

LINCOLN TOWNLEY



Lincoln Townley is becoming one of the world's most famous contemporary artists. His work has been exhibited at major international galleries including the National Gallery, TATE Modern, the Royal Academy of Arts in London and most soon to be exhibiting in Saatchi Gallery.

The work is collected by connoisseurs of art and many high profile individuals, celebrities and art collectors alike, many of whom share a fascination with the mesmeric and turbulent themes of his work that reflect the story of his rise of becoming a phenomenal success story in the art world. He has gone on to be commissioned to paint the world's biggest stars that include people like Al Pacino, Madonna, Robert Downey Jr, Gary Oldman, Mickey Rourke and Sir John Hurt amongst several others. Sir Michael Caine hailed him as the 'next Andy Warhol'.

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ICONS by Lincoln Townley

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Former booze addicted artist hubby of ex-Corrie star Denise Welch sells £300,000 painting of Prince

'New Warhol' Lincoln Townley flush after flogging
portrait of tragic singer

13th May 2016

AN ART collector has paid £300,000 for a painting of Prince by a former booze addicted self-taught artist – married to ex-Corrie star Denise Welch.

The work, by an ex strip-club promoter already branded “the new Andy Warhol”, has been snapped up by a mystery bidder.

Lincoln Townley’s creation features a psychedelic image of the late pop star with ‘PRINCE’ stencilled across it.



The edgy art is to go on display at the Royal Academy next month.

A-listers Charlie Sheen, Al Pacino, Nick Nolte, Gary Oldman and Mickey Rourke have all commissioned portraits by new British sensation Townley in the knowledge that his troubled past reflects theirs.

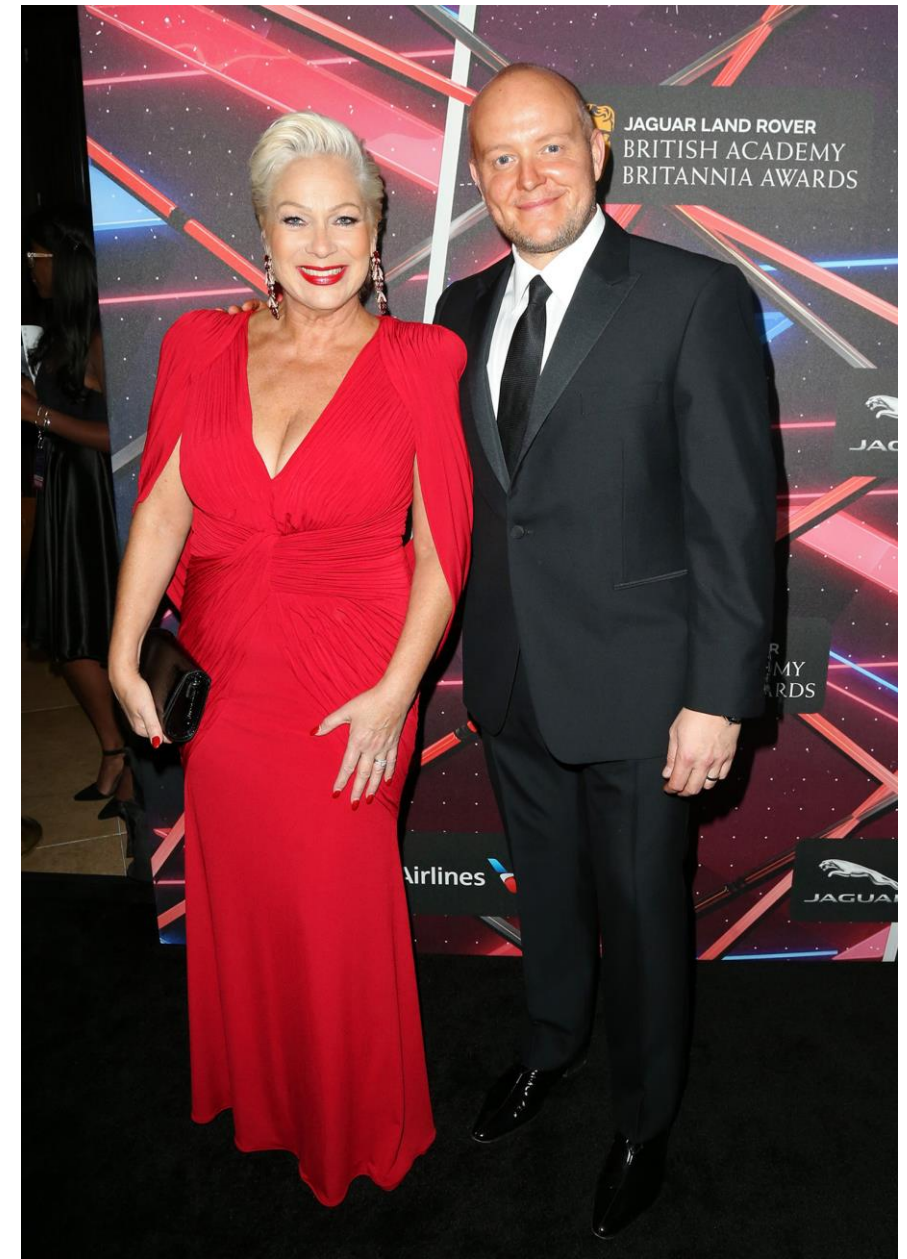
The 43-year-old was sacked from his role marketing Peter Stringfellow's lap dancing clubs in 2011. His life was ruined by his terrible addiction to booze.

Townley would down three or four bottles of red wine before lunch, then start on spirits, and keep on drinking until he passed out – often in the streets of central London.

