

Art as nails...



No pain, no gain as works finally see light of day

BY DEBBIE LEIGH

PLENTY of artists claim to have sweated blood, sweat and tears in the name of creativity but in Marcus Levine's case it really is true.

The 42-year-old, who studied at Jacob Kramer Art College in Leeds with infamous artist Damien Hirst, hammers thousands of nails into wooden boards to produce his unusual sculptures and inevitably bangs his digits every once in a while.

He has been painting and sculpting in his spare time for more than 20 years but has so far only revealed his work to family and friends at his home in Bingley.

This weekend around 50 pieces will go on show to the wider world – not only to the people of Leeds but to overseas visitors keen to experience the city's Light Night celebrations.

The dad-of-two said: "I'm excited – I just hope it's a success and that they like my work."

He had the idea of creating images using nails about 15 years ago but took a while to get round to it.

"I finally sat down and worked out how to do it.

He said: "It takes around 3,500 nails per picture and I regularly cut myself and occasionally hit my finger with the hammer."

Suffer

"So I do suffer for my art."

His most recent creation used almost 14,000 nails.

He said: "There was a lot of tears, a lot of blood lost – blood, sweat and tears."

As well as the nail art, he also paints and takes photographs.

He fits in his artwork around his job with the family printing business, which he has been doing for the past 18 years.

He said he respected Hirst's achievements but his own artwork reflected that he was "more interested in life and beauty than death and horror".

Specially-invited guests will see his work tomorrow.

His exhibition is open to the public at The Radisson SAS Hotel in The Light in Leeds city centre from Saturday to Monday.

If it is a success he plans to take it to several other UK cities including Newcastle, Manchester and London.

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“It takes around 3,500 nails per picture”
– Marcus Levine

Hall fund proves a right royal success

THE fundraising for Harrogate's famous Royal Hall theatre has been a soaraway success.

It had been expected that the Royal Hall Restoration Trust would raise £2m towards the project.

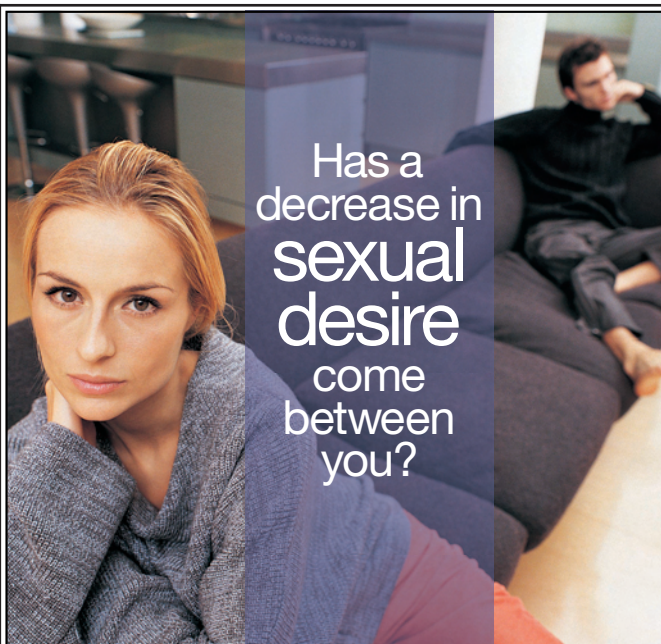
But latest figures show that the Trust, led by its energetic chairman Lilian Mina, has reached £2.6m.

This includes various small amounts approved from central capital resources and business unit reserves.

The boost has meant a full restoration and refurbishment is taking place. The latest forecast is £10.8m.

News of the early completion date was given in a report to Harrogate Borough Council's cabinet.

The Grade Two star listed building originally had an £8m overall budget, £6m coming from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and a £2m contribution from the borough council.



Has a decrease in sexual desire come between you?

Is a decrease in sexual desire causing you concern?

If you have a decreased sexual desire, you may actually have a medical condition known as Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD). HSDD is the most common form of female sexual dysfunction, and is identified by decreased or absent sexual fantasies and desire for sex. But there may be something you can do. If you're pre-menopausal, aged 18 years of age and older with a decrease in your sexual desire, you may be able to take part in a clinical trial, in your area. If you are able to participate, you will be regularly assessed during the course of the trial and you will receive study medication. Any out of pocket expenses will be paid.

To find out if you can take part in the trial, please call in the strictest confidence on 0800 083 8453.



MAKING A POINT:
Marcus works on one of his creations. *Left*, one he created earlier. Marcus will be showing 50 of his works from Saturday at The Radisson SAS Hotel in The Light

Are you the gem to help save sales for hospice?

BY SUZANNE McTAGGART

A VOLUNTEER who has sold jewellery in aid of St Gemma's Hospice for more than 10 years fears she may have to quit as she no longer has a supplier.

Christine Hanlon, who lives in East Keswick, is now appealing for local people and organisations to donate any end-of-line, surplus or broken jewellery to sell at fairs and gift sales.

She said: "My previous supplier started donating to the hospice many years ago and I used to take the jewellery home, repair it, box it all up and sell it for the hospice."

"But he's now retired. We've made a lot of money from selling his jewellery over the years and we're going to miss that money. We just hope there's someone else out there who can donate something similar."

Assistant fundraiser at St Gemma's,

Rebecca Binks, said: "It would be incredibly disappointing if Christine was no longer able to continue supporting the Hospice in this manner as the sale of jewellery and accessories has always been extremely popular at our fairs and gift sales."

● For more information or to donate goods, call Rowan on 0113 218 5505 or take them to St Gemma's Hospice in Moortown.