

# John v Thom Round 7 ... Art

ROUND 7 of John v Thom sees the intrepid reporters brushing up on their art skills with a watercolour challenge. You can read all about the previous rounds at [www.bridlingtontoday.co.uk](http://www.bridlingtontoday.co.uk)

## Pictures perfect!



Thom Kennedy with his masterpiece.



John Edwards signs his work of art.

THIS week John and Thom face a watercolour challenge.

The Channel Four cameras were not rolling but the idea was the same as the TV programme – who can paint the best picture of a scene of Bridlington?

The chaps are more used to words than pictures but this was a chance to see who has got the most creative flair and the ability to brush their opponent aside.

The unenviable job of teaching two amateurs how to produce a masterpiece in under an hour belonged to local artist Gail Miller.

Gail is best-known for her striking, colourful, abstract, acrylic paintings – so it was as much of a challenge for her as it was for the Free Press reporters.

After tossing a coin to decide who would be copying which image, Thom ended up choosing a picture of the north beach while John went for a sunset over the harbour.

They were both a dab hand with the brush but who had that extra stroke of genius?

Judge Gail said: "John's is good because it has got bold colours."

"He didn't hold back and he had a really good go at it. It is good and quite abstract."

**CHALLENGE 7:** Watercolour painting

**MENTOR:** Local artist Gail Miller

**THE RESULT:** A third straight win for Thom

**JOHN V THOM SCORE:** 4-3 to John

"Thom's painting has a more traditional look to it."

"It has got atmosphere because he has used moody colours which really give a feel of a cold, wintry day on the beach."

"One is very warm and one is cold, maybe that is a reflection of personalities because personalities come through in all art."

"They were very good for first attempts and both John and Thom were enthusiastic."

"There is definitely potential there, they just need a bit of practice and to learn the techniques."

So Gail was faced with a very tough decision, one she needed to take a lot of time over.

But in the end she said: "They are both good in their own ways but I am going to choose the one that I think more people in Bridlington would choose as their favourite, which is Thom's because it's more traditional."



'Thom's has got atmosphere. He has used moody colours which really give a feel of a cold, wintry day on the beach.'



Thom's watercolour based on the picture above left.



'John's is good because it has got bold colours and is quite abstract. He didn't hold back and had a really good go at it.'



John's watercolour based on the picture above left.

## Make a bid

YOU have seen how John and Thom got on with their paintings of Bridlington, now you can take home their finished artwork to brighten up your home.

They have agreed to give away their masterpieces to a good home in exchange for a donation to charity and it is fair to say they are not expecting to break any records for the most expensive artwork ever.

The two paintings are currently on display in the reception area at the Free Press offices in Prospect Street. If you want one or both of the pictures, call in and make a bid, or e-mail us at [newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk).

The highest bid by next Thursday gets the pictures.

## Easel-y does it ...

LET me put you in the picture. John versus Thom is now very much on.

The art challenge was a bit of a poser but, ultimately, I brushed John aside with ease.

No doubt he will try to gloss over his defeat, brush this incident under the carpet, if you will, painting a picture of a tight fight and pointing out he is still leading overall, but really he knows he won fair and square and I am charging up behind him, sounding my horn and flashing my headlights.

Gail was right to say the paintings reflected the artists – my shimmering landscape won the plaudits because it was gloriously moody, atmospheric and handsome.

While I chose to work with subtle shades and sombre tones, magpie-like John just dived for the most colourful thing he could find.

Were Hannah Gordon, the queen of Watercolour Challenge and daytime television pleasantries, looking over my shoulder as I washed life onto the page, she would have been cooing with delight.

Whereas when she peered over John's shoulder, the colours randomly splashed around the paper would have her weeping with dismay.

He maybe needs to learn that art has more depth than splashing about and making swirly shapes with pretty colours.

John claims to be accepting defeat gracefully but he has been skulking about like a hormonal teenager ever since Gail rightly pointed to my masterpiece and declared it the winner.

I think he is overcome with emulsion at his latest defeat.

What did he say after the fencing? Oh yes: "I just hope Thom's victories are not like buses, you wait ages for one and then three come along together."

Bad news for you, John-boy. With this type of form on my side, who would bet against making it four in a row next week?



## Given the brush-off

THEY say a picture paints a thousand words. Mine didn't. Mine painted just six words and they were John's picture is better than Thom's.

They also say every picture tells a story and guess what mine told? John's a better painter than Thom.

Sadly our mentor and judge didn't agree and Thom got the verdict. Now, I know how he felt when he reckoned he was robbed in the piano challenge in week two.

Look at the evidence. One is bright, vibrant, bursting with colour, guaranteed to immediately catch your eye. It's not perfect – study it closely and there are all sorts of blemishes. But look at it from a distance and it is pretty impressive.

The other painting is grey, bland, once-seen-instantly-forgotten.

And the worst bit is the creature on the beach. In the original photograph it was a dog but in Thom's painting it has become a hyena, or the type of mysterious beast you see in blurry home video footage on the news when there are reports of a wild panther-type animal on the prowl in a forest just outside Swindon.

Watercolour painting is not that hard but making your picture actually look like it is meant to is.

Things started off shakily and by halfway through I was convinced I was going to end up with a total mess. Thom's was looking good and I feared the worst.

But things came together with my masterpiece, whereas Thom just worked on his ability to mix different shades of grey. How interesting.

Coming back to the office was a bit like returning to mummy after a day at playgroup, both clutching our paintings proudly and ready to show them off.

In fact Thom's picture was the standard you'd expect of a playgroup child.

But he won, and I have to accept it, and now there is just one challenge left before Christmas.

If he wants the next point he can beware, I'm going to be like Scrooge and refuse to give it away.



You can suggest challenges by sending a text starting **BFEDITOR** followed by a space, your challenge idea and name, to 84070, or by e-mailing [newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk)