

# PRIVATE AIR

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## LUXURY HOMES


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# GREAT(ER) EXPECTATIONS

*Lucy Dickens Takes On The Family Tradition  
of Celebrating Life In London*

By: Gina Samarotto

Like her great, great, grandfather before her, Lucy Dickens has a notable flair for bringing characters to life. Wielding a paintbrush as deftly as Charles did his pen, the figures created by Dickens demand attention and stir emotions. “My characters are based on real people, but they become

larger than life as the painting progresses. What’s the story with that group of men in the hotel bar? Are they planning a heist? Or just discussing a board meeting? What about that woman in the red dress? Is she a hooker? A trophy wife? Look at the doorman – what dramas has he witnessed over the years?”





Tea At The Ritz



A Doorman, the Ritz

A full time artist for the past twenty-six years, Dickens is a self-professed “people watcher, a nosy parker with a vivid imagination.” She is also – as her upcoming solo show at The Osborne Studio Gallery will attest – artistically inspired by the richly illustrated history of London’s inimitable Ritz Hotel. A location rife with opulence, the hotel once described by César Ritz himself as “A small house in which I am proud to see my name attached,” holds special appeal for Dickens.

‘I am told that my father, as a young and penniless journalist for the *Daily Telegraph*, took my mother to the Champagne Bar at the Ritz for a date before they were married,’ she explains. “Many years later I still find the Ritz has a magical quality, unmatched by modern business hotels.” Enamoured by the iconic opulence, the artist has spent hours in the hotel, sketchbook in hand. A Dickensian in the purest sense

of the word, from her perch at the Ritz she observes and records the scene with gently satirical strokes.

Influenced by 20th century painters including Edward Hopper, Otto Dix, Max Beckmann, and Edgar Degas, Dickens has her own penchant for chronicling scenes of city life with engaging imagination and flair. In capturing the scenes, Dickens likens herself to a “camera”, a painter-reporter sitting quietly in the Ritz making little sketches of people chatting, or simply promenading, her eyes darting about to capture scenes from any angle. The sketches are brought back to her North London studio where they are brilliantly transformed into full scale paintings that personify the grand hotel and those within it. ✈

*Lucy Dickens exhibit at The Osborne Studio Gallery is scheduled to open on April 26th and run through May 13th, 2016.*