

From sculpture to textiles to illustration, members of the art department at Elizabeth College are putting their talents on display in a new exhibition.

Shaun Shackleton went along

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Artists (from far left)
Louise Stephens, Sharka
Lee, Adam Stephens,
Charlie Buchanan and
Jacqueline Pendleton.
(Picture by Peter
Frankland, 19743882)

FIVE artists from Elizabeth College's art department are displaying their talents in an exhibition at the Gate House Gallery this weekend. Head of creative arts Adam Stephens, art teachers Charlie Buchanan, Sharka Lee and Jacqueline Pendleton, and art technician Louise Stephens will be showing everything from sculpture to tapestry.

'Charlie, Sharka and I did a show together about three years ago,' explained Adam.

'This year we thought we'd invite Jacqui and Louise to show an even more diverse range of art techniques. It's all different work.'

For his part, Adam will be showing some new sculptural pieces along with experiments in collage and paintings.

'Although the work is completely abstract it still contains the traces of an original experience, which could be associated, for

example, with the effects of light or movement, of a sense of place, or with inner feelings or emotions.'

With his new work, Adam has also started to veer outside his comfort zone.

'I have begun to tackle colour in a much more serious way than I have ever done before, which has been simultaneously exhilarating and nerve-racking.'

Jacqueline will be exhibiting her pottery work, which includes four or five large pots and a selection of thrown work. 'There's a relationship between the two.'

This is the first time she has exhibited at the Gate House Gallery.

'I think it's part of our integrity as art teachers to show our work, Adam encourages it.'

Louise has shown her work before, at the Skipton Arts Festival.

'I'll be exhibiting my tapestry weaving. I have a scaffolding loom and an

A1 wooden frame for the smaller, more intricate pieces.

'The piece on the wall [in the photograph behind the artists] is an impressive 7ft x 7ft and took two months to complete.'

She uses materials both from the UK and Guernsey.

'I get my yarns from William Hall & Co in Cheshire and Stitches on the Bridge.'

Two of the artists will be exhibiting illustrations from their books – Sharka from her just published *The Princess Who Would Not Brush Her Hair*, and Charlie from her work in progress, *Invasion of the Wavelets*.

'They are the original illustrations from the book,' said Sharka. 'The book was inspired by my daughter when she was little – she's now 17. It's about the everyday struggles of being a parent but turning those struggles into adventures.'

Sharka's illustrations use both watercolour and

collage techniques.

'I wanted the characters to look like a normal family – they're royalty but it's a modern take on a fairytale.'

Sharka's book, which was created with a partial grant by the Guernsey Arts Commission, will be on sale on the exhibition's opening night.

Charlie's book is scheduled for Christmas 2018.

'The story, which is a folk tale, has been written by my husband, Magnus. It's an original story but mined from Marie de Garis.'

For the exhibition, Charlie is showing five completed illustrations.

'I have 16 large-scale paintings to do for the book and I'm about halfway through.'

Having herself published two books previously, Charlie thinks it's great that there are two authors at the college.

'Sharka and I have similar interests, illustration and folk tales, but hers being Czech and mine being Guernsey.'

◆ Opening night is on Friday, 7-9pm. The exhibition is then open 10am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday, and on 18 and 19 November.