

**CHARLOTTE HARDY**  
 Cosmo Artist 2004-2005  
 Since graduating in printed textile design at Manchester Metropolitan University, Charlotte has exhibited paintings and prints as well as doing illustration commissions.  
[www.charlottehardy.drivinhq.com](http://www.charlottehardy.drivinhq.com)



## Cosmo China - 20th Anniversary Exhibition

Cosmo China is a handpainted ceramics studio and shop in Bloomsbury, London.

Cosmo started life in 1985 as The Northington street studio in a building off the Gray's Inn Road. Josie Firmin had met her business partner Christopher Strangeways a few years previously in his shop Strangeways in Covent Garden. Together they saw a gap in the market for bespoke handpainted china. The original shop was run as a sort of open studio, enabling passers-by the opportunity to watch the artists at work and buy their produce. This set-up proved popular with customers who were able to communicate directly with the artists painting their china and order special commissions. Josie encouraged her sisters and college friends to join the painting collective, as well as scouting for talent at degree shows. Eventually they outgrew the studio, and Josie and Christopher opened a proper shop in Cosmo Place in 1990. Today there are over 15 artists painting for Cosmo China in London and Canterbury, where a sister-shop was opened in 1992.

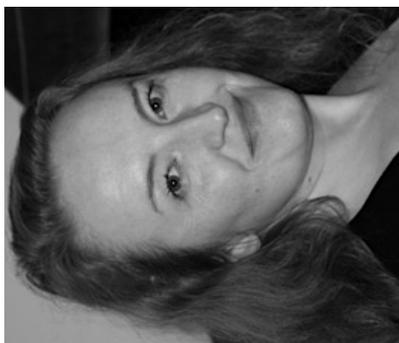
Two decades later and Cosmo China is still going strong, with more devoted customers than ever. To celebrate our 20th anniversary we asked 20 Cosmo artists past and present, plus some special guests, to paint us a plate.



**PETER FIRMIN**  
 Guest Artist

After training at the Colchester School of Art and Central St Martins, Peter co-founded Smallfilms with the late Oliver Postgate. Together they made Noggin the Nog, Ivor the Engine, Clangers and Baggins. He has six daughters, four of whom paint at Cosmo.





**TINA THOMAS**

Cosmo Artist 1990-present  
Tina studied Industrial Ceramic Design at Swansea Metropolitan University before moving to London in 1990 where she worked in photography, fashion and visual merchandise. She has now settled in Wales and is the only Cosmo artist to paint from home.



**JULIE ARKELL**

Cosmo Artist 1986-1990  
Josie first invited Julie to paint at Northington St Studio when she saw her work at the Chelsea Craft Fair. Julie is now a significant contemporary folk artist, selling her work in galleries across the world.



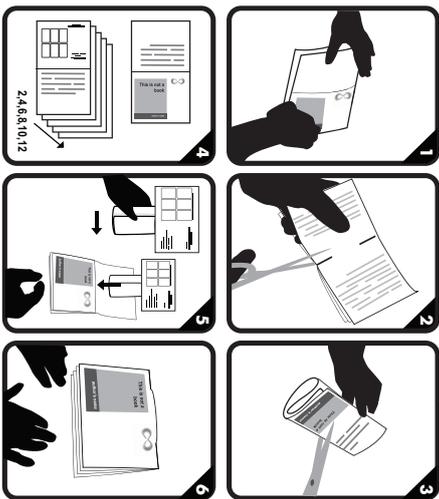
**20th Anniversary Exhibition**

**Cosmo China**

Cosmo China  
11 Cosmo Place, London WC1N 3AP  
6 Palace Street, Canterbury CT1 2DZ  
www.cosmochina.co.uk  
cover by Josie Firmin © 2010

2010-07-27

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**SELINA SNOW**

Cosmo Artist | 1988-1990  
 Selina trained at Camberwell School of Art, Bristol and the Slade. She has lived and worked in Paris and Sydney but is now settled in London. She has a passion for food.  
[www.selinasnow.com](http://www.selinasnow.com)



**LIDA CARDOZO-KINDERSLEY**

Guest Artist  
 Lida runs a letter-cutting workshop in Cambridge. Originally from Holland, she trained at the Royal Academy. Lida is a highly skilled letter-cutter; perhaps most famous for designing and carving the British Library gates.



**KARI TVEITE**

Cosmo Artist | 1998-present  
 Kari grew up in Oslo and came to the UK at the age of 17. She studied mural design at the Chelsea School of Art and later went on to do a post graduate degree in stained glass. Apart from painting at Cosmo, Kari is a reflexologist and a black belt in Karate.



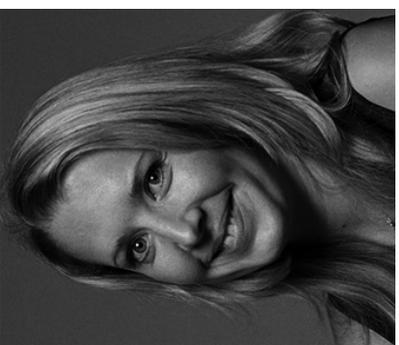
**DOUGLAS BEVANS**

Cosmo Artist | 1987-1992  
 Douglas has a passion for sketchbooks and calligraphy and is a tutor of Print-making and Bookbinding at Central St Martins.



