

# Birmingham

Lifestyle

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## Follower of Fashion

We take a peek at the stylish home of Jane Kennedy, make-up artist and stylist

The Food & Drink Guide — 19 pages of the best dining in the Midlands





# LA Style Comes to Town

An artist from California, who counts Tom Cruise and the Supremes as regular clients will be swapping palm trees, the hot sun and the surf for the often unpredictable climate of Birmingham! Still, Long Beach's loss is our gain.

Albert Jackson has become so fascinated by the Custard Factory, he feels he must relocate to the area where he now has so many friends and clients. Albert was recently in the area for his first UK exhibition which took



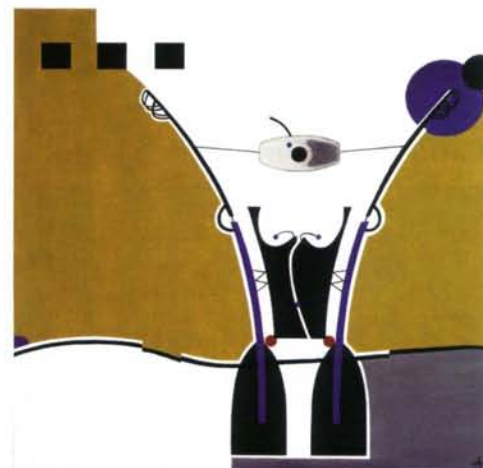
place at the Custard Factory from May 15 to 21. Specialising in paintings, sculptures, prints and functional art, Albert now has a studio based within the former Bird's custard plant at Digbeth. A multidimensional artist, fluent in a wide range of mediums, Albert produces paintings and sculptures influenced by Greek and Native American mythology, ancient astrology and Jungian psychology. Distinct and highly original, Albert's work is highly acclaimed in the United States where he has held exhibitions from Las Vegas and Los Angeles to Phoenix, Toronto and New York, where he was honoured to be chosen as a featured artist at the city's international film festival. Albert says of his work: "It speaks to both literal and abstract points of view. I try to create an atmosphere which transcends the ordinary and finds meaning through inspiration. I count Michelangelo, Rodin, Dali, Andy Warhol and Picasso as my main influences, and admire Dali for

his perspective and Picasso for his use of colour, texture, power and emotion in his art." Albert is also fascinated by Michelangelo's ability to manifest humanness within his sculptures and draws inspiration from the weight, depth and lines in Rodin's work.

Each of Albert's work, which range in a size from 8 feet to 14 inches, begin life as a fully formed vision in his mind before work even commences. The next step involves welding, hammers, forges and torching raw materials such as iron, steel, copper and wood into fluid but functional artworks which have immediate impact as well as a lasting poetic resonance. Highlights of Albert's collection to date include a steel sculpture of a woman carved from a single piece of steel, gleaming with fierce independence and eroticism, a chair with the wings of a butterfly and a glass table with the colours of Autumn beneath its surface.



By Richard Parsons



Albert was born in Heidelberg, Germany in October 1961 and his early childhood was spent on the move throughout Germany and the United States as his father

was in the military. Much of his formative years were spent with his family at their home in Colorado. Albert's talent for painting and sculpture was evident from childhood when he won several art competitions, although he didn't consider art to be a viable career choice, assuming he would be unable to make a living

from it, and so went on to study photography, philosophy, theology, political and computer science at the University of Colorado. His career began in computers following a spell in advertising when he worked as an art director. It was on a return visit to Europe in the mid 1980s which inspired Albert to return to his original passion for art. On a trip to Paris, the Eiffel Tower had a profound effect on him and its enormity and complexity as a single steel structure revived his passion for sculpture. As a tribute to this incredible building and its influence on him, Albert's signature bears a striking resemblance to its form. On returning to the United States, Albert set up his own business making steel furniture for large companies and department stores, which evolved gradually into a full time commitment to his artwork, so a permanent studio was set up in Long Beach, from where he built up a strong

reputation with galleries and private collectors.

Today, Albert enjoys working from Birmingham and is now looking to take his work across the UK and Europe, already in discussions with several galleries. Based from his studio

at the Custard Factory, Albert said of his new surroundings: "This building has excellent energy and atmosphere, providing me with the perfect environment in which I can create."

■ For information on the work of Albert Jackson, visit [www.albertjackson.com](http://www.albertjackson.com)

