

# With her blue blood background, Sarah Graham could have opted for a cushy job in antiques. She didn't and now artistic stardom beckons



by Jim  
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**B**ORN into an aristocratic family, she could easily have taken refuge with her wealthy peers in advertising, antique dealing or some other big money preserve of Britain's privileged classes.

Sarah Graham's late father was cousin to the Duke of Montrose, while Lady Jean Fforde, the chatelaine of Brodick Castle and daughter of the Dowager Marchioness of Montrose, is known to her as plain 'Aunt Jean'.

Educated at an elite private school, her childhood holidays were spent in the Highlands and rural France.

And there was a time, she admits, when youthful disenchantment with the fashion for the 'shock' art of Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst led her to abandon dreams of being an artist in favour of a lucrative position in international antiques brokering.

But artichokes, sunflowers, irises and her mother's love of gardening, all conspired to turn her into Britain's leading 'nature' artist.

Specialising in giant watercolour, charcoal and ink studies of flowers, the 35-year-old Edinburgh-born aristocrat will stage her breakthrough exhibition in London later this month.

