

Alice Instone – Interview with a Shoe

Publication Bristol Daily Press (Online)
Date 20th May 2009
Type Regional

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Elle Macpherson's arty cowboy boots

Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 15:14

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Elle Macpherson and Annie Lennox have been asked to bare their soles for an art exhibition which tells people's stories through portraits of their favourite shoes.

Elle's treasured cowboy boots, the pink stilettos Cherie Blair wore on the 2005 campaign trail and the gold platforms Annie wore to Bob Geldof and Paula Yates' wedding are just some of the footwear immortalised by artist Alice Instone.

She asked a series of influential and prominent women for their favourite shoes and the stories behind them and then painted the results.

Annie said of her shoes: "There was very little time to get any clothes together, as the whole thing was very 'spur of the moment'. The groom and best men dashed off to a dodgy men's outfitter to hire purple polyester suits, and I managed to find an outfit in a department store that gave me the appearance of a fabulous Indian restaurant interior (i.e. the walls).

"With massive fake gold hoop earrings and a sailor's hat... the gold platform shoes were the perfect footwear for the occasion, only the high heeled platforms made me teeter and tower over everyone else.... except for Bob of course."

Elle could only lend the artist her shoes for a week because she wears them so regularly she could not be without them for any longer.

She said: "They're the only pair of shoes I have that mean anything and they're a pair of black cowboy boots that I've had since I was a teenager. I still wear them without socks and with flared jeans."

The Interview With A Shoe exhibition is at Beach Blanket Babylon's gallery in Shoreditch, east London and runs for two weeks.

