

Artist claims university is 'shunning the arts'

A Hampshire artist has slammed the University of Portsmouth for 'shunning the arts'.

Colin Merrin, an elected member of the Royal Watercolour Society, is calling for action to stop the demise of fine art teaching at the University of Portsmouth. The undergraduate fine art degree and MA courses are both set to end after this academic year.

The University of Portsmouth was contacted but did not wish to issue a response.

"Unlike our neighbours in Chichester and Southampton, we don't have a major art gallery and this really impoverishes the city," said Colin.

Two of Colin's latest watercolour paintings, including *Where I've been and Where I'm Going* (right) can be seen in the privately owned Atelier Gallery in Portsmouth.

