

Dare to dream

Adam Dabrowski tells **Lynn Parr** why he's been living like a hermit, and why *A&I* rules OK...

The power of *A&I* knows no bounds. No sooner had rising star Adam Dabrowski appeared in Readers' Gallery (Feb. issue 233), than the wheels of fame and fortune began whirring. He was

contacted by a major public relations firm, offered a London show and was commissioned to paint a nationally known radio personality. And if all that wasn't exciting enough, renowned portrait artist Andrew James

invited him to his studio to give him some pointers. Not bad for someone who came to painting only a couple of years ago and had almost no formal art training.

Dabrowski began painting at the age of 40 after meeting influential Belgian artist Christian Develter. "He told me to "get painting and just have fun; don't think of the result."

Then *A&I* published what was only the third painting Dabrowski had ever done. And, like with Michael Lawes (issue 237) and Mark Grieves (issue 238), things began to happen. "The article helped me in a number of ways – it was a real honour to see my painting published. I pull out the article on any occasion I can – you are taken a lot more seriously if you've had something published."

A public relations firm offered him a deal, and then he was put in contact with Andrew James. "He spent hours with me, looking at my first 10 paintings. He wrote me a brilliant letter afterwards, saying I had talent and the right mental attitude, and I should just go for it. When you start out it's great to have a peer

give you confidence and the stamp of approval. So many artists just starting out get stopped dead by their parents and other people."

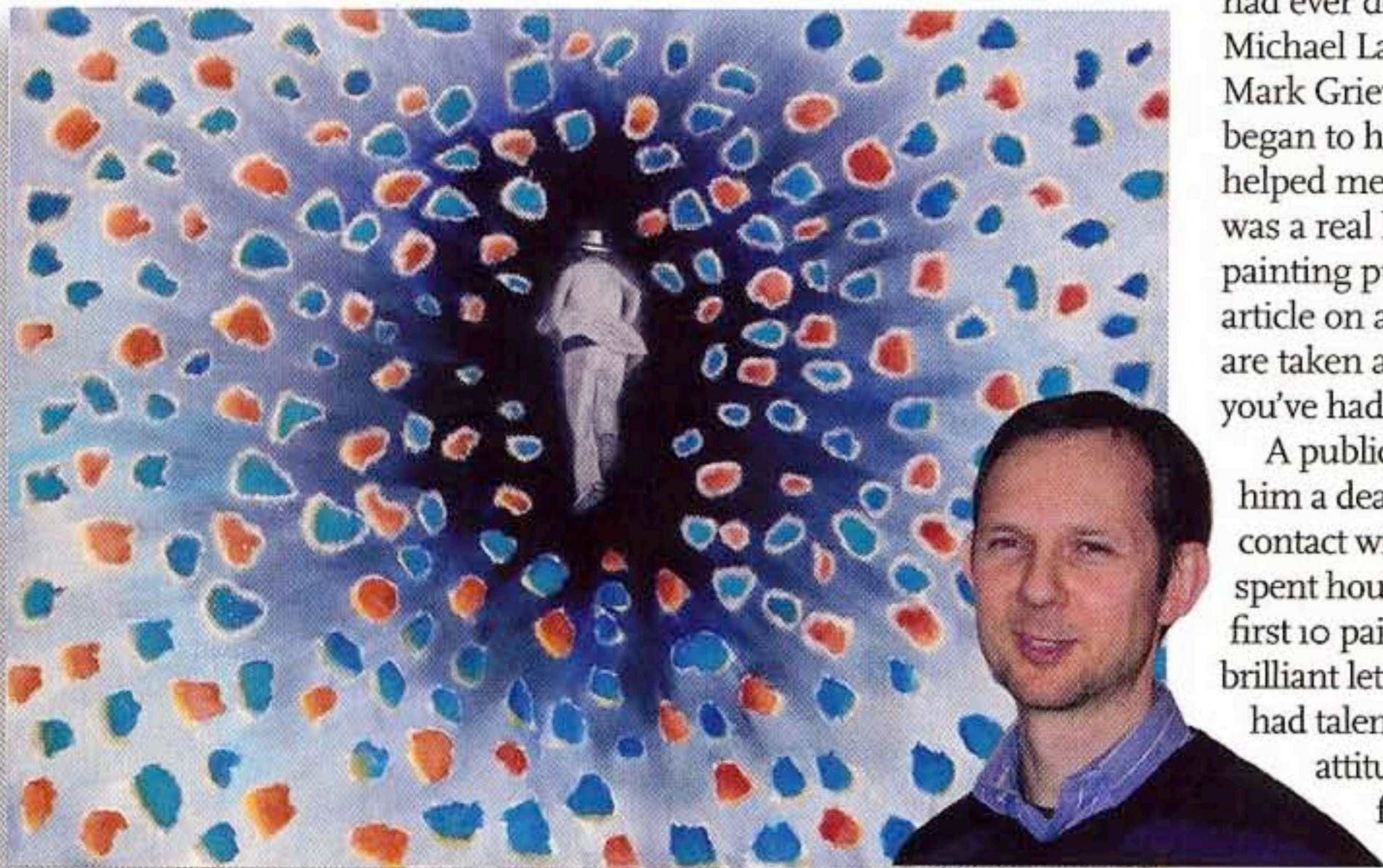
James told him to avoid going to art school so he retained his fresh, individual style. "I am resisting any recourse to books on techniques or looking at other people's work, to stay true to my images and my own interpretation of them. I've got my own language in painting, and I don't want to be influenced by a school or books."

When he rang Virgin Radio for a competition, he mentioned he was just beginning a new career as an artist and had been published in *A&I*. The DJ, Chris O'Connell, commissioned him to paint his portrait, which he did in October.

Since then, Dabrowski has had his head down, painting a series for his upcoming show. "I've become a hermit, painting all the time. It's been an amazing past few months."

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Dabrowski's work is at the Posk Gallery, King Street, London W6, until 16 March. Contact him on 0208 767 3627.



Into Infinity, oil on canvas, 102x137cm