



**Brush with Fame** In the six-part Sky Arts TV series, Myatt uses his talent for mimicking famous artists to paint portraits of celebrities, including John Cleese

## COMMISSION *Impossible*

With a new TV series, and a commission from auctioneers Christies, John Myatt's exceptional talent is in ever greater demand



Spring

**A HIGHLIGHT OF** this Spring's collection is the sumptuous new hand embellished limited edition by John Myatt. Itself entitled Spring, the richly detailed painting in Monet's impressionist style is the first one of four depicting the seasons.

John has also been in great demand on other fronts. Following on from the huge success of 'Mastering the Art' - John Myatt's first major art TV series for Sky Arts last year - the TV channel is currently airing a fascinating new series with John painting portraits of British celebrities, each imitating the style of a different great master. In the six-part 'Brush With Fame' programme, John paints David Bailey in the style of Giacometti, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson (Modigliani), Jane Horrocks (Sargent), Robin Gibb (Van Gogh), Ian Brown (Cézanne) and John Cleese (Matisse).

The series provides an intriguing insight into the world of celebrity, and is an unprecedented look at the portrait-painting process and how a relationship develops between painter and subject. The sittings all take place at different locations, including David Bailey's studio, the fabulous monastery near Oxford where Robin Gibb lives and a Notting Hill restaurant in London. "Being inside David Bailey's studio was astonishing, and it was particularly interesting seeing him gain insight into what it feels like to have to sit still as a subject", John says. "It was fascinating working at such amazing locations and the entire experience was one of the most interesting things I have ever done".

As each celebrity sits for their portrait, John acts as interviewer, narrator and artist. He discusses why he feels his choice of artist's style best suits the painting's subject and explores the individual technique of each

master, whilst the celebrities talk about their lives - from Tara Palmer-Tomkinson reminiscing about the famous 'kiss' with Prince Charles to David Bailey musing over photographing Princess Diana. All six of the celebrities were delighted with their finished portraits, with Ian Brown, former lead singer of The Stone Roses, planning to use his as the cover for his next album.

The Monet theme will also be making an appearance at the Prince's Trust Charity Auction at the end of March. John has been commissioned by world-famous auction house Christie's to paint Monet's 'Oatfields with Poppies', with a top London framer currently creating a frame for it in the iconic artist's style. The painting will be auctioned at a ball at the Duke of Westminster's Eaton Park home in Cheshire at the end of March, and the masterpiece will undoubtedly raise a significant amount of money for the Trust.