

Artist's journey to tap into the spiritual and emotional world

Waveney artist Hugo Grenville, whose latest exhibition catalogue is a joint work with poet Philip Wells, has also collaborated with a Spitfire pilot, a marathon runner and veteran actress Stephanie Cole.

For the morning after a launch party for his new show of female portraits and still life studies, the Mendham-based painter was a guest on Midweek, the Radio 4 chat show hosted by Suffolk's Libby Purves.

A vintage conversation evolved between the four seemingly disparate figures, with La Cole's voluntary stint at an orphanage run by Mother Theresa clearly linking to war service and the intense physical endeavour of a London marathon.

But how could these testing experiences connect with the life of a man whose profession takes him to a room with beautiful women in various stages of undress?

Well, Hugo served with the Army in Africa and Ulster, and also covered the Bosnian conflict as a war artist.

Hence the later reaction in images of brilliantly coloured contentment (a two-year period of sombre pictures having ended in a bright bonfire).

He said: "In my art I want to let people tap into a spiritual and emotional world which is full of hope."

Fully illustrated catalogues for his show - including *I listen for Your Touch*, (right) - cost £12 from Messum's at 8 Cork Street, London W1S 3LJ (020 7437 5545).

