



Kate gets unprecedented access to the art of Aberdeen's choppers

By Neil Drysdale on Tuesday 7 April 2015

A local artist has finished the first part of an ambitious project to highlight the importance of helicopters in Aberdeen life.

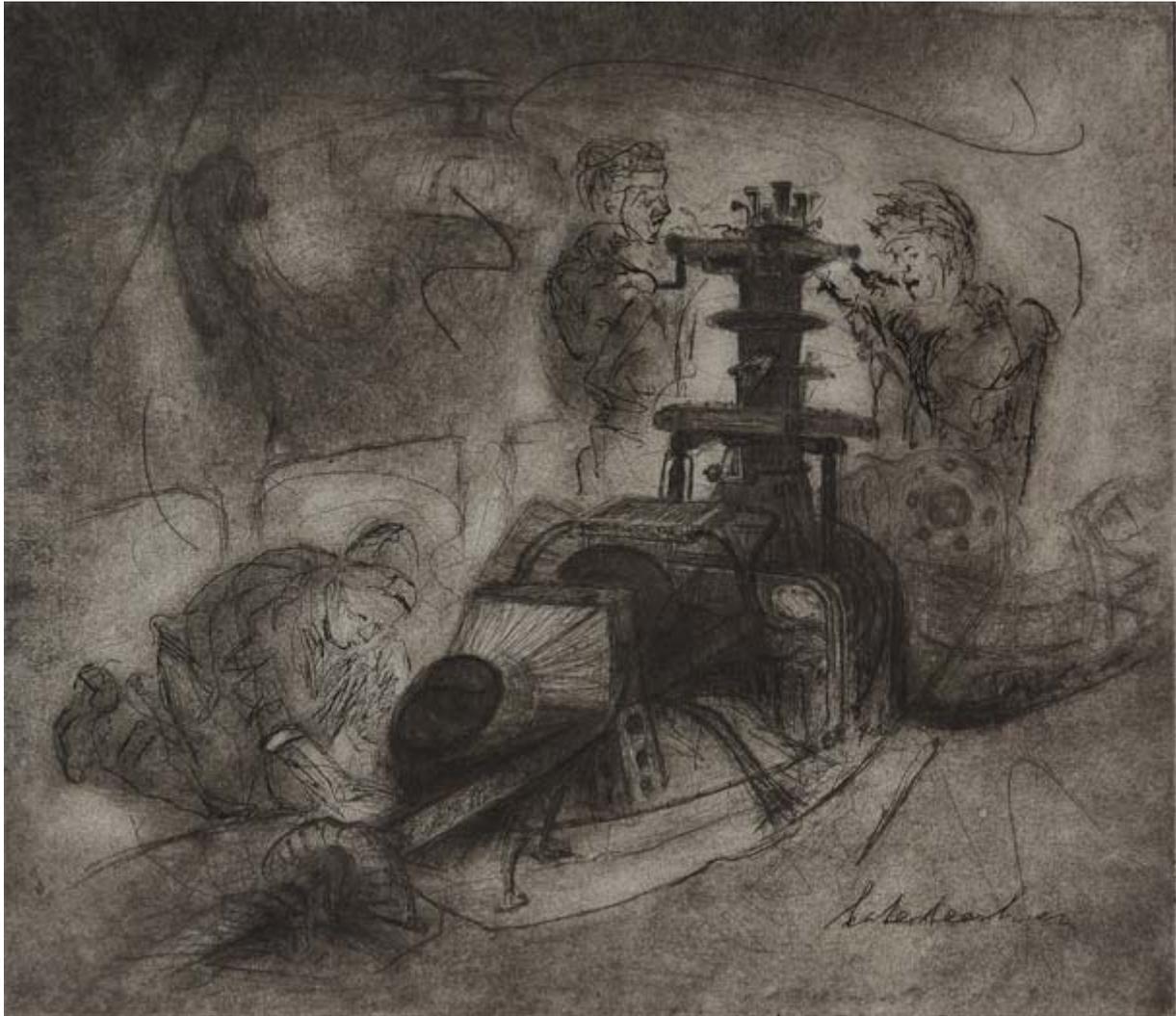
Kate Steenhauer was given unprecedented access to the ubiquitous north-east vehicles by leading helicopter company [CHC](#).

And we can show you some of the results of Kate's unique venture to breathe life into these Sikorsky and Airbus craft as part of her "Heli Galore" venture."

Kate, the principal engineer of marine consultancy [Tymor Marine](#), is in thrall to the men and women who have journeyed to the North Sea, and has previously breathed flesh and blood into the myriad characters who populate Aberdeen Harbour.

She mixes the complexities of her day job with the intricate precision of sketching out her art ventures.

And the results have a mesmerising quality for those who live in Europe's oil capital.



(Kate Steenhauer)

▶ via STV

Gaining access to the helicopters in the first place was obviously an integral part of the project.

But Mark Abbey, the regional director for CHC Helicopter's West North Sea business, was keen for the company to get involved.

He said "Our Aberdeen helicopter base is home to a major operation which requires aircraft maintenance, flight planning and passenger service.

"The artwork created by Kate Steenhauer provides an insight into the scope of our operations and the rigorous attention to detail applied by CHC people as we support the North Sea oil and gas industry.

"Our team enjoyed talking with Kate and helping to inform her work and I'm sure they will be delighted with the result."



(Kate Steenhauer)

▶ via STV

Kate has spent untold hours analysing and poring over the details of such vehicles as the Sikorsky and the Airbus.

If genius truly is an infinite capacity for taking pains, she is the Michelangelo of machinery.

She told STV: "I have just completed Series I of the Aberdeen Heliport project entitled 'Heli Galore' and I was very grateful that access to the heliport was granted by CHC.

"I am now looking to find a wider audience for this work, and to find commissions and prospective buyers interested in investing in some high quality art work.

"As far as I am aware, this is the first time that something of this kind has been done and it would be great to continue with Series II of the Aberdeen Heliport project.



(Kate Steenhauer)

▶ via STV

Kate added: "The different steps of my project can be seen through the pencil drawings in [Series 1](#)."

"Series II shows some examples of pencil drawings, which also will be transformed into (limited edition) contemporary prints, based on copper plate etchings featuring "Sikorsky and Airbus helicopters."

This artist is clearly in love with the vistas and vitality of the people who inhabit the oil industry, but also the vehicles which have made the whole enterprise possible.

And there is something spectral about these images which renders them spellbinding.