

Lincoln Townley



FROM ABSTINENCE TO REVERENCE

Words By Jane Dean



Prolific abstract artist, Lincoln Townley has secured international exhibitions of his figurative artwork extending from the UK to Spain and France and his paintings are sold all over the world. At his most recent art showcase in London, Lincoln reflected upon his success "I am now 3 years sober from drink and drugs and my art has been my form of therapy". He openly concedes to living life to excess but, after meeting actress and former Loose Woman Denise Welch, he knew they could make their relationship work and that life had to dramatically change in order to achieve this.

His collection of paintings captures the raw emotions exorcising his humane and inhumane experiences from the punishing influence of substance abuse and alcohol indulgence. Lincoln elaborates "My early paintings are about consumption, madness, the darker side of life". The Hunger collection depicts a trilogy of screaming faces; with haunted expressions reflecting Lincoln's state of mind at the height of his addictive existence, but by complete contrast, his Aspirations compilation represents optimism and freedom.

Working in notorious strip clubs in London's Soho exposed Lincoln to the wilder extremities of living. "Whilst I was living in Soho", explains Lincoln, "it was all about consumption; everyone I was involved with wanted to take, take, and take. It was such an extreme environment; you really didn't feel like you were doing anything wrong but you pushed yourself to the limit and I knew I had to get out of there". Lincoln has penned his memoirs of his experiences in his book entitled "The Hunger".

In 2013, Lincoln married Denise, who is a self-confessed alcoholic, but together they continue to transform their lives which have immeasurably improved since embracing sobriety. In December, Lincoln unveiled his

portrait of English comedian and actor Russell Brand, who continues to fight personal demons of his own. The painting consists of oil, acrylics and mixed media on canvas. Russell and Lincoln have joined forces with Chip Somers who has 30 years' experience of the treatment of substance misuse and has set up a charitable fund entitled The Abstinence Based Recovery Trust. The painting was put up for auction online and is expected to raise in excess of \$20,000.00 for the Trust. Lincoln enthuses "I'm overwhelmed by the interest in the painting and felt quite honoured to portray Russell, as Damien Hirst has been trying to paint him for many years. I believe in the work that Chip is championing and hope to work further with him and Russell in the near future".

As Lincoln's creativity develops through self-expression, he feels that his craft has literally saved his life. His artwork now expresses beautiful formations which evidence just how far he has come from the darker days under the influence of drink and drugs. When asked about the future, Lincoln responds "I intend to continue to paint from my studio at home in Cheshire as the majority of my collections have been sold. Who knows what 2015 will bring but I hope to tour with my work on an international level".

To find out more about Lincoln's artwork, go to www.lincolntownley.com