

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Keep Calm and Caricaturise – artist Lyn will be Quick on the Draw at Haddo House

As jobs go, it's one of the more unusual occupations around but for Aberdeenshire artist Lyn Elrick, drawing caricatures is a way of life.

Attending weddings, corporate events and charity fundraisers, Lyn produces hundreds of caricatures a year, working her magic with her pencil and sketch pad.

She will be doing just that at the National Trust for Scotland's Haddo House near Ellon on Saturday 22 July where she will spend the afternoon sketching free caricatures for visitors to the elegant mansion house noted for its fine furniture and paintings.

Adults, children and even pets visiting the house and its country park which has lakes, walks and monuments, will be welcome to have a quick sitting with Lyn.

She says: "Caricatures are quite personal and as it's my interpretation of a face, it's all about what I see and how I interpret it. It takes speed and the ability to multi-task and it's spontaneous which is a great contrast to realistic drawing.

"I love drawing pets as their eyes tell you everything you need to know about their personality and temperament. Children are fantastic as they are not self-conscious and are always so interested in what you're doing. The best guests are always the little ones as they sit perfectly and love talking about drawing and I think, 'at last, a captive audience'. At home my family start rolling their eyes when I start talking about pencils.

"The best thing is hearing laughter from guests watching and having a drawing done.

"It's a great atmosphere, it's a great way to meet a lot of different and very interesting people and I love visiting different venues.

"No two events are the same so it's always varied. The drawback is being at the mercy of so many people's opinions –artists are a sensitive lot so it can be difficult having between 20 and 30 opinions in three hours when normally I could

do a commission over a week then have one person to make sure is happy with the result.”

The self-taught artist set up Picky Pencils at Stuartfield, near Peterhead, seven years ago specialising in caricatures and illustrations and said it was beyond her wildest dreams that she'd be able to make a living from her passion for drawing.

Having sketched portraits of family friends and famous people in magazines from a young age, she adapted her technique through trial and error to incorporate both realistic and caricature styles. Her preferred media is pencil due to the precision and depth of colour that can be achieved.

Lyn has some sage advice for budding caricaturists and artists – practice makes perfect.

“Keep practising and keep enjoying it and don't be afraid to try new styles,” she says. “Always push yourself out your comfort zone, learn from other artists you like and admire and ask lots of questions.

“Try not to take any negative comments to heart there is no such thing as a bad drawing, just a bad opinion.”

Lyn is looking forward to her assignment for the National Trust for Scotland at Haddo House, which boasts its own very impressive art collection, including the Haddo Madonna, which is 'probably by' Raphael. She will be based in front of the house from 12-3pm.

Caricatures are free but donations on the day to support events at Haddo will be welcome.

It's one of a range of special events being held by the National Trust for Scotland, Scotland's largest conservation charity, at its properties, over the summer months.

For more details visit:

https://www.facebook.com/events/339456359782140/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%223%22%2C%22ref_newsfeed_story_type%22%3A%22regular%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D

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