



Surrey-based Christina Pierce has successfully married her twin loves of art and cricket to become a widely acclaimed cricket artist. Christina spent her childhood in Cornwall where her father still coaches cricket. After a foundation course at Plymouth College of Art, she graduated from the Central School of Art London and has exhibited extensively in the UK and abroad, including The Royal Academy, Lords Cricket Ground and Brit Oval.

Her son, Oskar currently plays for the Surrey under 11s and is coached by Sid Lahiri, who runs the Parkside Cricket Academy. Christina herself manages the West Surrey district under 11s and in 2007 they won the Penny David Trophy. Hours spent on the

boundary throughout her life have given Christina inspiration and an insight which is evident in her paintings. With her box of boards and paints she has captured the spirit and atmosphere of the game as well as depicting players from the youthful grass roots to the test arena. Her paintings feature players such as Hoggard, Tendulkar and Richards, among many others. She has received numerous commissions in this market and her paintings hang in the homes of England and County players as well as on the walls of businesses and private collectors. Her recent impressive publication *The Art of Cricket Yearbook and Desk Diary 2009* - which follows the success of her self-published *Cricket Yearbook 2008* - contains 54 reproductions of her original paintings, a few of which are still obtainable as originals, and all of which are available as limited edition prints. Far from being simply a coffee table art book, the latest Yearbook is a beautifully embossed hardback desk diary printed in full colour. Each of the 54 artworks sits opposite a page-a-week diary with international fixtures included. At the front of the book, information on cricket grounds and cricket development from eighteen major counties is brought together. Action paintings feature Kevin Pieterston, Freddie Flintoff, Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara, Ashley Giles, John Crawley, Shane Warne, Michael Carberry, Alastair Cook, Matthew Hoggard and the winning Ashes team of 2005.

Artists have celebrated cricket since the 1770s and over the years their



ART

paintings have moved from the formal and traditional to the atmospheric and individual, capturing the essential spirit of the game. From high tension of crucial test match moments to balmy sunny days on a village green, Christina captures cricket in all its many moods. Leather on willow, wicker hampers, old-style cricket boots, blazers and gloves hanging from a pavilion peg mingle with abstract atmospheres, action paintings and well known grounds. All the characters are depicted, from grounds men and umpires through to boys enjoying Colts' night and the cut-throat reality of the open bat.

"There are so many interesting things to see and it is the ones around the edges which often interest me as much as the big events - like the eccentricities of the umpires and the old boys selling the score cards," says Christina. "My father still coaches down in Cornwall and that's how I first got involved."

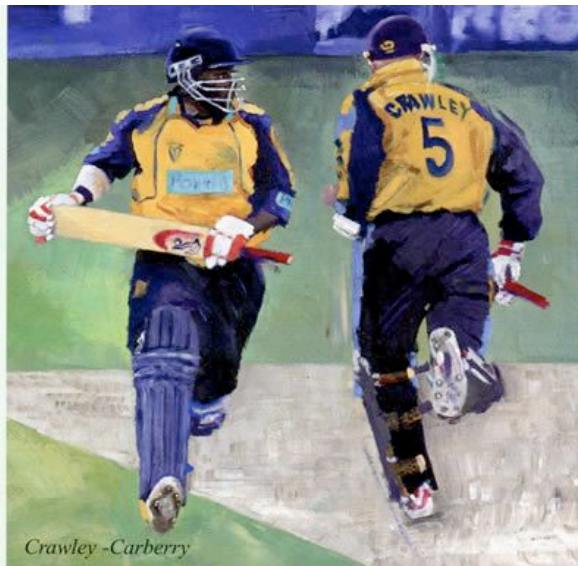
Her father played extensively for clubs and his regiment before going on to umpire and coach. It was at his prompting that Christina herself took up the game. Cricket is certainly in the blood and her Christina's son, Oskar is mad about the game. Indeed a picture of Oskar, aged just two and a half batting in the nets, appeared in *The Cricketer* magazine. No wonder Christina decided to use some of her spectator time for painting.

One of her subjects, England and Warwickshire cricketer and collector Ashley Giles, says: "It's the ultimate flattery when an artist of Christina's quality puts you on canvas, her paintings have intimacy and life; she has the ability to capture the moment. There is more here than just cricket. So much cricket art looks much the same, whether it's paintings of Lords or The Oval or whatever. But her work is marvellously commemorative. She has captured the moment. And life is all about moments."

Two to Win is Christina's recreation of arguably Ashley Giles' finest hour, the thrilling moment when he smacked the winning runs at Trent Bridge to put England 2-1 up in the Ashes series. Huddle is Christina's study of on-pitch bonding with the England team locked into one of its regular huddles, before start of play at The Oval.

Christina of course is never completely satisfied with her remarkable efforts. "If you get to that stage you might as well stop painting!" she declares.

Website: www.christinapierce.com



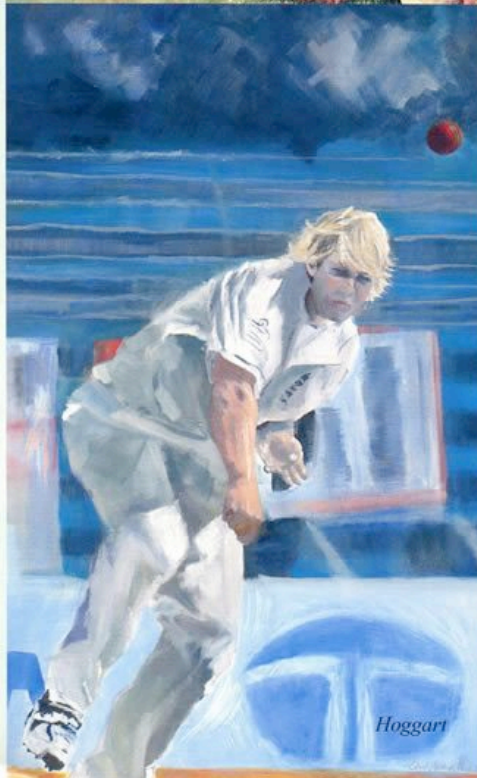
Crawley - Carberry



Waiting Bat



Memories



Hoggart



Young Cricketer