

Welcome to the new Art Van Go Catalogue

It seems only yesterday that I was writing a similar introduction for the 2004 catalogue (the last major production). Just as last time, once again, it has been a marathon task to put it together. After several aborted attempts, we seriously started in May '08! Things were going quite nicely, but then as we were really getting it together in the late summer the exchange rates went berserk with knock-on effects of multiple price changes being issued by suppliers. Once into 2009 every spare minute has been spent on the catalogue, and so here we are ...! We hope you think it was worth the wait!

One major project that has been on the drawing-board at the same time as the catalogue is the proposed new website. The product details have been collected and collated in far greater detail than we have ever done before with the dual purpose of also developing the sort of database that is essential for an ecommerce site. Now that database is complete (here lies the proof), the construction of the website can start, and hopefully by early 2010 you will finally be able to securely place an order with us at any time of the day or night, and from any part of the world!!

We started Art Van Go way back in 1989 - first outing of the original van was 22nd May to be precise - so doing our sums we've worked out that it will be our Twenty First Birthday in 2010. We will also have been in The Studios for nine years. Doesn't time fly?! To blow our own trumpet a little, over recent years we have been involved in the publication of four books, we have sponsored the Artists in Action Studio at the Knitting & Stitching Show in 2008 & 2009, we have introduced a Loyalty Card (see p.?? for more details) and - the icing on the cake - we were awarded Textile Retailer of the Year in 2006!! We are still so proud to have received this accolade from Twisted Thread (organisers of the Knitting & Stitching Show) and we thank everyone who voted for us!

The van still travels to groups, guilds and courses as it has always done, meeting friends new and old, and the novelty of welcoming visitors from around the world to our shop, gallery and workshops at The Studios has never worn off. Thankyou to you all for your support and your friendship, wherever we have met you. We hope that you will continue to think of Art Van Go as we 'Come of Age'!

Looking forward to seeing you, or hearing from you very soon
Best regards,



Thanks so much to Jen for all the crazy hours working together on the catalogue, and to Ann, Shelagh, Ash, Sian, Pam & Stuart for taking up the slack while it was all going on!!

As a special "thankyou", we cannot forget the unflappable help of all kinds from family and friends.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks, once again, to Ruth Issett for the use of her colourful work which has become such a strong part of our image.

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