

THE URBAN RURALIST

The It girl-turned-gallery owner Tamara Beckwith has plans for a series of children's books

WAKE UP CALL Life has changed immeasurably since baby Violet arrived. Now I wake up almost three minutes before she does... call it a mother's alarm.

CHILDHOOD AMBITION When I was five we bought a beautiful house in Kew from the prima ballerina Monica Mason and I was given her old ballet room as my bedroom. I was desperate to be a ballet dancer and even applied to The Royal Ballet School. They predicted that I would be too tall and I had too tight hamstrings so that was that!

BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY GIVEN Being sent to Cheltenham Ladies College aged 11. I've still got the same two best friends and have recently raised quite substantial funds for their new arts centre. Education is not just about results but about the journey.

PERSONAL HEROES John McEnroe (below) was my all-time favourite sportsman – a genius and so naughty!

IT GIRL Being labelled an IT Girl was terrific fun at the time. We were a group of friends who were genuinely out for a ball. The press seemed to think it was an interesting posse and I guess we all went along for the ride. It was hilarious to be paid to do what you would be doing anyway... The opportunities it presented were all very life altering.

GALLERY OWNER Owning the Little Black Gallery was not a life-long dream, more a golden opportunity. I had been good friends with the late photographer

Bob Carlos Clarke and his wife Lindsey since I was about 19.

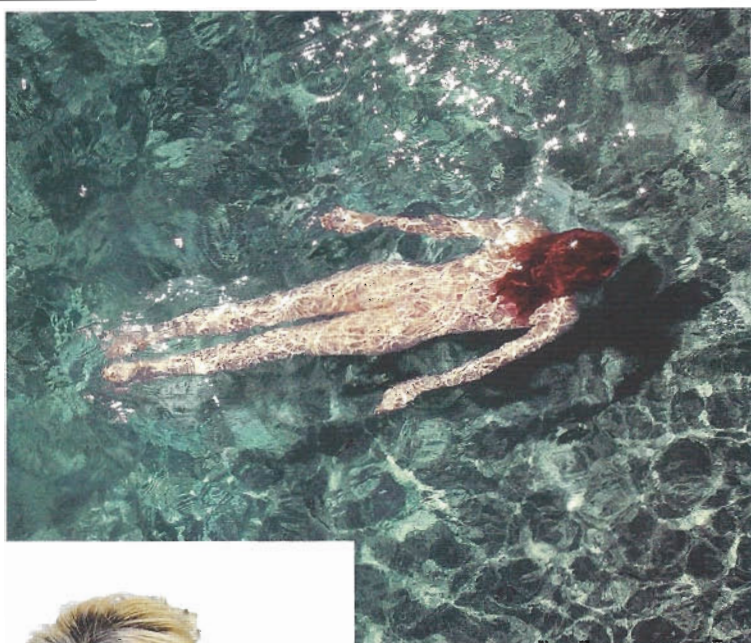
Ghislain Pascal has been my agent for around 15 years and I had introduced them all to each other. When Lindsey and Ghislain decided to open a Gallery in

Bob's honour they came to me to see if I was interested in joining forces. Now, it's a wonderful outlet for me.

WILD CHILD
Life will never be dull for Tamara



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SHOE FETISH Shoes will be my downfall. There is just something so fabulously spoiling about buying a new pair. I genuinely have no idea how many pairs I now own.

TWITTER OR FACEBOOK I am on Facebook mostly because my daughter put me on it. I have started to use it primarily for my gallery.

CREDIT CRUNCH LUXURY Rob Van Helden flowers.

REALITY TV On the whole I loathe reality shows but those are the ones that pit the contestants against each other. I have only ever accepted or appeared in a show where I am learning a skill I never would have otherwise.

HOME SWEET HOME I love order and everything has its own place. Cushions are plumped, towels hang in straight lines and all that nonsense. I almost can't leave the house with the bed unmade.

BY THE BESIDE Lavender oil, a bottle of water, lipsalve, pictures of my girls, a rose face spray and whatever book I am trying to plough through... oh, and the baby monitor!

LONDON LOVES I love everything about London, I am so aware of how lucky we are to have the parks. I also love our black cabs and theatres, and our historic buildings always make me smile.

GREAT ESCAPE We love St Barts

but that's hardly a rest. Funnily enough we were bored stiff in the Maldives – maybe we just aren't a relaxing type of couple... **AMBITION NOT YET ACHIEVED** I have a great idea for a children's book series which I am having meetings about... not earth shatteringly new but I certainly haven't seen it before.

ONE THING NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT TAMARA BECKWITH... I come across as tough as old boots but I love crying at silly movies.

'Summer In The City' is at The Little Black Gallery, 13a Park Walk, London SW10 until 31 July. thelittleblackgallery.com

