s-style newspaper. 'In every instance these are people whose work we've seen and admired or that Angie has exhibited with elsewhere,' Simon says. 'And it's great to be able to collaborate with them and show their work to a broader audience.'

**WE WILL BE RETURNING TO THE BANKSIDE GALLERY FOR A SECOND ST. JUDE'S IN THE CITY IN NOVEMBER 2010**