Sandra Pamela Palmer

‘Soliwood’ (2024), Digital collage

Sandra Palmer’s ‘Soliwood’ is a surreal collage inspired by idealised images of the borough, which is often associated with prosperity and tranquillity. Living locally, Palmer has incorporated Solihull’s iconic symbols: its distinctive map, the Riding Club, famous actors, musicians, the Core Theatre, lush greenery and Touchwood shopping centre. By juxtaposing these elements in a dreamlike setting, she aims to question the nature of utopia. Is a place of endless possibilities always desirable? Her work invites viewers to ponder the implications of such an idealised world.

In this collage and her wider practice, she draws on her degree in Contour Design, which led to an entrepreneurial career in lingerie and swimwear. Her work garnered recognition in magazines and newspapers, she reached the finals of the Midlands Fashion Awards in 2019 and secured a win on Theo Paphitis’ Small Business Sunday initiative for entrepreneurs.

However, the year 2020 marked a shift in Palmer’s direction. The pandemic prompted her to explore her artistic side; focusing on mindfulness and the beauty of nature around her, she began working as a collage artist. This newfound inspiration has become the cornerstone of her creative expression, evident in multilayered, colourful collages, such as ‘Soliwood’.

Instagram: @brummyartist

Website: www.brummyartist.com

SURREAL SOLIHULL

West Midlands Combined Authority

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council