At his peak he thought nothing of finishing off two bottles of Rioja, three chocolate martinis, four lagers and nine vodka tonics – punctuated by snorts of cocaine.

During rare sober moments he'd paint to exorcise the pain of his all-consuming addiction.

And, slowly, his raw works were being bought by celebrities and collectors impressed by the compelling stories they told on canvas.



Denise Welch and Lincoln Townley

His big break came in 2014 when he was contacted by Ramon Estevez asking him to paint his brother Charlie Sheen, the Two And A Half Men star, who has had his own well documented battle with drink and drugs.

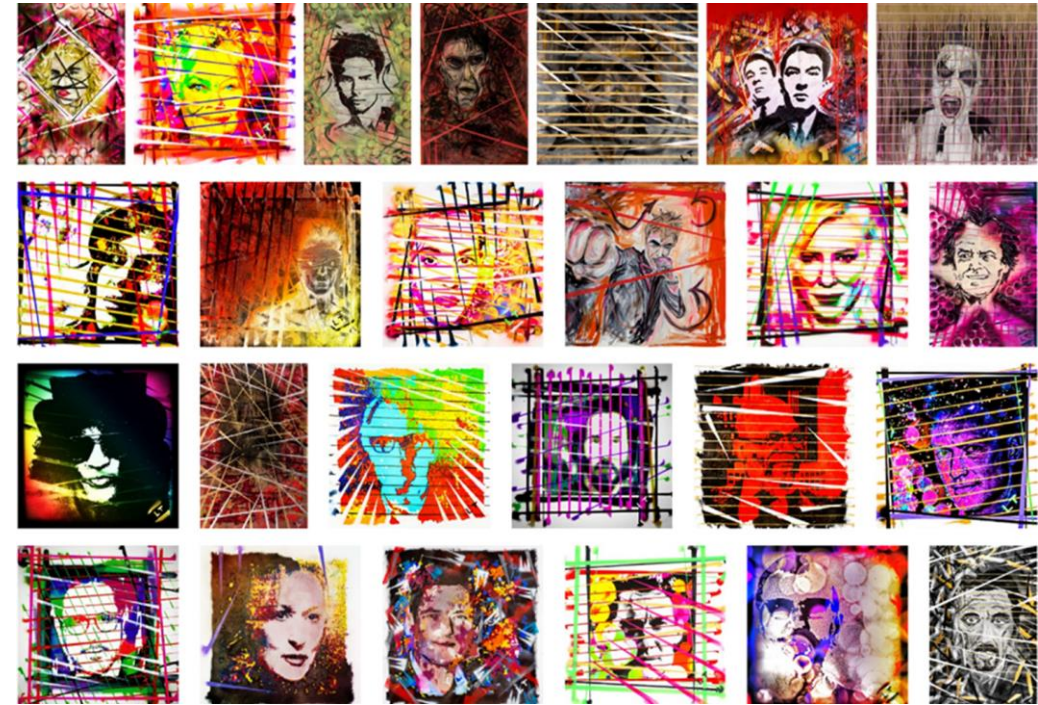
Sheen was delighted with the outcome, declaring Townley had ‘captured the essence of what it is to live with addiction’.

Other stars were soon in touch, and he has unveiled a collection commissioned by Bafta Los Angeles that includes Britons James Corden, Sam Mendes and Orlando Bloom.

Townley has also completed new portraits of John Cleese, Russell Brand, Al Pacino, Johnny Depp, David Bowie and Michael Caine, who dubbed him “the new Andy Warhol” after the 60s American pop art great. Townley has even painted The Queen.

**The star’s art has soared in price from initial
£30,000 price-tags to six figures, and now with his
Prince piece, a whopping £300,000.**

It will feature in ICONS at London’s Royal Academy of Arts this summer. Lincoln Townley yesterday told The Sun about his latest work bought by the mystery bidder, said to be a famous name in the music industry.



He said: “I wanted to honour the most incredible music Icons, artists who have touched the hearts and fed the souls of their fans for decades so my next choice was Prince.

“I have always been a huge fan and once I had chosen to paint him back in February it had to be constructed to reflect the huge achievements of which he gained including seven Grammys.

“So I painted multiple images to build the overall portrait which I feel shows the growth of such an amazing superstar over the years.

“The portrait was completed by March and I had a huge number of existing clients interested in the piece.

“It was unveiled at a private viewing and was sold to an existing collector who is huge in the music industry himself.

“The portrait will be shown however on the 2nd June at The Royal Academy. The show is a retrospective going back to 2012 and will show my first Icon portrait of Russell Brand which was sold to a collector in 2013 and is being borrowed for this special occasion.”

The Academy said: “This aim of this exhibition is to feature a selection of portraits of the world’s biggest stars and to trace the evolution of Townley’s artistic interpretation of these iconic figures.”



British strip-club promoter Lincoln Townley almost drank himself to death. Which is why Charlie Sheen and some of the wildest stars in the world want him to paint their portrait

BY SARAH OLIVER

Only four years ago Lincoln Townley was marketing manager of a lap-dancing empire and in the grip of full-blown alcoholism. From Monday to Friday he would limber up with three or four bottles of red wine in lieu of lunch, then start on spirits, party hectically until breakfast, retire to bed, sometimes via the gutters of Soho, and spend weekends sleeping it off. In between times, not sober exactly, but functioning, he'd paint to exorcise the pain of such a futile and addicted life.

Those secret pictures depicted something he calls *The Hunger*, the need in men to consume to excess, whether drink, drugs, sex or money. It's the story of heady, hungry lust told on canvas, in multimedia his own story.

