

A Rare Breed of Artist

Margaret Taylor is an artist who specialises in hand-painted tiles and china and, over the years, many of her commissions have featured rare breeds. She began work in the '60s and today her



murals and paintings can be seen in private homes, public buildings and hotels across the country.

One particular commission that Margaret recalls came in 2006 when she was contacted by Natural England and asked to decorate some tiles that would be used for a presentation trophy. She explains: "My noble subject was *Stoke Unicorn*, a handsome award-winning Longhorn bull. I used a photograph of 'Stoke' winning at the Royal Show in 2002 and when I had completed the painting, the tiles were mounted onto a wooden framework. The trophy is still being used to this day by the mid-west group of the Longhorn Society."

Margaret works closely with her clients to ensure that whether they are looking for a complete mural or a full dinner service, or individual items such as tiles, plates or pots, they are correct in every detail. Her works are a popular choice to adorn clients' kitchens as backdrops to that icon of the country kitchen, the AGA. She says: "Many of my murals feature farm animals or horses and over the years, I have painted very many rare breeds set in rural scenes and landscapes. People like my work because each piece is unique and I can produce scenes that are very personal to them and their interests."