

## Press Release

### ***AROUND THE CORNER***

**Launch of poetry book with illustrations by Tina McKenzie,  
Friday 21 November, Rottingdean, Brighton**

### ***'NICE GIRLS DON'T COME FROM BRIGHTON'***

Tina could not possibly be a nice girl – they just did not come from Brighton. That's what Tina's future mother-in-law declared. Roderick disagreed – he married her - and this poetry book is dedicated to him. He was the man, like Darcy, that we all hope is just 'Around the Corner'. His gift was belief and confidence in Tina – a gift so solid that it survived him and continues to inspire her every waking day.

This poetry book tells the story of a young woman born in London – who, with the arrival of the Second World War, grew up in Brighton. Her memories of those who helped, hindered, and inspired her, make this book an uplifting story. It takes us from Tina, aged 3, just before her grandmother rescues her from being sent to a children's home – to Tina, aged 87, enjoying a happy and fulfilled life full of challenges and excitement. We follow her along her way from Brighton to India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Canada and Ireland during the tumultuous 20<sup>th</sup> Century against the backdrop of huge social and political change around the globe. It's a snapshot of one person's experience – someone aware of what it is to be an outsider and to demand more. Someone intolerant of senseless suffering and prejudice against others. Someone who, by chance, found great happiness in a lucky encounter at a bus stop in Brighton.

So – what do you think? What would you have done way back then, when you met your future mother-in law? What would you do now if you entered the room - and:

There she sat,  
hard, high chair.  
Grim faced,  
unwelcoming,  
dressed in black,  
smelling of cologne.

I put out my hand.  
Ignored.  
Up she got,  
looked at me  
and said  
'Nice girls don't come from Brighton.'

**END**

### **Notes to Editors**

The publication of Tina McKenzie's poetry book 'Around the Corner' will be launched at an event on **Friday 21 November between 6-00-8-00pm at Beyond Design, 2/4 Marine Drive, Rottingdean**. Poems will be read by Rachel Wright (author and actress) and Roger White (composer and photographer).

Tina was born in 1927 in London – and with the threat of the outbreak of war moved with her grandmother to Brighton in 1938. This poetry book is a snapshot of her life and the times she experienced living and working in London and Brighton - followed from 1948 by India, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Ireland. Tina is a self-taught artist. She disagreed with 'authority'. Her mother-in-law was wrong when she said nice girls did not come from Brighton. And her beloved Grandmother was wrong when she said nice girls do not go to art college (unless they have the money)! Tina's journey as an artist has taken her from painting, textiles and collage - inspired by influences from across the world in shape, texture and colour - to embracing the power of words. This collection of poems and illustrations comes from jottings of the life she has led.

*Around the Corner* is published by Creative Screen Associates, ISBN 978-0-9930505-0-3. The book and illustrations will be available from Saturday 22 November from Amazon [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and *Art Works By The Sea* [www.etsy.com/shop/artworksbythesea](http://www.etsy.com/shop/artworksbythesea).

In 2015, Tina's autobiography will be published – told in anything but a traditional way.

### **For more information contact:**

Finella Perendija

M: +44 (0)7980 838265

E: [finellaperendija@gmail.com](mailto:finellaperendija@gmail.com)

**or**

Sarah McKenzie

M: +44 7976 244662

E: [sarah@creativescreenassociates.com](mailto:sarah@creativescreenassociates.com)