



National Autistic Society
2023 Art Auction
Marsh Harrier
by James Faure Walker
24 April - 11 May 2023

FELIX & SPEAR

Welcome



My name is Caroline Stevens, and I am Chief Executive of the National Autistic Society.

We are delighted to have this unique opportunity to raise funds through the sale of a wonderful painting, *Marsh Harrier* by James Faure Walker, to help us achieve our vision of creating a society that works for autistic people.

Such an opportunity comes at a crucial time. In 2023, we are launching our ambitious new strategy. Developed over the last year, this new strategy proposes a radical new vision for a society that truly meets the needs of autistic people and their loved ones.

Together, we can turn that vision into a reality.

I would like to thank the Felix & Spear Gallery and James Faure Walker for providing the amazing painting that is being auctioned. I hope that you will consider joining us on this journey through your support of this auction.

Best wishes,

Caroline

Auction of *Marsh Harrier*

Between 24 April and 11 May, we will be auctioning online *Marsh Harrier* by James Faure Walker (b.1948). All proceeds of the sale will support the launch of key flagship programmes over the next three years that will enable us to better support autistic people and their families. You can read more about this on the following pages.

We are delighted to have the opportunity to invite you to join us for a celebration of the artwork and to view *Marsh Harrier* in person, as well as a range of James's other artwork. This event will take place on 4 May, between 6pm and 8pm, at Clifford Chance's offices, where the painting is currently on display. *Marsh Harrier* has been exhibited in recent years at the Royal Academy (London) in 2017; The Cut (Suffolk) in 2019; Felix & Spear (London) in 2019; and Clifford Chance (Canary Wharf, London) in 2022-2023.

Along with viewing the work, you will have the opportunity to meet Cameron Amiri, founder and owner of Felix & Spear, and James Faure Walker himself.



James Faure Walker (b.1948), *Marsh Harrier* (2016), oil on canvas, 137 x 173cm.

James Faure Walker

James Faure Walker is an artist, famed around the world for integrating computer design into artworks and inspiring countless others to do the same.

Born in 1948, James studied at St Martins (1966-1970) and the Royal College of Art (1970-1972). Before integrating digital methods into his work, he had already exhibited his work widely: at the Hayward Annual (1979); the John Moores Painting Prize (1982, 2002); the Serpentine Summer Show (1983); and a solo exhibition at the Whitworth, Manchester (1985).

James was one of the founders of *Artscribe* magazine in 1976, editing it for eight years. He exhibited eight times at SIGGRAPH in the USA; won the 'Golden Plotter' prize at Computerkunst, Gladbeck, Germany in 1998; exhibited at the DAM Gallery, Berlin; and featured in *Digital Pioneers* at the Victoria and Albert Museum (the V&A) in 2009. He has 28 works in the V&A Collections, won the Royal Watercolour Society (RWS) Award in 2013 and is Honorary Curator of the RWS. Until 2014, he was Reader in Painting and the Computer at Chelsea College of Arts.

Recent solo shows include ARB, Cambridge; Class Room, Coventry; and Felix & Spear, London. His book, *Painting the Digital River: How an Artist Learned to Love the Computer*, was published by Prentice Hall (USA) in 2006, and was awarded a New England Book Show Award. He was one of the five English artists commissioned to produce a print for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Six paintings of his, dated from 1979 to 2019, including *Marsh Harrier*, are currently on display at Clifford Chance. James is represented by Felix & Spear, London.



© Photo by Anne Purkiss

Felix & Spear Gallery

Established in 2015, Felix & Spear Gallery exhibit and represent a select number of important Contemporary artists, in conjunction with dealing in Modern British and Post-War works of art.

With more than 45 exhibitions held since its founding, Felix & Spear continues to have a special focus on championing the works of dedicated yet under-recognised artists, whose work it believes will stand the test of time.

Further information about Felix & Spear Gallery can be found at www.felixandspear.com

We are delighted to be a supporter of the National Autistic Society and to partner with them on the 'single work' auction of an inspirational painting by James Faure Walker. The gallery is personally connected to autism and is a proud supporter of such a worthwhile cause.

The auction will raise crucial funds which will go towards supporting the renewed strategic vision for the National Autistic Society.

I would like to thank James Faure Walker for his generous donation of the painting *Marsh Harrier* and the support received from Nigel Frank of Clifford Chance in this endeavour.

Cameron Amiri
Director, Felix & Spear

The National Autistic Society's renewed vision

In 2022, we interviewed over 500 autistic people, their families and other stakeholders to understand from them: what does a society that works for autistic people actually look like?

Underpinned by our findings and testimonies from the autistic community, we developed a renewed vision of a society that works for autistic people. It is one that:

- **Values autistic individuals.**

Understands and appreciates what autism is and how it is unique for each individual.

- **Maximises autistic power.**

Empowers autistic people to control how they live their lives and make distinctive contributions that influence the world.

- **Guarantees support.**

Provides seamless diagnosis, support and care for autistic people from all backgrounds, at all moments of need throughout their lives.

- **Adapts public spaces and services.**

Designs spaces and services that are autistic inclusive, with flexible adjustments that recognise that not all autistic people have the same preferences.

- **Is free from discrimination.**

Rejects stereotypes and stigma, removes the expectation to mask, and doesn't accept being told to fit in as acceptable.

This vision cannot be achieved by the National Autistic Society alone. But our pioneering foundations, expertise and extensive networks uniquely position us to lead the way.

With our new strategy, we will:



- **Support autistic individuals and their families to live fulfilled lives on their terms, continuing to develop and expand the critical information, advice, guidance and support services we provide to autistic people and their families.**



- **Influence and collaborate with others to improve standards and make changes, continuing our leading work influencing policy and practice by campaigning and building partnerships across the sector(s).**



- **Transform society by building understanding, acceptance and respect for autistic people, continuing to elevate the autistic voice and expand our work on public campaigning.**

Over the next three years, we are going to launch a transformational new programme of support for autistic people and their families, campaign across society for better pre- and post-diagnosis pathways, and ensure we are modelling and disseminating best practice across employment and education. **To do this, we need your help.**

How your support helps people like Alex be understood

Alex, a photographer from London, was diagnosed as autistic at the age of 16. She recently took all the photos for the National Autistic Society's *Now I Know* campaign - a ground-breaking campaign that highlighted the struggle of autistic women and non-binary people in society.

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When I was younger, I found communication very difficult. I'd speak like an adult but didn't necessarily know what those words meant. But when I started school, I stopped speaking as much. The only way I could really communicate was through pictures.

I was told not to come back to school anymore. I would truant all the time because I was so scared of being in lessons. It was so overwhelming.

I sometimes feel guilty about my diagnosis story because when I hear stories from other people who have been diagnosed later on, they often talk about this weight off their shoulders, whereas I didn't feel that at all. I hated myself, I hated my diagnosis. And I think that came from the fact that the only experience I'd ever had of autism was the savant male characters on TV.

I was also told by my GP that being autistic could have significant career and social ramifications. I just felt like I'd been burdened at 16 with this secret about myself that was the 'why' for everything I did, but I could never explain that to anyone because it would ruin my life.

After school and my degree, I wanted to go back to the thing I knew, which was pictures. That's why I decided to try and become a photographer.

Now I feel a sense of pride, and I feel lucky that I have a family that was able to stop me slipping through the net.

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As a charity, we strive every day so that autistic people are understood, supported and do not have to endure the hardships Alex and so many others have encountered. With your support, we can make this a reality.

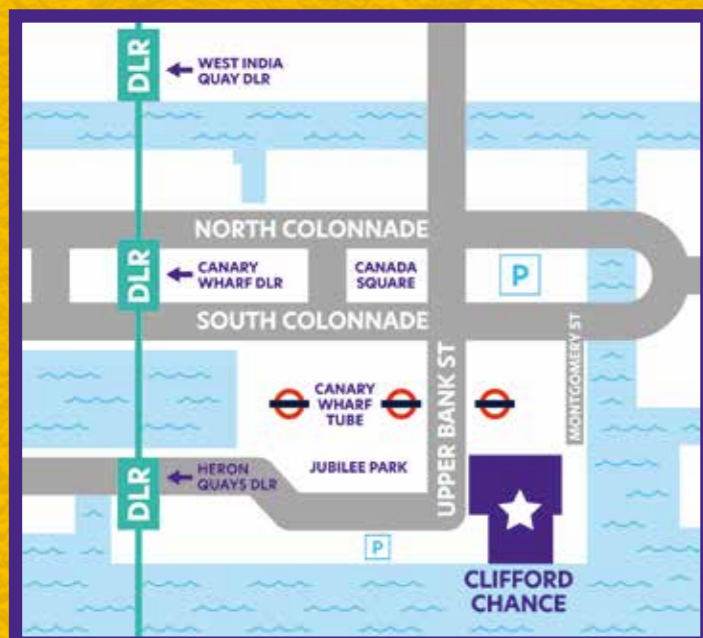
The sale of *Marsh Harrier*

How you can support the National Autistic Society's vision

Interested buyers can bid for *Marsh Harrier* online on the Felix & Spear website (<https://www.felixandspear.com/nas-art-auction>) between 24 April and 11 May. Bidding for the painting will commence at £8,000. *Marsh Harrier* will go to the highest bidder.

If you wish to see the painting in person and/or cannot attend the event on Thursday 4 May, please contact Nigel Frank at nigel.frank@cliffordchance.com or call 020 7006 5183. Clifford Chance's address and a map detailing how to find its office are below.

Clifford Chance
10 Upper Bank Street
Canary Wharf
London
E14 5JJ



© Photo by Alexandra Heron

**"I'm autistic, I'm
quirky. I'm a pretty
good person. And
actually, I like me."
- Amanda**



Should you not wish to bid on *Marsh Harrier*, but would like to make a donation to the National Autistic Society, you can do so by scanning this QR code or by visiting our donate page here:
<https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/donate>.

We are proud to be the UK's leading charity for autistic people and are proud of what we have achieved. But we must act urgently to change the inequality, misunderstanding and isolation that autistic people still face. We hope that you will be inspired to join us to achieve this.

Thank you



With thanks to James Faure Walker, the Felix & Spear Gallery and Clifford Chance.

We hope that you can support us with this unique opportunity to raise funds and at the same time acquire an important artwork by a noted artist. Your support will help the National Autistic Society to achieve our vision: ***creating a society that works for autistic people.***

If you have any further questions or queries, please contact Jack Howes at Jack.Howes@nas.org.uk or call 07958 700 834.

www.autism.org.uk
www.felixandspear.com



The National Autistic Society is a charity registered in England and Wales (269425) and in Scotland (SC039427) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No.1205298), registered office 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG.