

Welcome to 'Under Exposed' folks, the column dedicated to bringing Swindon's hidden talents into the lime light. This month I shall be learning ye folks of Gabriela Jolowicz - AKA Gabi - and we will be discussing 'woodcut printing'.

Born in Salzgitter, Swindon's twinned town (or is that Disney World Resort now? I am not sure), Gabi came to Swindon after graduating from the highly esteemed 'Academy of Visual Arts' (Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst) in Leipzig, Germany.

The University at Leipzig is one of the oldest universities in the world. Historically it has produced many notable individuals such as Friedrich Nietzsche, German Philosopher and many more besides. It was at the universities academy of visual arts that, by a stroke of serendipity, Gabi discovered her passion for her preferred method of art, Woodcutting. Believers in fate may consider that woodcutting discovered Gabi.

Woodcutting is a printing technique where an image is painstakingly carved into the face of a wooden blank. The artist carves away the parts of the image which are not to be printed, not only working in negative but also in reverse. When the image is eventually inked and printed onto paper, the image will be mirrored, thus the right way around (hope you're keeping up?) When I asked Gabi how long her Woodcuts take, she nonchalantly replied "from one week up to several months, depending on the size and detail of the print"

Stede: That is commitment to your art. Is the carving process therapeutic?

Gabi: Nah, it's a nightmare. But the creative process is very rewarding. The cutting is just hard work... and then when I have finished I worry about the next piece. (She says this whilst anxiously finishing the remainder of her beer)

After finding true love in our humble town, Gabi stayed here and is currently based locally. I was very privileged to be able to visit Gabi's studio and more importantly, see her woodcuts. The stacks of elegant woodcuts which I was shown were both



compelling and charming.

They were compelling because of her point of focus, which is evidently based on her observations from everyday life. I felt I was drawn into the many familiar scenes she portrays - discount stores, living rooms, multi-storey buildings and bars - It was as if I had been sitting beside her as she conceived the pieces (Maybe I was, it's been a long and weird life and I forget most of it).

They're also very charming. This is because of her unique style which most notably consists of varying levels of detail to each subject throughout any one picture, from basic outlines to intrinsic detail. She also has a unique perspective-distortion which creates a postmodern feel to all her pieces - Truly beautiful.

Stede: Can the readers buy your prints?

Gabi: Yeah, prints of all my work are for sale at my gallery in Leipzig (visit [www.emmanuelpost.com](http://www.emmanuelpost.com)). I have also got my art published in a book called Megabillig. All of the pages of the Megabillig are actually genuine woodcut prints.

The Megabillig is a book that contains a beautiful collection of Gabi's stunning

woodcuts. It's a real show case, boasting her wonderful technique and style. To see PICTURES of the book visit: [http://hey-gabi.de/diploma\\_neu.html](http://hey-gabi.de/diploma_neu.html) (Click into each picture to go to the next) or to order a copy visit: [www.lubok-books.com](http://www.lubok-books.com)

Stede: How does it make you feel if you make a sale on a print or even a whole book?

Gabi: It feels very good. After all the hard work I put in, it's like a reward.

Stede: Which artist are your biggest influences?

Gabi: My favourite artists are hmm... I like David Hockney and Paul

Delvaux and Saul Steinberg ... oh and Wolfgang Mattheuer. Not sure how much my work was influenced by any of them, but these are some my favourite artists. I also like comic books like Tintin and Asterix - a lot.

It is also worthy to note that Gabi has always been connected to the 'musical scene' in all the various cities she has lived-in throughout her life. I found it interesting to discover that she has been designing album covers, posters, flyers and t-shirts for bands since her school days. Some of the posters or flyers that you see in Swindon may actually be Gabi's handy work.

If you are interested in viewing Gabi's art make sure you visit her website (it's an excellent website too) and the homepage of her gallerist Emmanuel Post. You can also find more of her art via the other links below.

[www.hey-gabi.de](http://www.hey-gabi.de)  
[www.emmanuelpost.com](http://www.emmanuelpost.com)  
[www.galerie-post.de/dokumente/upload/33972\\_gabriela\\_jolowicz\\_arbeiten.pdf](http://www.galerie-post.de/dokumente/upload/33972_gabriela_jolowicz_arbeiten.pdf)

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An interview with woodcut artist - Gabriela Jolowicz

# UNDER EXPOSED

Puttyfoot Photography & Stede Bonnet present Under Exposed artist focus for 2011