



It's about giving antiques a more 21st-century look

REBECCA HOLMES, *Miles Griffiths Antiques*

Driving through the market town of Clitheroe, Lancashire, it's impossible to miss Miles Griffiths Antiques.

Although it's not slap-bang in the centre, its large, beautifully dressed and regularly changing windows – real fir trees at Christmas; red furniture for Valentine's Day – ensure that it gets more than its fair share of attention.

'Huge windows were one of the primary factors for us when we were looking for a shop,' says Rebecca Holmes, who runs the business with her partner, Miles. 'Some antiques shops can seem quite stuffy and we were very keen to combat that. Here, people can see right in. It's amazing how many people call on a Monday saying they spotted a piece in the shop on Saturday night.'

Rebecca's flair for display runs to the shop floor, too. 'We love the elegance of Regency style, but we like oversized things too – big club chairs, enormous mirrors, church candlesticks.' Items are carefully placed for maximum effect, with modern art hanging alongside antique oils. 'People have a mental image of what an "antiques shop" should be, and we don't really fit that,' she confides, admitting that she and Miles often wonder whether to drop the word 'antiques' entirely from their name. 'It's about giving antiques a more 21st-century look,' she says.

Rebecca also offers an interior design service – anything from upholstering a chair to sourcing key pieces. As ever, her approach is slightly out of the ordinary: 'We might use unusual fabrics or vintage buttons and we only ever do one-offs.'

Miles Griffiths Antiques, 2/2a Shawbridge Street, Clitheroe, Lancashire. 01200 443658; milesgriffithsantiques.co.uk

