

Graham Catney – Made In Belfast

**TX: Monday 11th June 2007, 10.35pm
BBC 1 Northern Ireland**

Short Synopsis

Northern Ireland has a brand new artist, straight out of college, and about to conquer the art scene.

But he is no ordinary student.

Graham Catney is a 69 year old ex customs and excise interrogator who, up until seven years ago, had never held a paint brush.

This is the remarkable story of how art saved his life.

Synopsis

For the last seven years, Graham Catney has pursued his hobby and passion for Art, going back to college to learn one of the most difficult art mediums and is emerging as a serious artist. Following in the footsteps of Picasso, Matisse, Toulouse Lautrec and David Hockney, Graham works in print or Lithography which is a mesmerising art-form based on the fact that oil and water do not mix. A drawing is etched on stone, in Graham's case he uses local Mourne Granite, and through an alchemy of greasy crayon, water and paint, a print is produced. Graham talks about his love for the naturalness of the stone, of the surprise and pure delight when a print work emerges and is good.

Already he has gained the respect of established artists here such as **Neil Shawcross** who have bought his work. His graduation show sold out in a matter of hours with work going to The Lyric Theatre, The Belfast City and Mater Hospitals as well as local personalities including **Wendy Austin** who is a big fan. Graham won the Diageo 'Most Emerging Artist 2005' award and exhibited at the Ulster Museum.

The documentary sees Graham return to Southern Spain where he and his wife had planned to retire. Sadly Valerie died within a few years and Graham's dreams were shattered. We followed as he made the emotional journey to Nerja Spain, his first visit in 11 years since Valerie died.

We capture Graham's journey in this uplifting personal documentary and present an extraordinary man who has looked to his passion for Art to help him triumph over personal loss and sadness, who has turned his life around and is about to embark on a most exciting and perilous new career path moving from unknown art student to recognised artist.