



## MY FAVOURITE *five*

Contemporary artist *Louise Dear* gives us a glimpse into what makes her laugh, cry - and inspires her to produce such vibrant and colourful works of art



### SONGS

I listen to music all the time, from opera to punk to jazz to reggae. So, it has been very difficult to pick just five and if you were to ask me tomorrow, they would probably be completely different. But, for now...

**SOMETHING BY SHIRLEY BASSEY** She is my hero. I adore her. She is the artist I mostly play when I paint and she has the ability to send me into a whirl of emotions simply by hitting that impenetrable note. I know how you feel Shirley! I feel that way too! There is always a new song of hers that is my 'song of the moment', but this one has always, simply, rung so true.

**GET MILES BY GOMEZ** I love his guttural, passionate voice. I have to play it at full volume and it sends shivers right through me.

### LOVE ME (TREAT ME LIKE A FOOL) BY ELVIS

Hearing this song has the effect of turning me into a quivering teenage girl, reminding me of all those naughty, delicious, smouldering eyed boys I was always falling for. It is also a favourite song for my daughter and I to sing, at the tops of our voices whilst speeding down nameless motorways or country lanes on any of our countless road trips.

**LA SOLEDAD BY PINK MARTINI** Sexy, hip-swaying tango always makes me want to dance and I invariably do.

**SUMMERTIME BY LAMA SEA DEAR** 'And the living is easy.' And so it is. When my daughter sings her version of this timeless classic, sung in her deep, throaty, bluesy, beautiful voice, I am always moved to tears; overwhelmed with emotion and an adoring mother's pride.

**PHRASES** These are not only the five phrases that I use most often but also expressions that I live my life by. 1. 'I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul' • 2. 'There are no rules' • 3. 'Those who stop dreaming are fools' • 4. 'I have my moments' • 5. 'Oh Yes!' Why bother with no when 'YES' will do perfectly well!



## PLACES

### KOH PHANGAN, THAILAND

When I was younger I travelled the world without a care in it. It was during this time that I found myself on the west coast of Koh Phangan, Thailand and discovered paradise. The kind, smiling people are beautiful, their cuisine is delicious, the climate superb and the beaches ... oh the beaches! I was in heaven. And here in a little wooden hut, semi-naked, brown and happy I stayed, swam, painted, ate and laughed for nearly three months. Divine.

the beautiful South Hams surrounding the historic town of Totnes I instantly realised I had found it. Within three months my whole family had relocated here, my daughter was settled in the local school, my studio was set up and now, after nearly a decade, it is like we have never lived anywhere else. My 'British Byron Bay'.

**ON THE BOAT** I live between a regular house and a boat, an old wooden pilot cutter, moored at the



**BYRON BAY, AUSTRALIA** Whilst living in Sydney, Australia I was invited to a party in Byron Bay and thought nothing of taking the ten-hour drive to attend. The party was great but it was the place that captivated me and on that occasion I stayed for a further two weeks. Vast white sandy beaches with crashing waves and dolphins that play in the surf and delight and entice you to swim with them if you dare. The artistic free spirited people that inhabit the town and surrounding hills create a laid back atmosphere full of colour and imagination.

**TOTNES, DEVON** I had spent my youth searching this planet for a place to call my home and when I entered

moment, on the River Dart. The stillness, the quiet, the solitude. The sun on the water, the fresh air, the wildlife, the complete naturalness of being at one in the wilderness. It is here with my partner I am most content.

**ON THE BEACH** Any beach, any time, any season, any weather.



‘The artistic free spirited people that inhabit the town and surrounding hills create a laid back atmosphere full of colour and imagination.’

## FIVE THINGS TO TAKE TO A DESERT ISLAND



I'm presuming that I can't take any people which will be heartbreaking for me and I will get terribly lonely. So ...

### SOME OLIVE OIL

For cooking with, pouring over salads to make a dressing (I'm presuming citrus fruits will be growing locally) and keeping my skin supple. I'd hate to shrivel up in all that sun.