Once those images were stuffed under his bed, still wet. Today they hang on the walls of celebrities and collectors, the value of his pieces having risen 200 per cent in the last two years. *The Hunger* that nearly killed him is now making him one of the hottest new painters in Hollywood.

A-listers Charlie Sheen, Al Pacino, Nick Nolte, Gary Oldman and Mickey Rourke have all commissioned portraits by him in the knowledge that Townley's troubled past helps him reflect theirs.

His extraordinary ascent began last Christmas when he was contacted by Ramon Estevez asking him to paint his brother Charlie Sheen, the *Two And A Half Men* star who has had his own documented battle with drink and drugs. Says Townley: 'Ramon sent me some pictures of Charlie to work from but I didn't use them. Instead I put his 2011 TV meltdown on a loop on YouTube because it made me feel like I could see straight into his soul.'

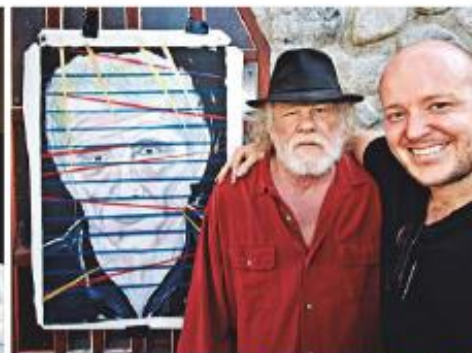
Sheen was delighted with the outcome, declaring Townley had 'captured the essence of what it is to live with addiction'. Other stars, including Nolte, Rourke and Oldman swiftly followed suit, agreeing to commission and sign Townley portraits for charity.

Next week in Hollywood he will unveil a collection commissioned by Bafta Los Angeles that includes Britons James Corden, Sam Mendes and Orlando Bloom. He's travelling out with a new portrait of John Cleese, to be handed over in person, a gift to the former Python from his daughter, stand-up comedian Camilla Cleese.

I meet Townley in Canary Wharf, an area he used to cruise in limos picking up wealthy clients for his gentlemen's



Lincoln Townley with his wife, Denise Welch



48 hours with Nick

NICK NOLTE
He's a true collector and has an art studio in the garden of his place in Malibu. His son Brawley was there when I handed over the portrait I'd done of his dad. He kept saying, 'Mel would love this, you have to paint Mel.' I thought he meant his wife or girlfriend and was racking my brains because he made it sound like someone I'd just met - but he was talking about Mel Gibson, with whom he starred in the film *Anatomical*. Brawley was the kid who was kidnapped.'

The addict who became Hollywood's go-to artoholic

clubs. Today, works from his early 'Bankers' Collection (portraits of men driven mad by greed) are exhibited here. They have price tags of around £30,000 apiece but more recent paintings have sold for double that to celebrity collectors. His new, larger pictures, which measure 15m square, are set to command more than £300,000.

'It has been an extraordinary few years,' Townley says. 'No formal art training, no gallery wanting to know, and an addiction that was consuming me. I had to live through *The Hunger* and then get sober. It took me 12 months - it was hard. Some of it I spent on my knees, but I am in a different realm now.'

'What's happened to me couldn't have been planned or done any earlier,

it couldn't have been achieved without the excesses of those years. My art is the sum of those experiences - it's about that energy and emotion.'

Townley's intimate understanding of drink, drugs and the sex industry inspired his collection *Disappearing Soho*, which was launched at the National Gallery in March, and *The LA Collection*, on show in Beverly Hills later this month. His *W1 Collection*, rooted in London's West End, opens with a private view at the Royal Academy on Thursday. All three depict the dark underbelly of city life.

It was this same understanding that opened the door to celebrity portraiture less than a year ago, when Townley painted Russell Brand for a drug rehabilitation charity, the Abstinence Based

Recovery Trust, of which they are both patrons. The international online auction caught the eye of the Sheen family with Townley painting first Charlie and then, at Charlie's request, the head of the acting dynasty, Oscar winner Martin. Townley also met another Hollywood legend, Al Pacino, to present a portrait commissioned by Pacino's agent to celebrate his UK tour.

He's the first to agree it's a pretty unlikely outcome. Townley, 43, learned to paint from his grandfather, an engineer with a passion for Francis Bacon. 'They would walk London together and paint their day', but any notion of art as a career was cast aside after Townley's father died when he was just 14. He left school a year later, drifting into bakery work and gardening before discover-

I could see his pain

CHARLIE SHEEN

'I was in the kitchen at Charlie's house. I told him my wife was an actress and would love to say hello. So I called Denise and put her on the phone and when he asked "How are you, Denise?" she told him she was stuck in a traffic jam on the way home from rehearsals in Bolton, like Charlie Sheen would know where Bolton was. He told her she shouldn't be talking on the phone in traffic. Imagine, getting a lecture about not breaking the law from Charlie Sheen! She'd pulled over, but still.'

ing a talent for sales, which ultimately saw him hired by Peter Stringfellow to market his clubs, Stringfellow's and Angels Soho.

Townley, already a hard party man, relished the louche, nocturnal existence of nightclub life and embraced the seamy side of Soho. 'By 2008 I was an alcoholic. I would have three or four bottles of red wine in the afternoon waiting for my dealer.' (He was also a prodigious user of cocaine.) 'Then I'd be on shots and shorts until 5pm when I was still capable of walking bolt upright into the club to greet the first customers. I'd go drinking after hours, head to bed at 7am, get up at midday and do it all over again.'

In 2011 two things happened that would signpost his way to a different kind of a life. First he was sacked

by Stringfellow, and second he met Denise Welch, the actress and TV presenter, 14 years his senior, who would become his second wife. The former *Coronation Street* and *Waterloo Road* star also had difficulties with drink.

