



**“WHEN MY CHILDREN WERE LITTLE I BEGAN PAINTING THEIR WALLS AND NURSERIES AND IT’S GROWN GRADUALLY FROM THERE”**

## ART AMBITION

When artist **Louise Dean** from **Langton Green** began painting pictures on walls, little did she know her mural art would spark the start of an exciting career...

**ALTHOUGH SHE’S BEEN** settled in Kent for years, Louise, 46, had a far from local upbringing. Having started life on RAF bases due to her father’s occupation as a Squadron Leader, when she was nine her parents decided they wanted an adventure, so they packed up their life and sailed to the Caribbean.

“We were going to live on the Virgin Islands for a year,” explains Louise. “But we ended up living there for seven years and it was amazing. I was so lucky that my parents were adventurous!”

Despite her love of travel, she always knew art was her real passion, so, after a few years of working in ski resorts in her late teens and early 20s, Louise returned to the UK and decided to set up her own craft business. However, it wasn’t to be, so she returned to

the travel industry before meeting her husband and moving to Langton Green 14 years ago, where she set about embracing family life.

She trained as a swimming teacher and put all creative visions to the back of her mind while she raised her two children, Naomi, 12 and Eddie, 10. It was only when she got her paintbrushes out to decorate their rooms that she started to see a business idea forming.

“When my children were little I began painting their walls and nurseries and it’s grown gradually from there,” she says. “I did a lot of things for friends who had children, so I was painting animals on walls and things for them and I began to realise my absolute passion is painting on walls.”

Over the next few years, Louise began painting murals for friends and family and

building up a portfolio. Then, as word got out about her work, she began taking bookings from other people looking for a different décor.

“Sometimes people want a mural because they can’t find wallpaper they love,” Louise says. “The brilliant thing about them is there are fewer limitations – it can go over the ceiling or around the banister. It’s opening people’s minds and introducing them to the concept, because not many people think ‘oh my gosh, I need a mural in my life’.”

Although her confidence has grown as her business, The Creative Decorator, has evolved, Louise admits she does still worry every time she’s booked for a job.

“The first stage is really quick; I’ll draw something on the wall, usually in chalk and I’m really confident at that stage,” she says.

“Then I put the paint on and every single thing needs three coats, so by that stage I start to worry about whether they’re going to like it. I go through an emotional journey, but so far so good – I haven’t had to paint over anything!”

It may have taken her a long time to get to where she is now, but she says she’s happy with the way things have panned out.

“With my last business I did it all by the book, but this time it’s grown organically and I think I’ll be more successful,” she admits. “When I was younger I used to think ‘why haven’t I succeeded with my artwork?’ but I feel that at this time in my life it’s finally right. You always think it should happen in your 20s, but I probably feel more ambitious now than I did then!”

[www.thecreativedecorator.co.uk](http://www.thecreativedecorator.co.uk)