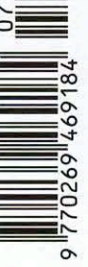


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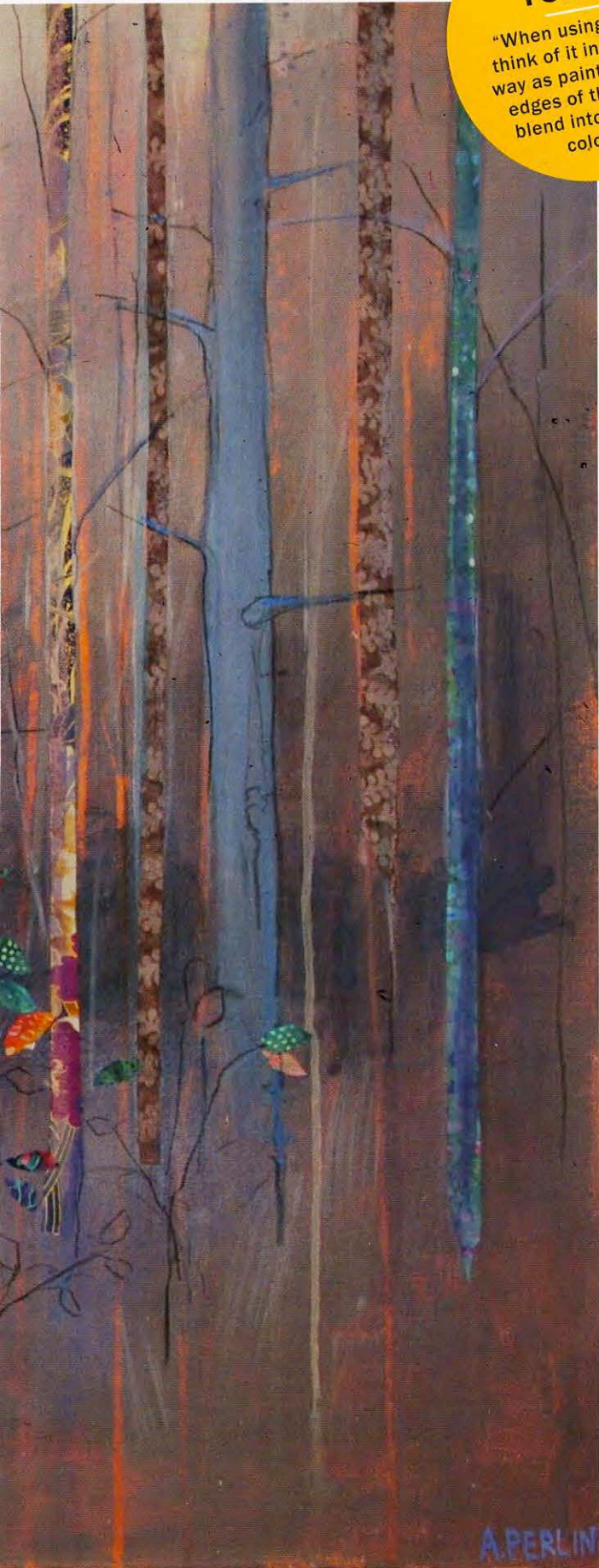
Brush
WITH FAME

Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and the stars of BBC's *Celebrity Painting Challenge* share their passions



**ANNA'S
TOP TIP**

"When using collage, think of it in the same way as paint. Let some edges of the collage blend into the paint colours."



Anna Perlin

Avid readers of *Artists & Illustrators* may recognise the name of Anna Perlin. The Hertfordshire-based mixed media painter was named our Artist of the Year in 2017 after impressing the judges of our ninth annual art competition.

Part of Anna's first prize for winning our Artists of the Year 2017 was gallery representation with Thackeray Gallery, a prestigious fine art gallery in London's Kensington that has been exclusively promoting British artists' work since it was founded in 1968. "Winning the award has been a great stepping stone for developing my work and taking a few risks experimenting with new subjects, as well as exploring ones I love further," she says.

Anna joined a portfolio of talent that over the years has included some of Britain's greatest fine artists, including the late great Sir Kyffin Williams and last month's cover star, Jennifer McRae. She has taken her time to develop with the gallery, showing in a number of group shows at first, including a 50th anniversary show last year, before working up to her first solo exhibition with them this summer.

"The Thackeray Gallery have been incredibly supportive," says Anna. "We've worked together to get the show together, which is titled *Window Through the Seasons* and will show favourite subjects such as my local woodland and countryside, as well as new seascapes."

Dappled Light is taken from the forthcoming exhibition and came about after Anna took a walk in her local woods last autumn. "The sun was low but full of colour which was reflecting through the trees and remaining leaves so I wanted to capture that."

The trees are collaged from a vast horde of patterned fabrics that Anna has collected over the years. The artist has a degree in textile design and marketing, but this use of materials was in fact inspired by her mum's quilt-making offcuts. Nevertheless, Anna says her studies have proved useful in other less obvious ways: "My background in textile design helped me understand the commercial aspects of a creative career as there's a lot of work needed to support painting full time."

If this new exhibition is anything to go by, she needn't worry. Our former Artist of the Year clearly has a long and bright career ahead of her.

Anna's new exhibition, *Window Through the Seasons*, runs from 2-19 July at Thackeray Gallery, London W8. www.artistsandillustrators.co.uk/annaperlin

LEFT Anna Perlin, *Dappled Light*, mixed media on canvas, 76x102cm