'We had a year of madness then I decided to get sober and three months later so did she,' says Townley. We anchored each other and have done so ever since. We encouraged each other to pursue what mattered most - acting roles for Denise, painting for me - and now we just charge forward together.'

By 2013 he felt ready to take his art - inspired by *The Hunger* - public. 'I'm a salesman it's what I do, so I decided to sell myself. I trudge from fine arts establishments to indie galleries in the East End, just a bloke with an iPad and a manuscript asking them to have a look.'

His first exhibition sold all his works within 48 hours, but the art establishment remains guarded. Philip Hoffman,

She's a rebel

MADONNA

'As a fan, I wanted to create an image that took her *Rebel Heart* album cover - itself a piece of art - to a different dimension. I wanted to look at the colourful, creative woman while delving into the darker nature of an icon, who is the queen of pop. The original was bought by a TV producer for £30,000.'

Say hello to my little friend...

AL PACINO
I admitted that I always saw him as Tony Montana in *Scarface* or Michael Corleone in *The Godfather*. The lines across his face represent that barrier, the one created by fans who see him as the performer rather than the person, the one which means he can't catch the subway. I painted the barrier. He loved it.'

Flash, Harry

HARRY DEAN STANTON

'I was at Harry's house and had just missed Jack Nicholson - they'd been playing cribbage in the back garden. Harry was so delighted with his portrait - he described it as "very literal" - that he volunteered to record a spoken introduction to my website. It's pure Hollywood for someone who paints in his double garage in Cheshire.'

chief executive of art investment firm The Fine Art Fund, says: 'There's a long tradition of artists painting celebrities - Andy Warhol's work sells for millions. However, while it's popular, I wouldn't advise spending more than the cost of a family holiday on one of Townley's pictures.'



Regardless of that, Hollywood is loving the results, and now Townley is setting his sights even higher: his ambition is to paint Prince Harry. If he does it would be the perfect end to a dark morality tale, karmic proof that sometimes a man's almost fatal flaw can be his greatest strength. ☞



“captured the essence of addiction”.

Lincoln Townley Paints Hollywood Legend Al Pacino, Gets Commissioned By The BAFTAs, A Billionaire’s Children’s Charity...And The Krays!

If UK artist Lincoln Townley could have scripted his dream start to 2015, he wouldn’t have dared include what’s actually happened because even he wouldn’t have thought it was possible.

Having been commissioned by some of the world’s biggest stars, Townley went to Hollywood to present his finished portraits to Charlie Sheen, Harry Dean Stanton and Nick Nolte. Townley, himself a recovering alcoholic, is well-known for portraying the turbulence of men who live their lives on the edge and Sheen said that he had

By Dominic Midgley

THE EX-ADDICT WHO'S BEEN CALLED THE NEXT ANDY WARHOL



POPULAR: Lincoln and a selection of his work, above; with wife Denise, right, and Sir Michael Caine with his portrait

Three years after marrying actress Denise Welch, Lincoln Townley is becoming a big name in his own right as one of the hottest artists in Hollywood

THIS represents a remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of a man who four years ago was a hopeless drink and drug addict. At his peak he was quite capable of laying the foundations for a night out by downsing two bottles of Bling, three chocolate martinis, four lagers and nine vodka tonics – punctuated by snorts of cocaine.

Naturally this lifestyle meant that Townley had regular brushes with the law and he soon developed a reputation for being a handful. It got to the point that once a policeman recognised whom he was about to arrest he would radio HQ to say: "I need back-up, I've got Lincoln here." Things got so bad that his boss, the "fatherly" Peter Stringfellow, sacked him from his

job as a marketing and PR man for his London lap-dancing club. It was only after he met and fell in love with former Coronation Street star Denise Welch, who had addiction problems of her own at the time, that he cleaned up his act. Six months after she split from her husband of 24 years, Andy Wedderburn, Pet actor Tim Healey – in February 2012 Welch, then 46, got engaged to Townley, then 46, and they married at a villa on the Algarve in Portugal a year later.

By now Townley was working on a book about his debauched Soho past that was later published as *The Hunger*. It was his literary agent who spotted some of the edgy paintings he was working on

in his spare time and persuaded him that they were worth showing to art galleries. For a man who had been taught to paint by his grandfather at the age of eight but had never been to art school this proved to be something of an ordeal.

"I don't think anyone has perceived more than I have to push my art," he says. "It was turned away and sometimes literally laughed at by more than 100 galleries. In some cases they didn't even open the door when they saw I had paintings in my hand."

In the end I hired some space in a gallery called The Rifflmaker on Beak Street, Soho, after a friend of a friend had got me in there. I hung 15 paintings priced at £3,000 each

and had sold every one of them by 11 o'clock the following morning. It was gobsmacking."

His next big break came when he painted Russell Brand, a fellow patron of the Abstinence-Based Recovery Trust. That canvas was sold for charity for \$20,000 (£14,000) by a New York-based auction site and caught the attention of Charlie Sheen's brother, fellow actor Ramon Estevez. The portrait Townley went on to produce of the hell-raising former star of *Two And A Half Men* caught "the essence of addiction", Ramon said later.

It also led to Townley painting Sheen's friend and actor Harry Dean Stanton, who introduced him in turn to his friend Rick Nolte, and

● Information: lincolntownley.com

"The doors opened and it was like something out of a James Bond film", Townley recalls. "Straight in front of me was Michael Caine. He said 'Hi Lincoln, come in, come in. Let's have a look at this portrait'."

Bowie mania ‘drives up price of painting to £250,000’

A self-taught artist's depiction of David Bowie completed just before the musician's death is believed to have had an offer for a staggering £250,000.

