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Gallery owner's delight at getting Hirst print for free

AFTER a chance encounter with artist Damien Hirst, an amazed Westcountry gallery owner has walked away with one of his limited edition works – for free.

Angela Yarwood, who owns the Brook Gallery in Budleigh Salterton, East Devon, was in London sourcing work from another artist when she bumped into Mr Hirst. One minute Ms Yarwood was having “a bit of banter” with the artist, and the next he was presenting her with a personally signed, diamond-dusted silk-screen print of his controversial work, *For the Love of God*.

The diamond-encrusted skull went down in history as the most expensive work of contemporary art by a living artist when it sold for £50 million this year.

Ms Yarwood, who described Mr Hirst as



“lovely” and “just a normal bloke”, said having a piece of the artist’s work was “a coup” for her gallery.

Only 250 of the 2.5ft by 1.5ft silk-screen prints have been produced by the artist, with five different images. The artworks are available to buy exclusively through the White Cube gallery in London.

Ms Yarwood said she thought there would only be one or two other

galleries that had one of the silk-screens hanging in their permanent exhibition. She said: “You never think you can get hold of things like that.”

The print will hang in the Brook Gallery until Christmas.

The prints are being sold for £10,000 but that is expected to rise. However, Ms Yarwood stressed that her personalised print “is definitely not for sale – at any price”.

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● **GET ONE FREE:** Angela Yarwood and the diamond-dusted silk-screen print of the skull from *For the Love of God*