



← **Lights Of Broadway**
Boxed canvas edition of 95
Image 29" x 44"
£599

City of DREAMS

New signing **Lesley Anne Derks**, has had a lifelong fascination with the distinct beauty created by city lights. Capturing both the vibrant spirit and ethereal feel of city night scenes, her enamel and oil paintings are bathed in a glorious magnetic glow

THE PALPABLE ENERGY of big cities takes on a completely different mood at night, with their sounds and sights assuming an almost magical quality. It is this unique atmosphere that has fired Lesley Anne Derks' imagination since childhood, with her enduring fascination wonderfully reflected in her mesmerising urban nightscapes.

Born in Falkirk, Scotland, and brought up in Grangemouth, where she still lives and works, Lesley Anne's love of city night lights dates back to the BP petro-chemical plant where her father worked for 30 years. "The plant dominates much of the city's skyline", she says "and I was continually amazed that something that looked so grey and somewhat ugly during the day could become so beautiful at night. The whole city in fact has a strange orange night glow, which some people say gives it an alien world feel."

Grangemouth's halos of colours continued to influence her throughout her school years and whilst a student at Glasgow School of Art. They are still apparent in her work today, even in an abstract manner. It was in her final year at art school and following a three month student

exchange in Barcelona that she realised that what she loved most was painting cityscapes at night – something she has been doing for some ten years now. “I love what artificial light can create. It’s almost an alien sort of glow. There is also a strange eeriness sometimes when there are very few people about and it’s great to capture those moments.”

The five paintings in Lesley Anne’s first collection capture the vibrant energy of night time New York and London. “After art school I mainly painted Grangemouth for about four years” she says, “but people often saw New York in my work, which inspired me to go there. I love its iconic yellow taxis and vivid lights and last year I began painting London night scenes as well, which have a similar feel. But some of the street scenes could be anywhere really – I like the idea of the universality of energy in cities.”

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Yet despite a subject of dynamic streets bathed in artificial light, Lesley Anne’s paintings have a soft luminous glow and romantic feel. Working in enamels and oils, she starts with an enamel base then builds up layer upon layer of textures, rubbing through to achieve the special glow-like quality. She works on many pieces at a time, applying each layer and letting it dry for up to a week. She then adds more oil and glazes, new elements and more structure, as well as lots of tiny paintbrush marks. “I try to capture the halos of light, the warmth and smells of the cities. I want people to feel that they are actually there. Even in the same streets different things can happen. They alter with different light and the complete change of mood from day to night absolutely fascinates me.” Her affection for city life and their night-lit beauty shines through in every piece of work. “I never tire of cities”, she says “and I can’t imagine ever painting anything else.”

ON SHOW

Lesley Anne Derks’ new collection is available to view in galleries now. Visit www.washingtongreen.co.uk for more information.



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Image 26½" x 40"
£550



← **Afterglow**
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