**FLETCHER PRENTICE**

Cosmo Artist 1990-present  
Fletcher is a freelance designer and painter trained in Fine Art at Falmouth. He works in a variety of media including china, greetings cards and textiles. He has recently rejoined Cosmo's fold. [www.fletcherprentice.co.uk](http://www.fletcherprentice.co.uk)



**POLLY DUNBAR**

Cosmo Artist 2006-2008  
Polly Dunbar trained in illustration at University in Brighton, where she now lives and works. Author and illustrator of several children's books, she also runs a puppet company, Longnose Puppets. [www.pollydunbar.com](http://www.pollydunbar.com).



**CHRISTOPHER STRANGEWAYS**

Artist & Co-Owner 1984-present  
Josie's business partner. Christopher has been working in retail since the 70s when he opened his first shop on King's Road, Strangeways. He now runs an organic farm in Rye, East Sussex.

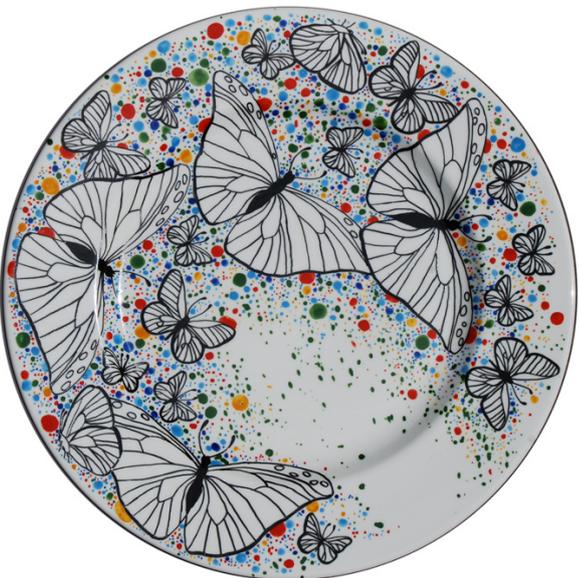


**SHEILA COLLINS**

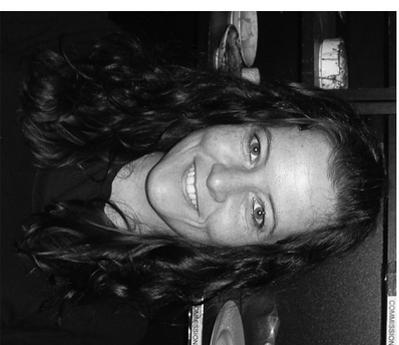
Cosmo Artist 1995-present  
Sheila trained in ceramics at Central St. Martins, where she was spotted at her degree show by Josie. As well as painting at Cosmo, Sheila is an Art Editor for Doring Kindersley Children's books.



**JOANNE MORGAN**  
Cosmo Artist 2007-present  
Joanne is a performer and painter who trained in Chicago Illinois. One of her sketchbooks was purchased by the Victoria and Albert Museum for the permanent collection.



**COLETTE PADOVANI**  
Cosmo Artist 2004-present  
Colette is an artist, writer, milliner and astronomy enthusiast. She grew up in South Africa and has been a UK resident for many years. She now works at the Aldwych theatre.



**EMILY FIRMIN**  
Cosmo Artist 1988-present  
Emily trained at Central St Martins. She now lives and works in Whitstable, making extraordinary paper-mache sculptures with her partner Justine Mitchell as Total Pap.  
[www.totalpap.co.uk](http://www.totalpap.co.uk)



**CHARLOTTE FIRMIN**  
Cosmo Artist 1992-present  
Charlotte trained at Hornsey and Brixton and has been a children's book illustrator since the age of 23. She also runs story-telling workshops for primary and secondary school children.





**GARETH LUCAS**

Cosmo Artist 1999-present  
Gareth is a freelance illustrator trained at Brighton. He also teaches graphic design and guitar to secondary school children.



**KATH LUCAS**

Cosmo Artist 1999-present  
Kath Lucas trained at Brighton. As well as doing illustrations for greetings cards, she also collaborates with her husband Gareth on children's picture books.



**JOSIE FIRMIN**

Cosmo Artist & Owner 1984-present  
Josie trained at Winchester College of Art. She opened her first china shop, Northington Street Studio, with business partner Christopher Strangeways in 1984. She also illustrates children's books.



**HANNAH FIRMIN**

Guest Artist  
Hannah is a freelance illustrator and printmaker, trained at Chelsea and the Royal College of Art. You are most likely to have seen her covers of the popular series of books 'The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency' by Alexander McCall Smith.  
[www.hannahfirmin.com](http://www.hannahfirmin.com)