

excellent artists that selecting a mere handful seems churlish. And heavyweights, some with connections to a bygone St Ives, still abound. The work of Rose Hilton, Breon O'Casey, Trevor Bell and Barrie Cook might be seen to cast a long and unforgiving shadow over those toiling away in relative obscurity. So, too, is there a phalanx of established, successful artists, often of differing hues – Kurt Jackson, Jeremy Annear, Jessica Cooper, Catherine Hyde, Tim Shaw and Naomi Frears, to name but a few.

And yet to wander almost any sizeable Cornish town is to encounter a lively, bustling gallery, each bursting with rising stars. Take the Belgrave Gallery in St Ives, for example. Director Michael Gaca has made a name not merely for the gallery's fine art but also for its eclectic street and skate art shows. He cites Sarah Poland as one of Cornwall's up and coming stars. "Sarah is very interesting, not merely because she lives and works in a converted lorry, but because of the way in which she mythologises the ancient landscape of

West Penwith through her free-flowing, spontaneous and improvised mark-making," says Gaca.

Also in St Ives, Joseph Clarke, owner of the Millennium Gallery, unhesitatingly lists not one, not two, not three but four young artists in their 20s as ones to watch. "Danny Fox,

The Cornish art scene is as compelling as ever - and the best way to experience it is to get out and about, amongst it all

Sam Basset, Juliette Paull and Naomi Hannam are all starting out," he says, "and they're all very good." He also cites Paul Chaney and Daryl Waller as "two artists who are really driving things forward in exciting directions."

Elsewhere, Linda Stoneman, owner of Penzance's

Ever since the extension of the Great Western Railway to St Ives in 1877, artists have flocked to Cornwall in droves. The late 19th century Lamorna and Newlyn Schools of Art were trail-blazers, establishing the notion of the artists' colony - one which would be emulated across Europe - while the 1950s saw a remarkable array of artistic talent converge on and flourish in St Ives, so much so that Cornwall's painterly legacy is second only to London's.

But if the likes of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, Terry Frost, Patrick Heron, Roger Hilton, Peter Lanyon, Karl Weschke and Bryan Wynter, along with the pioneering potter, Bernard Leach and the sculptor, Barbara Hepworth - leviathans of modernism in Cornwall and the St Ives School, whose heyday was the 1950s - are now household names, who, as the first decade of the 21st century comes to a close, is making waves?

In some ways, the question is an invidious one. The reality of contemporary art in Cornwall is that there are so many

excellent artists that selecting a mere handful seems thurish. And heavyweights, some with connections to a bygone St Ives, still abound. The work of Rose Hilton, Breon O'Casey, Trevor Bell and Barrie Cook might be seen to cast a long and unforgiving shadow over those toiling away in relative obscurity. So, too, is there a phalanx of established, successful artists, often of differing hues - Kurt Jackson, Jeremy Annear, Jessica Cooper, Catherine Hyde, Tim Shaw and Naomi Friers, to name but a few.

And yet to wander almost any sizeable Cornish town is to encounter a lively, bustling gallery, each bursting with rising stars. Take the Belgrave Gallery in St Ives, for example. Director Michael Gaca has made a name not merely for the gallery's fine art but also for its eclectic street and skate art shows. He cites Sarah Poland as one of Cornwall's up and coming stars. "Sarah is very interesting, not merely because she lives and works in a converted lorry, but because of the way in which she mythologises the ancient landscape of

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

West Penwith through her free-flowing, spontaneous and improvised mark-making," says Gaca.

Also in St Ives, Joseph Clarke, owner of the Millennium Gallery, unhesitatingly lists not one, not two, not three but four young artists in their 20s as ones to watch. "Danny Fox,

The Cornish art scene is as compelling as ever - and the best way to experience it is to get out and about, amongst it all

Sam Basset, Juliette Paull and Naomi Hannam are all starting out," he says, "and they're all very good." He also cites Paul Chaney and Daryl Waller as "two artists who are really driving things forward in exciting directions."

Elsewhere, Linda Stoneman, owner of Penzance's

Stoneman Gallery (which specialises in prints by Sir Terry Frost and the work of Breon O'Casey) says that the Cornish art scene is as compelling as ever. "I'm not convinced that it's the county's light that draws people here," she says. "I think it may be more to do with Cornwall's rich artistic heritage and bohemian feel. But whatever the precise source of the attraction, art continues to blossom here. I'd say that Heath Hearn, from the Rame Peninsula, and Karen Wade, from Mousehole, are two very talented artists who are going places." The list could go on - and on. That's the beauty of art in Cornwall. So, too, its subjectivity. One man's everyday artist may be another's rising star. The only way to make your mind up is get out and about, amongst it all. You won't be disappointed. 📍

This article first appeared *Cornwall: The Official Destination Guide 2011* and is reproduced courtesy of www.visitcornwall.com.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: HEATH HEARN, SARAH POLAND, FLOWER REMEDY, NAOMI FRIARS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JEREMY ANNEAR, KAREN WADE; HEATH HEARN; CATHERINE HYDE, THE BRIGHT SUN; NAOMI FRIARS

