

Vivid patterns inspired by Spanish architect

by Samantha Chapman

VIVID patterns and inspiring patterns are to take over the Fountain Gallery in East Molesey as part of a new exhibition.

Artist Suzy Abrahams is to hold a one-woman show called *Barcelona and Beyond* at the venue from September 5.

Inspired by renowned Barcelona architect Anton Gaudi and his colourful and vibrant Park Guell, Suzy has produced a spirited collection of paintings.

The brightly-coloured serpent in the park, which is entirely constructed of colourful fragmented ceramic decorations, provided the starting point for Suzy's collection.

"I was overwhelmed by Gaudi's unlimited imagination," said Suzy.

"Park Guell was constructed between 1900 and 1914 and contin-

ues to be controversial to this day. Gaudi was a genius and the projects were way ahead of his time."

Suzy's paintings are arranged on the canvases in vibrant way with vivid colours and critics have described the powerful acrylic and mixed media abstract paintings as capturing the essence of Barcelona.

She studied graphic design at Brighton Polytechnic and then Goldsmiths' College in the late 70s and then worked as a graphic designer in point of sale, advertising and publishing.

In 1990, Suzy studied computer art and animation at Epsom College of Art and then worked as a freelance graphic designer.

Then, five years ago, she began painting.

At first, she explored pastel techniques — which resulted in a successful range of greeting cards — and, at the same time, she became "converted" to digital photography.

After a trip to Brazil in 2003, she produced a series of paintings which were inspired by her photographs.

Suzy has sold her work to clients in the UK, America, Japan, Netherlands and Israel and there is a permanent collection at Crawley Hospital in West Sussex.

"Suzy's work is impressive — it is the perfect way to enhance the environment," said Cllr Jim Smith, Mayor of Crawley.

Suzy will be available throughout the exhibition and all her photographs, limited edition prints and original paintings and pictures will be for sale.

Her galleries can be viewed online at www.suzyabrahams.com.

Suzy's previous exhibitions have been staged at venues such as the Grace Barrand Design Centre in Surrey during November and December 2004, Denbies Picture Gallery in May 2005 and Battersea

Contemporary Art Fair in May 2006.

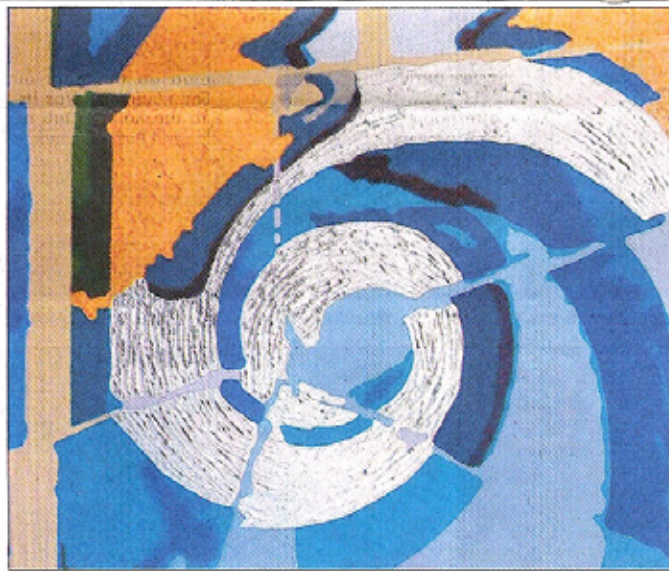
Barcelona and Beyond is at the Fountain Gallery in Bridge Road from next Tuesday until September 17.

The exhibition will be open Tuesdays to Thursdays and Sundays from 11am until 5.30pm and on Fridays and Saturdays from 10am until 5.30pm. The gallery is closed on Mondays.

Admission is free and people can log on to www.fountaingallery.co.uk or call 0208 9415865 for more details.

The Fountain Gallery is an artist co-operative gallery that currently has 18 members. This means that buyers can purchase art directly from the artists without commission, which allows prices to be kept affordable.

The professional artist members of the gallery exhibit regularly, with other exhibition slots being reserved for invited guest artists.



Suzy's vibrant work is inspired by Gaudi's architecture.