

LOUISE DEAR ARTWORK FOR NEW ALFA ROMEO

To celebrate the launch of its new eco-friendly Alfa MiTo, Alfa Romeo commissioned Louise Dear to create exclusive artwork for the model. Produced as a striking art installation, the car was unveiled at Castle Galleries in Birmingham in July.

The parallels between Dear's style and the sporty Alfa MiTo's characteristics - young, exciting and combining classic beauty with unique design - made

her the perfect choice for the iconic brand. Using a complex method of layered paint onto aluminium, Dear interpreted the subject through a vibrant backdrop and mix of bold colours.

Louise said: "I really wanted to capture Alfa Romeo's heritage and sophistication whilst getting across the Alfa MiTo's fun image and green credentials. The car is targeted at a young, stylish audience with a positive attitude to life and I wanted to communicate this by using a combination of designs that convey powerful imagery mixed with elegance and beauty."



CHARITIES BENEFIT FROM WASHINGTON GREEN ARTISTS

Alexander Millar has joined presenter Phillip Schofield, TV's Dr Chris Steele and cricketer Steve Harmison as one of the patrons of the Bubble Foundation - a charity working to save the lives of babies and children born without an immune system. The charity is based at the Children's Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Meanwhile, Yorkshire born artist Bob Barker has created an original painting for the One in a Million charity in his home town. The charity works to improve the lives of vulnerable children and young people, helping them to achieve their full potential. 'One Day I'll Fly', with its inspiring imagery and title, will be auctioned at a special event later this year and is expected to raise significant funds for the charity.



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ART AROUND THE GLOBE

MARCH Billionaire Carlos Slim opened a museum in Mexico to house his private art collection. Included are works by El Greco, Rubens, Matisse and Dali, as well as the biggest collection of Rodin sculptures outside of France.

APRIL Chinese artist and political activist Ai Wei Wei, creator of the sunflower seed installation at the Tate Modern, was arrested in China; and a section of a Brighton wall featuring work by graffiti artist Banksy, was removed and shipped to the USA to be sold.

MAY In New York, Andy Warhol's first self-portrait sold for \$38.4m and Picasso's 'Nude, Green Leaves and Bust' sold for a record-breaking \$106.5m.

JUNE In the UK, a dealer finds an unknown 16th century Caravaggio painting in a private collection.

JULY Lucien Freud, distinguished portraiture artist and arguably the greatest British painter of his era, died in London.

AUGUST British artist Tracey Emin installed a neon artwork sign reading "more passion" at 10, Downing Street.