

Wells Life

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF THE CITY

ISSUE 104

Spring OUT in Wells

A fresh take on a new season

Meet
Katie
Said

Ciao-down at Rugantino's

Say hello to
artist William
Balthazar Rose

MEET LOUIS, WELLS
CATHEDRAL CAT!

Seasonal shopping
on a spring greens
theme

A day out at Wells
Market: bloomin' lovely!

Flit around
Butterflies
Lingerie



Wells welcomes WILLIAM

William Bathazar Rose is appointed as the first
artist-in-residence at the Bishop's Palace

“Divertive and idiosyncratic; Meticulously evocative” It’s a statement that could summarise the Bishop’s Palace ‘experience’ as a whole. Fittingly, it’s also the sentence that art historian and critic Peter Dinkley used to describe the work of artist William Bathazar Rose, who will take up his residency as the first ever artist-in-residence at the Bishop’s Palace this spring, heralding the start of what’s set to be an innovative, exciting breath of fresh air for the iconic, historic landmark at the epicentre of Wells.

Artist-in-residence programmes invite creative people to take time and space away from their usual habitat and are intended to allow inspiration to flow in a new environment, benefiting both

the artist, the residence and the local community alike. This new artistic venture represents a unique emotional resonance for Rose, who maintains an atelier in London and Tinian but was a boarder at Wells Cathedral School in his youth, and recalls his time there as one of the happiest memories of his childhood.

Born into a family of artists in 1965, Rose was, from a very young age, fascinated by jewellery and costume design, architecture, stained glass and poetry, but chose painting with oils and linens as his principal preoccupation in recent years.

“My aim as a painter is to broaden, elaborate and perfect to attain a few principles and expand upon the virtues of nature and proportion,” he explains. Rose’s body of work to date garners

inspiration from religious allegory to metaphysical landscapes and symbols, all rich suffused with beauty and purpose. “Art is in part the expression of dynamic situations, situations that come from within,” he says. “Art expresses the workings of the spirit, one could say that it comes from an inner life, and derives quite simply from the necessity to make visible the truth of the soul.”

An exhibition of Rose’s work will take place in the Conference Room of the Palace from 28 March to 26 June. All the works displayed will be available for purchase, and visitors will be offered the opportunity to participate in a variety of sessions with the artist himself, including a participatory workshop, talks and debates and the rare opportunity to watch him at work.