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Artist Nina Mae Fowler draws from Hollywood's golden age, attracting fans including Sienna Miller and Jude Law

Nina Mae Fowler launches book and exhibition portraying stars of the past

MIRANDA BRYANT | Thursday 10 December 2015 14:24 | [0 comments](#)

An artist who has dedicated her career to depicting the stars of Hollywood's golden age today said public "lust" for celebrities was as strong then as it is now — but technology has made them more accessible.

Nina Mae Fowler's drawings and sculptures have attracted a fanbase that includes Sienna Miller and Jude Law, filmmaker John Maybury, and singer Sharleen Spiteri. Her subjects have included Clark Gable, Marlene Dietrich, Jean Harlow, Marilyn Monroe and Edie Sedgwick.

Today the London-based artist is launching a book, *Measuring Elvis*, accompanied by an exhibition at The Cob Gallery in Camden. She said that since the Twenties, "I don't think anything's changed in terms of the public's insatiable desire to see behind the scenes. What's changed is access. Social media, the internet, it can spread so easily." Current celebrities do not hold the same allure and mystery: "I don't think the public's lust has changed. That's what interests me about that [earlier] era — the smokescreen."

Fowler, 34, grew up in Hampstead and studied sculpture in Brighton. She became friends with Miller after they met in Venice while the actress was filming *Casanova*.

As well as her art, the 200-page work features writing by contributors including Miller, Maybury, playwright Polly Stenham, former National Portrait Gallery director Sandy Nairne, historians Barry Miles and Margherita Spiro and performance artist Eloise Fornieles.

Fowler has also created etchings of tabloid images of Britney Spears and Amy Winehouse. But she said: "My drawings are responsive of what's going on now but I'm not that interested in current celebrities — for me they don't have the mystery."

"I don't want to make a drawing that's about Leonardo DiCaprio and that's it. If you draw (golden age US actress) Tallulah Bankhead, who's not so recognised now, she still has the intrigue and aura. Clark Gable: what is it about him that made hundreds of thousands venerate him? Can I capture that?"

The Hollywood thing is a passion — the end of the silent era, the Twenties going into the Fifties going to colour." *Measuring Elvis* is being published by The Cob Gallery after a crowdfunding campaign.