Lincoln Townley — whose works usually sell for about £30,000 — had painted the piece as part of a series of depictions of stars, including Al Pacino, Michael Caine and Judi Dench.

The artist, who is married to former Coronation Street and Loose Women star Denise Welch, finished it just before Bowie died last month.

sparked a wave of interest in any items connected to Bowie's long career and a bidding war between art collectors is believed to have seen the painting accumulate the enormous price tag.



The Royal Academy welcomes Artist Lincoln Townley's W1 Collection

On a surprisingly balmy late autumn evening, The Luxury Channel honoured an invitation to attend one of the world's most prestigious galleries The Royal Academy based at Burlington House in London's Piccadilly, to view the exclusive celebrity launch of globally renowned contemporary Artist Lincoln Townley's unique and superlative "W1 Collection".



Lincoln's visceral relationship with his canvases comes across vividly, with his collections being celebrated and presented globally. The work is collected by connoisseurs of art and many high profile individuals, many of whom share a fascination with the mesmeric and turbulent themes of his work that reflect the story of his rise from the gutters of Soho to become a phenomenal success story in the art world. He has gone on to be commissioned to paint the world's biggest stars that include people like Al Pacino, Madonna, Robert Downey Jr, Gary Oldman, Mickey Rourke and Sir John Hurt amongst several others.



Mayumi Tomita from the Royal Academy said: "We are delighted to be showing Lincoln Townley's work. He is an outstanding artist with a unique style that sets him apart from his contemporaries."

Townley explained : "The W1 Collection explores the underbelly of an area of London famous for art, creativity, crime and excess. It's one of the most visited areas of any capital city in the world and I wanted to express the chaotic energy that bubbles under the surface."

Townley's work has been described as " having an edge and authenticity that is rare." Townley further explained about the composition of the work, "The twelve paintings that make up the W1 Collection are very large





Lauda portrait fetches £100k

A SELF-TAUGHT artist known for his celebrity portraits has sold a new work for £100,000 before it has even gone on show.

A Russian collector snapped up the portrait of Formula One star Niki Lauda, above. It is part of a collection of 12 racing drivers by London-born Lincoln Townley, including Lewis Hamilton, to be unveiled at the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi on May 1.

Last month, Townley was offered £250,000 offer for a portrait of David Bowie completed weeks before his death.

Rashid Razaq

“Townley is widely vaunted for his incredible ability to capture the creative – and sometimes turbulent – energies that drive the world’s stars”



Star Quality

You know you've made it as an artist when you have afternoon tea with an extremely influential actor, present him with a painting, and he describes you as "the new Andy Warhol" – and this is made all the more significant because the man in question is Sir Michael Caine.

You can see where he's coming from: the work of British artist Lincoln Townley leverages psychedelic colour and graphic outlines in a similar way to that of the legendary artist. Townley told us, "I am totally humbled but honoured by this comparative as Michael knew Warhol back in the 1960s and appreciates his work, being an avid art collector himself" – so Caine obviously knows his stuff.

The actor isn't Townley's only fan; the artist was previously commissioned to paint the Kray twins by West Ham United's chairman, David Sullivan, who said that he was "the only artist who could really capture the forces that made the Krays the

“Townley is widely vaunted for his incredible ability to capture the creative – and sometimes turbulent – energies that drive the world’s stars”

men they were.” And that's exactly where Townley's skill lies; he's widely vaunted for his incredible ability to capture the creative – and sometimes turbulent – energies that drive the world's stars.

Turbulence is a theme for Townley: a recovering alcoholic, he is now known for his philanthropy, and donates works to many charities around the world.

He has also painted the likes of Al Pacino, Meryl Streep and Charlie Sheen, and in October 2015 he was commissioned by Bafta LA to paint portraits of the six Honorees at the Britannia Awards. He will be showing his ICONS Collection at London's Royal Academy in June. ■
Lincoln Townley's work can be seen at Maddox Gallery, 9 Maddox St, W1; maddoxgallery.co.uk

International artist Lincoln Townley commissioned by BAFTA LA

BAFTA Los Angeles has commissioned Townley to paint the portraits of the honorees of the 2015 Awards. The full list of honorees is yet to be made public. However, the first three honorees have been announced and they are Meryl Streep, James Corden and Sam Mendes who will be gathered at a star-studded event at The British Academy Britannia Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on Friday, October 30, 2015.

Meryl Streep will receive this year's Stanley Kubrick Britannia Award for Excellence in Film, James Corden will receive the Britannia Award for British Artist of the Year presented by Burberry and Sam Mendes will receive the John Schlesinger Britannia Award for Excellence in Directing presented by The GREAT Britain Campaign.

Chantal Rickards, CEO of BAFTA Los Angeles, said: "When we were looking for a leading, contemporary artist to paint iconic figures from the world of film and television, there was only one obvious choice and that was Lincoln Townley. He has already painted portraits of many Hollywood Icons



Lincoln at Hilton hotel with his portraits

and his ability to capture the essence of these great performers is without equal. The portraits will be auctioned through Artnet online auctions in New York following the awards."

On receiving confirmation of his appointment, Townley said: "This is the greatest honour of my career. As a self-taught artist, it is the culmination of over thirty years working at my craft, often in difficult circumstances. I have confidentially been working on these portraits for BAFTA LA for some time now. I would like to thank everyone at BAFTA Los Angeles for their support. It is a privilege to be associated with The Britannia Awards and to paint honorees of such outstanding stature."

The portraits of the honorees are the culmination of Townley's ICONS Collection, which includes portraits of some of the biggest film stars in the world including Al Pacino, Charlie Sheen (as seen above), Nick Nolte, Harry Dean Stanton and Robert de Niro.