### MY LEATHERMAN

A multi-purpose penknife with everything on it even tweezers! I never travel without it.

### MY CASHMERE PONCHO

It's so cosy. When I'm lonely and homesick I can curl up in it and feel cuddled.

I'd need some **PAPER** and **PENS** ... I am an artist after all.

# LOUISE DEAR



## ARTISTS

I am always discovering new artists and love nothing more than aimlessly wandering around galleries and art fairs absorbed in the 'stuff' that is Art. These are just a few whom I hold in high esteem.



**PAUL MORRISON** I simply adore the simplicity of Morrison's work; yet completely respect its complexity. It calms me, fascinates, enthuses and motivates me. His influence is very evident in my own practice.

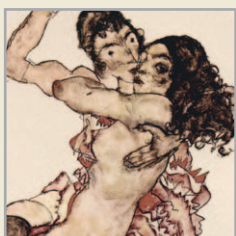
**LISA YUSKAVAGE** Gorgeous, voluptuous girls with oversized bottoms and swollen breasts. Exquisitely and expertly painted in oils capturing light that delicately caresses the figure and seduces the viewer.



**TAKASHI MURAKAMI** Several years ago I travelled to LA, specifically to see an exhibition at MOCA by this monster of an artist. How skillfully he blurs the line between high and low art. I have a tremendous passion and excitement for his creations and am continually inspired by his 'superflat' imagery and his reinvention of ancient traditions.



**DAVID SPILLER** I love the colours the energy and life in these works and the daring graffiti, randomly and vigorously applied over the finished piece. Chaos versus complete control. It is as though we can hear his mind working as he paints. I long to own one of these works.



**EGON SCHIELE** Egon, oh Egon. You naughty man.



David LaChapelle photography

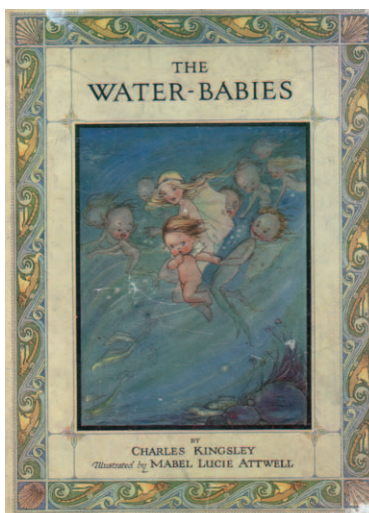
## BOOKS

**PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER BY PATRICK SUSKAND** The story of Grenouille, an orphan, born with a highly sophisticated nose for scent. This beautifully twisted erotic tale explores the sense of smell, the most basic of senses and the emotional meaning that scent may bring.

**THE NEW PENGUIN BOOK OF LOVE POETRY** This wonderful book is a treasure trove of passionate delights. I carry it with me whenever I travel and always find new verses and phrases to thrill and inspire me.

**THE WATER BABIES BY CHARLES KINGSLEY ILLUSTRATED BY MABEL LUCIE ATWELL** I have owned and adored this book since childhood as, judging from its well-worn pages, it was much adored before me. I love the story yet it is Lucie Atwell's illustrations in this particular volume that I so admire. Her cutesy big-eyed children with their oversized heads predated the Manga imagery of today, highly influenced by the ancient artists of the floating world, so in vogue at the turn of the last century.

**FOU BY CHRIS WILSON** I am reading this again right now. A young girl of sublime beauty, with a split personality. Sweet and innocent by day yet by night she roams the streets of Vienna becoming the muse and seductress of many a respectable gent. Writers, artists, psychotherapists and poets all fall under her spell. Divinely decadent.



**LACHAPPELE LAND PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID LACHAPPELE** This gorgeous, colourful, shiny book is one of my prize possessions. I find the vibrant kitchness of LaChapelle's photographs as pleasing on the eye as a pink frosted sweet cherry topped fairy cake is on the tongue.