



# An Incredible Journey

The popular contemporary painter **Peter Smith**, best known for his vibrant paintings of quirky characters, has taken a leap in the dark with his ambitious new collection, entitled **Far Beyond Driven** - a series of very personal paintings which mark a journey of development in his artistic style.





**'THE HEARTS COME FROM MY DESIRE TO FEEL PART OF A FAMILY AND THE SPECIAL BOND OF LOVE. THE RINGS BECOME MY BODY DEPICTING MY STRUGGLE WITH LIFE AND MY ARTWORK'**

There is a sense of continuity within the new pieces as hearts, houses and rings are identified: "The houses come from my need for stability offering a sanctuary of comfort; the hearts from my desire to feel part of a family and the special bond of love; and the rings become my body depicting the struggle with life and my artwork" explains Smith. With works such as the powerful 'Home is More than a House' and 'Lean on Me' there is a sense that Smith has embarked on exciting new territory and the results are powerful and visually stunning.

Smith acknowledges artistic influences such as Salvador Dali "and his unusual slant on the world", but maintains most of his inspiration comes from observing people and everyday life. The actual painting process he finds extremely intense. "When I start my painting I am full of enthusiasm, but after a few days it becomes an internal struggle to complete it to my satisfaction. Thus starts the turmoil and the real painting starts to emerge."

He believes his new work will not alienate his established fans. "I will still re-visit my previous style in the future, but I'm hoping the new collection will bring in a wider audience. I like to keep things fresh and surprise people!"

**S**mith says his collection of eight paintings represents "the shock of the new," indicating a dynamic new progression in his career. The paintings all contain what he calls "imagery of a more adult palette" and navigate his own personal journey in terms of emotional growth as an artist and human being. He says: "Over the last 18 months my perception of myself has changed and allowed me to express my inner emotional turmoil. I've dealt with subjects like isolation, aspirations and family life, areas which affect us all, and the struggle to bring these feelings to the canvas," explains Smith.

A self-taught artist, Smith made a huge impact in the art world when he first produced his naive paintings in 2005, displaying a masterful understanding of colour and shape - a legacy of over 16 years working in the fashion world. Smith is best loved for the colourful childlike pictures of rotund and cuddly 'hippopotamus' like creatures, affectionately nicknamed by fans as 'Zeppos' or 'Impossimals'. While keeping to the trademark crisp lines and bright splashes of colour of his previous work, Far Beyond Driven - in contrast - encompasses big emotional themes of love, loneliness and the meaning of home.

Far Beyond Driven will be on show in selected galleries from April onwards. For more information visit [www.washingtongreen.co.uk](http://www.washingtongreen.co.uk)

↑ **On The Hill Of Hope**  
Giclée edition of 295  
Image 18" x 24"  
Framed £425

→ **Shadows Without A Sun**  
Giclée edition of 295  
Image 14½" x 28"  
Framed £425



→ **Riding The Storm**  
Canvas edition of 150  
Image 40" x 32"  
Framed £795



**RIDING THE STORM**

"In this painting the ring symbolises your body, carrying your heart up and down through all life has to offer you, in this great journey. Some hills are steeper, others reveal a plateau, but each inevitably shapes us. Whatever hill you are facing, follow your heart, and ride the storm."