Chantal Rickards, CEO of BAFTA Los Angeles, said,
"When we were looking for a leading,
contemporary artist to paint iconic figures from the
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choice and that was Lincoln Townley."



International artist Lincoln Townley Gives a Splash of Colour to The Hilton Doubletree

The artist installed his latest works exclusive to Hilton on Friday 18th September, in the fittingly glamorous heights of Hilton Doubletree's Sky Bar. Featuring a selection of four of Lincoln's favourite subjects, and pieces, the large prints depict the various A list faces with whom Townley is familiar.

Townley's favourite of the four (which include Tom Cruise, Madonna and Jack Nicholson) is Al Pacino, who - Lincoln tells me fondly - hangs the gargantuan original in his own home. The more personal level that Townley operates on is echoed in an effort to translate his slightly more intimate insight into these iconic faces, accessing other sides to their personalities. Each original piece is ginormous in scale and takes Townley an average of a month to complete. In addition to the Sky Bar piece on the top floor, Townley's work will also welcome guests into the lobby of the hotel, with more psychedelic depictions of Kate Moss and Leonardo DiCaprio, a 21st century take on pop art, infused with a wild colour palette. The repeated image of Moss is painted then screen printed, again nodding to pop art style. All of the pieces will take residence at Doubletree for six months before it goes to the star studded LA but for now, a piece of Hollywood resides here in Leeds.



POWER, RISK AND THE ART OF PAINTING ICONS

I'm sat in the corner table of L'Espresso in London's Soho, waiting to meet Lincoln Townley. We have introduced by a mutual friend, the now late footballer Ian Wright (who was a bit of a legend himself). Ford had said we should meet because he thought not only should Lincoln feature in Paddock Life, but he thought we'd get along.

Five years ago Lincoln Townley was fighting for his life on the streets of Soho. Today he is famous for his icons, a collection of portraits of the world's most iconic performers including Charlie Sheen, Nicki Minaj, Bobbie Williams, Paul McCartney, Harry Dean Stanton, Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep and Al Pacino, just to name a few. Lincoln has a look about

him that hints that he's seen and done most of it... but coming out the other side he now has a cool demeanor and quite matter-of-fact way of articulating his work and his passion. The ICONS Collection has received considerable critical acclaim with his paintings being exhibited at the Maddox Gallery in Mayfair, London and the Art Angels Gallery on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles.

One of the leading collectors of Lincoln's work is the billionaire and Joint Chairman of West Ham United Football Club, David Sullivan, who has donated an entire room at his mansion to Lincoln's work. "I call it the U room," he says, "and I remember the first time I saw one of his paintings. There is no living artist who can capture the drive, energy and turbulence of powerful men. He has lived his own life on the edge of creativity and destruction, so he knows from the inside what it means to be at the top of your game and the risks involved in getting there."



2015 saw Lincoln establish himself as a leading contemporary artist with exhibitions at the National Gallery and the Royal Academy of Arts in London. He was also chosen as Artist-in-Residence of the for the BAFTA Britannia Awards in Los Angeles where he was commissioned to paint portraits of the honorees, which included Meryl Streep, Harrison Ford and Sam Mendes.

He is also gaining increasing recognition for his work from his peers, with David artist David Tate, famous for his portraits of the writer Robert Graves, saying that "Townley is the new Bacon and I never thought I'd say that about anyone. In the next few years he'll become one of the leading contemporary artists in the world. There's no one out there doing what he's doing with the ferocity he does it." Lincoln's ferocity extends to his bizarre working practices and the process through which he creates these images is extraordinary. Despite his success, he still paints in his garage where he is known to lock himself away for days, abdicating the outside for up to twenty hours at a time, stopping only when his body collapses into sleep.



With this we part company as Lincoln is off to L.A.

A few weeks ago I'm in my kitchen at home on a Saturday morning when my mobile rings. It's Lincoln. He's just landed back from L.A. and had an idea on the flight. "How I got some paint some more paint?" he asks. His idea is to create a series of 23 strong icons for Paddock Life through the season so we can hold an end of season party and auction the originals for charity.

Brilliant, so who shall we do? He says he can do these icons before we go to print, so I roll off the names from the top of my head. Names, initials and addresses as we work. We agree and arrange to meet again.

As we sit back on our regular table in L'Espresso I appear David Sullivan's account in his assessment of Lincoln's artist career: "He has begun 2014 with his visit to Los Angeles to present some Kennedy with a portrait of his late father, Senator Robert Kennedy. 'It's without doubt,'" says Lincoln. "the greatest honour of my life. The Kennedy name is the most iconic name not only in America but throughout the world. It's like painting royalty."

"It's the only way I can work," he says. "Whatever I'm painting demands that emerge from some dark place in my unconscious mind or the forces that create the best actors, performers and sports stars in the world. I have to get as close to what I'm painting as I can and you can't achieve anything in life without relentless hard work and a willingness to risk yourself in some way."

His capacity for risk is a quality that David Sullivan admires in Lincoln. "Everybody wants art that's authentic," he says. "Lincoln's art is as intense and authentic as it gets. He can and will go further than any living artist. He's a one-off. I've been collecting art for many years and I've never seen work as powerful as this."

It doesn't take long for our conversation to lead on to the subject of cars, Lincoln's own current weapon of choice is a Bentley GT, but it appears our garage history is quite similar. So, Formula One? In my experience you either get it or you don't. Lincoln is fan. We discuss our current champion Lewis Hamilton and the affect he has had on the sport.

He suggests he points a Formula One icon for the article. I'm both flattered and amazed in equal parts. So who should we do? The obvious choice would be Senna, but although young and very current we agree that Lewis has earned himself icon status. So it's agreed.

