



SHINING EXAMPLES

Taking a light-hearted look at the celebrated centenary of stainless steel are two Sheffield artists with different perspectives, Wildago and James Whitworth.

Words: Richard Abbey



INTERVIEW

Exhibition

Stainless: An Wildago and Whitworth Amalgamation

2-13 April, 10am-3pm, Tuesday to Saturday
Camp Wildago, Campo Lane at Hawley Street, S1 2EA
Entry: Free



"WE REPAIR THREE PIECE SUITES, NOT THREE PIECE SUITS."

Where would Sheffield be without stainless steel? Discovered in a laboratory by Harry Brearley 100 years ago, it has gone on to represent all that is good about the city's manufacturing. A shining example of man's ingenuity, it sums up Sheffield's reputation for innovation, precision and quality.

Taking a light-hearted look at this momentous centenary are two Sheffield-based artists, Wildago (Wilda Goyetche) and James Whitworth. The exhibition, *Stainless: An Wildago and Whitworth Amalgamation*, will run at Camp Wildago from 2 to 13 April.

"The centenary of the invention of stainless steel changed not just Sheffield, but the world," explained James. "It is something of which all Sheffielders should be proud.

"Of course, as worthy as the event is, there's no doubt that celebrating steel could be a little 'cold'. That's why Wildago and myself decided to add our own spin to it. We're bringing colour, warmth and humour to the subject, so people can celebrate this great achievement with a smile on their face."

As touched on by James, the 'amalgamation' has been forged with a 'his and hers' twist. Each artist was given the same set of landmark photographs with obvious links to stainless steel; the Portland Works, Forgemasters, Cutlers Hall and the like. Separately, the pair then 'polished' the steel scenes by adding their own characters.

The contrasting styles are immediately

evident. While Wildago's drawings brought a splash of colour to black and white photographs, newspaper cartoonist James, used to working in mono, added another dimension to colour photographs.

For James, whose portfolio includes *Private Eye*, *The Independent* and the *Sheffield Star*, it is the first time he has collaborated with another artist on an exhibition but is something he was eager to undertake. "I first ran into Wildago at Bank Street Arts where my *Sheffield Dozen* exhibition was hosted and was immediately taken with her work. When she suggested we collaborate I jumped at the chance."

It was perhaps inevitable that James would end up working as a cartoonist; his dad Ralph worked in the same capacity at the *Sheffield Star* for over 40 years. And after delivering the first ever issue of *Westside* (our sister magazine), working as a buyer for Virgin Megastore and in a bank, he finally pursued a more creative path and has been publishing cartoons for over a decade.

The success of a cartoon, he explains, lies

