

# PSYCHIC ART EXPLAINED

by  
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So, what exactly is Psychic Art?

Psychic Art is an unusual type of mediumship in that it offers us the opportunity for visual contact with spirit - we actually get to see a visual manifestation of the communicating personality, be it a relative, friend or a guide. This is a type of mediumship which has been practised since Spiritualism began in the mid 19th Century, but is quite rare in comparison to the usual mental mediumship - Clairaudience, Clairvoyance and Clairsentience.

Indeed, when I first began my development, almost 10 years ago, there were few psychic artist's around, at least, few that were known. At the time the 2 most well known exponents were Coral Polge and Ivor James (Ivor is now in spirit).

At that time I had been involved in Spiritualism, on and off, since I was 12 years old - some 8 years, and I did not know what a psychic artist was, I had never seen or heard of it before. Now, I'm pleased to say, we are seeing more people develop this type of mediumship, and becoming very adept at their work, and some making a name for themselves in the Spiritualist arena. There is so much more interest in it too, and I meet many people who share this interest and show the potential to develop it. In fact, in my local Spiritualist Church (Sleaford), there are a couple of people with the potential, and one is already doing well with her development.

But how does it work, what actually happens?

Well that's a tough one to answer, but I will try. To start with, the Spirit world seem to choose people for this work who have no artistic background whatsoever, and the odd ones who do are not usually trained as portrait artists. So there, already, is one obstacle to overcome. How does somebody with no formal artistic training turn out portraits of people in spirit - relatives, friends and guides? The answer to that one is with a lot of hard work and practice.

You basically have to teach yourself, and at this point you can't expect the Spirit World to do the work for you and make your drawings look great as some people do. They are only as good as their channel, which means practice, practice, and more practice!

Personally, in the early days of my development I would spend hours just drawing face after face, not knowing who the people were, but still drawing their portraits anyway.

But the communication of these faces is also a puzzler. Many of the psychic artist's that I know, myself included, are NOT Clairvoyant - we can't see the spirit communicators, so how are we getting the images?

Well, this is my theory. I believe that the guides who work with me somehow guide my hand, because the drawing seems to be almost automatic. If I really try not to interfere then it really does become automatic, as the lines are laid down so quickly, and I can sense the presence of the spirit, and start working Clairsentiently. So for a while it's like being in an altered state, a very light trance, but it doesn't last for long so when the basics have been completed, the details are left for me to finish, which is where my Clairsentient ability really comes into play, and my skills as an artist.

Whilst all this is going on, I have to try and receive, and pass on, verbal communication, which is more difficult. I have learned that this is because the images and the verbal communication are transmitted at different frequencies. Much like a radio, mediums attune themselves to a frequency where contact becomes possible. Psychic artist's switch between two frequencies to make the contact work, receiving the picture on one frequency and switching to another for their spoken communication. This is why, when giving public demonstrations, an artist will often work with a medium so that verbal communication can be passed on more rapidly through the medium, making the whole thing go more smoothly. The medium can pass on additional evidence from the spirit making contact, whilst the artist is busy producing a likeness, which is my preferred method of demonstrating, though sometimes I work solo.

I say producing a likeness, because we are not actually drawing a proper portrait - that would take hours and we only have a few minutes - an average of 6 pictures in an hour is about right for a demonstration in front of an audience. So there is a need for speed, and drawing at such a speed takes practice. Even though we are producing sketches at speed there is still a need to include as much detail as possible, and this is often dependent on the response from the person on the receiving end. There is no doubt that when the recipient is found quickly, and responds enthusiastically, in the correct manner, the contact becomes stronger, and little details can be obtained more easily making for a better likeness.

The private sitting however, allows for more time to be devoted to the portraits, but not much more. In a sitting lasting an hour you might get 2 or 3 pictures, and the communication will be different because the artist will be working alone this time.

So, this is an insight, albeit brief, into how Psychic Art functions, and I hope that I have explained clearly in this short space, what is going on as an artist attempts to link with spirit and produce a picture of someone from your family, or a friend, or even your guide. There is so much that we haven't covered here, that if you are developing this ability you'll no doubt be experiencing, and if you are witness to this rare and exciting expression of Spirit contact, it will hopefully leave you hungry for more.