I love Formula 1 and the intense focus that Lewis needs to sustain his position as the best in the world in one of the most dangerous sports, is exactly the balance between risk and recklessness, success and failure, confidence and fear, that my work seeks to capture. He risks everything to be the best and he knows at any time, he can slip by just a fraction and his life as well as his career could be over."



But I'm like a kid as Christmas, waiting to see his first ever sporting icon in his portrait of Lewis Hamilton, Lincoln captures the precocious before the defining genius, the World Champion's features are well defined yet it seems endless whether he is emerging from the swirl of colour and movement that surrounds him or waiting for it.

"I'm fascinated by what Lewis has achieved and the mental strength it takes to do it and the fact that the same drive that propels him to Number One could also destroy him. It's a person I have seen in every team I have ever joined. They are the best of the best and their psychology is raw and complex."

Over the next week Lincoln sends me updates, their names and finally I can see them. Each portrait captures the essence of these icons. Justly, during the season, we selected each of our racing icons. We agree the usually limited edition print run of the end of season will be made available well of the proceeds going to charity.

So who will be the fifth in our series, for me there can be only one choice, not only one of the greatest race ever, but a true character that defined an era. James Hunt.

Original paintings and limited edition prints of Lincoln's ICONS Collection are available from the Lincoln Gallery in London www.lincolngallery.com and Art Angels in Los Angeles www.artangels.com

Eve auction offers exclusive works by A-list artists

Sir Antony Gormley, Sir Quentin Blake, Lincoln Townley and Grayson Perry give artworks for glittering Royal event at Christie's to back the gynaecological cancer charity The Eve Appeal, reports Jon McKnight

A rare as 'hen's-teeth' chance to buy sought-after original works by A-list artists including Sir Antony Gormley, Sir Quentin Blake and Grayson Perry will be on offer in the Art 4 Eve online charity auction ending in a glittering Royal event at Christie's hosted by Viscount Linley.

25 artworks, all donated by the artists, are expected to sell for anything from £500 to £50,000 though no-one can predict what might happen to the bidding in the glittering finale in aid of The Eve Appeal, the gynaecological cancer charity.

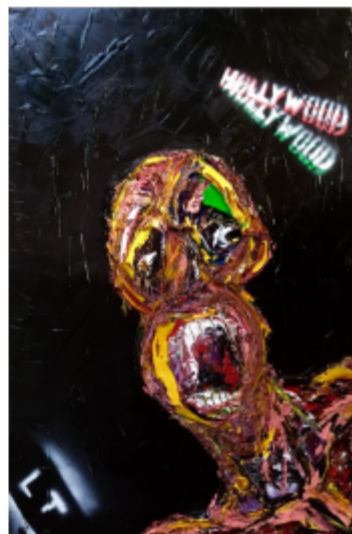
The pieces include A Serious Piece Of Political Art, a unique glazed ceramic horse from English ceramics artist Grayson Perry; Reach II, a carbon and casein on paper drawing from Angel Of The North sculptor Sir Antony Gormley; and a striking and, sadly, timely painting of David Bowie by Annie Kevans, darling of the Charles Saatchi collection.

Another timely piece is an iconic photograph of Cilla Black from the Sixties by internationally acclaimed Observer photographer Jane Bown, while Sir Quentin Blake, known around the world for illustrating Roald Dahl's children's books, has contributed a unique original drawing depicting his interpretation of The Eve Appeal's distinctive logo – a work he created specifically for the auction.

The full list of artists whose work is featured in the auction is: Marius Bercea, Sir Quentin Blake, Jane Bown, Kate Brinkworth, Sir Anthony Caro, Stanley Casselman, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Sir Antony Gormley, Maggi Hambling, Sir Howard Hodgkin, Annie Kevans, Susanne Kühn, Elizabeth Magill, Jason Martin, Harland Miller, Chris Ofili, Terry O'Neill, Grayson Perry, Marc Quinn, Dan Rees, Paula Rego, Lincoln Townley, Jonas Wood.

Online bidding starts on 1 April at www.eveappeal.org.uk/art and continues at a glittering charity gala dinner hosted by Viscount Linley and Helena Morrissey at Christie's on Thursday 28 April. "The Eve Appeal does tremendous work supporting research on women's cancers," says Grayson Perry. "I am pleased to contribute to the Art 4 Eve charity auction, and wish it great success." And Dominic Hourd, Art Event Director for The Eve Appeal, says: "We are so grateful to the incredible artists who have so generously donated their work.

Read more on <http://www.luxuriousmagazine.com>



Hollywood 1 donated by Lincoln Townley

Royal portrait gets Los Angeles show before going to collector

THE QUEEN is heading to Los Angeles courtesy of artist Lincoln Townley.

The painter, whose Icons series includes portraits of names including Al Pacino and Sir Michael Caine, has sold his oil painting of the Queen to an American collector but will first put it on show in an exhibition on Wilshire Boulevard.

He said: “The Queen is more than the Icon of Icons.

There is probably no living head of state or public figure in the world who is as recognisable and who commands as much respect as the Queen.”

Townley said he decided to unveil the painting at the LA to London Underground event because “Americans love the Queen with a passion every bit as strong as that felt by the British”.

Robert Dex





Russell Brand, Lincoln Townley, and Chip Somers.



Sir Michael Caine with his portrait by Lincoln Townley.

Back then, I was selling my paintings for £3,000 each. I'm full of 'I told you so' thoughts about those galleries who now love my work, but I try not to promote that idea too much!

There are a lot of lines in my painting of Russell. He's such a performer, because the image he wants to give out isn't particularly what I think is in his mind and the way he really is."

"I paint in our garage, not a flashy studio. That keeps me grounded. I walk in there wearing layers of jumpers and hats in the freezing cold and I can spend days in there, sleeping on a little gold chair I got from a second-hand sofa store.

I don't see anyone, it's just one strip light and my canvases. When I'm finished and go back to normality, it feels like I imagine it must do when you're released from solitary confinement. Denise thinks I'm completely insane!

When I told Michael Caine how I paint, at first he asked 'But don't you need light as a painter?' and then he said 'Actually, I think you create your own light.' That was an amazing thing for someone of Caine's stature to say.

I painted Michael from both his 60s days and as he is now, and I tried to capture his life on film. The painting is greenish and oily as that's what film looks like under a microscope. Michael fucking loved that! He told me he thinks I'm the next Andy Warhol. That's incredible."

"Before I got my first show at The Riflemaker, I read up on how to market myself on social media. I'm willing to market myself, and that's a talent that's lacking in almost every artist I know. uck plays a part in almost any industry, but you need to be smart enough to sense opportunities too.

I got commissioned by BAFTA to paint their six honorary recipients – Harrison Ford, James Corden, Meryl Streep, Orlando Bloom, Sam Mendes and Amy Schumer. I did Amy as quite a Pop Art subject, with the Hollywood sign everywhere.

"I was drunk 80% of the time in Soho, and starting to do drugs in Stringfellow's" My work is on display at a lot of Hilton hotels in Britain, and that fact plus getting commissioned by BAFTA highlights how far I've come, I suppose.

I was honest about my addiction in my early paintings. They were cathartic.

I should say that Peter Stringfellow was a great boss. He drove me hard, but he's very fair. Even when I was drunk – and I was drunk 80% of the time I was in Soho – it was 'What can I juggle next?' I brought people through the door into Peter's club, and I tried arguing that what I did outside of that was nothing to do with him.

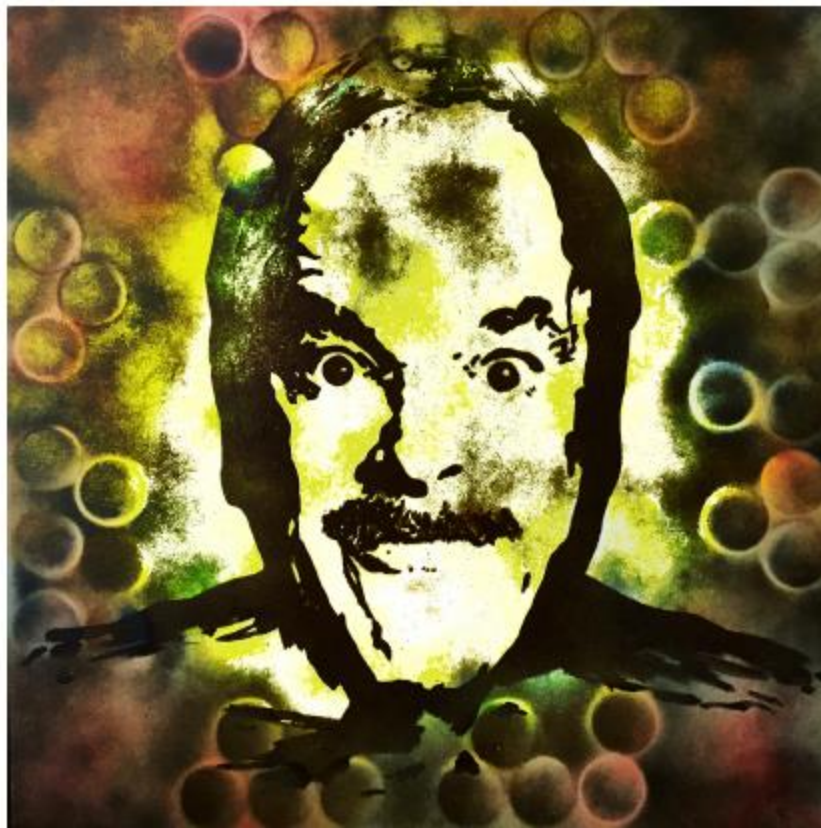
At first, I could argue that. But then he pointed out that I was starting to do drugs inside the club. I'd lost my focus.

I was getting nicked and thrown inside Charing Cross police station at least once a month. In the end, a magistrate told me I was on my last chance and that if I was charged one more time I'd be going to prison. I couldn't sweet talk them any more. That was the impetus I needed."

Keanu Reeves and Slash were my most recent Icons. I'm also painting Matthew McConaughey, and Harry Dean Stanton has commissioned me to do a portrait of Jack Nicholson.



I recently did John Cleese too. He asked to be drawn in a very comedic pose – there aren't many



lines with John, because I got the impression he really is the way you see him when he's performing. That's true of most comedians, I think.

My next series is of music icons and I'd like to paint Denise one day. People come up to Denise like they know her whenever we're out. They'll sit next to her on the train, going 'Hi Denise, how's it going?' She'll politely go 'Yeah, it's great!' and I'm thinking 'Er, hello...?'

There'd be a lot of lines in Denise's painting...."

LINCOLN TOWNLEY

Bowie

80cm x 80cm

Fine Art Giclée Print

Edition size: 5

\$15,000



LINCOLN TOWNLEY

Sir Michael Caine

80cm x 80cm

Fine Art Giclée Print

Edition size: 5

\$15,000



LINCOLN TOWNLEY

Bowie 'Blackstar'

80cm x 80cm

Fine Art Giclée Print

Edition size: 5

\$15,000



LINCOLN TOWNLEY

Prince

65cm x 65cm

Fine Art Giclée Print

Edition size: 5

\$15,000

