

CUSTOMER STORY JUNE 2025

World renowned disabled artist chooses Recare for 'remarkable' powered wheelchair

Jon Clayton, 62 from Scunthorpe, an internationally recognised quadriplegic artist, who uses his mouth to hold paintbrushes, has just chosen a new Permobil powered wheelchair from Recare to continue his lifelong work.



STORY 017

Before becoming an artist, Jon was an apprentice mechanic. At the age of 17 he was involved in a motorbike accident which resulted in a life-changing injury and spending a year in the Spinal Unit of Wakefield Hospital.

With his arms and legs permanently paralysed due to a spinal cord injury in his neck, Occupational Therapists suggested

he try 'mouth painting' but it wasn't a success. However, after discharge, he received a 'painting-by-numbers' set as a Christmas gift which gave him another chance to try. This was a turning point for Jon and started him on a new career path developing a distinctive style mainly in oils and focusing on landscapes, people and animals.

Jon became an affiliated member of the international Mouth and Foot Painter's Association (MFPA) in 1998. He now sells his recognised work across the world and his images are renowned in the Christmas card market. His new powerchair, a Permobil M3 Corpus, has ensured he can continue to access his purpose-built

studio where he produces works of art for everyone to enjoy and to maintain his mental health. Jon lives alone with the support of two carers 24/7 as he is now a ventilated patient at night.

The bespoke solution

"I was looking for a new powered wheelchair so went online and came across Recare" begins Jon. "I found their website helpful as it can be quite daunting looking for new equipment. I already had an Invacare powerchair, but it was past its best so called and spoke to a Recare Assessor called Ray. He came out to assess my needs and was amazing.

"Ray was so thorough and caring and I was really impressed with my test drive in my house, around the garden and into my studio. I tried a Permobil M3 Corpus as it had mid-wheel drive and immediately could see the potential it had for my needs. Ray recommended the

perfect specifications and chin controls to maximise my independence. It was remarkable."

Access to art

Jon has been painting for 46 years. To access his easel, the charity Remap have helped Jon design and create a bespoke, electrically adjustable set up, so he is free to paint on his own. "I have an electronic adjustable easel with button controls for up, down, left and right" continues Jon.

"I can also adjust the angle for palette knife painting. The flexibility of the human wrist is quite something, so I have had to try and replicate that. With my friends at Remap we have been able to design and make all the bespoke equipment I need. I have special paint brushes and pallet knives all designed for use with my mouth. I am naturally an independent person."

"Some people may say 'how can you be independent?' being paralysed from the neck down, however if I can find a way of doing something for myself, I will. I will have a tool made. I can also feed myself. In a morning, I go into the studio and the girls put my paints out, I've got a drink, I'm on camera if I need any help. And then it's up to me and that's how I like it. I like my own company."

Jon tends to paint five to six days a week. In between studio time he enjoys walks in the local countryside on his own or with family. He has a five-mile range with his powerchair which also allows him to go to events such as concerts.

Recommending Recare

In conclusion, Jon is delighted with the versatility his powerchair provides and the service he has received from Recare. He



sums up by saying: "I haven't been able to exhibit my work for a while due to my health but would love to again soon or paint live in front of people. I know my Permobil will help make this happen. In terms of service from Recare, I have never had support like it."

Recare have been fantastic from sales to setting up my chair and Ray has been such a help and a gentleman. He clearly cares about his customers. I've never had a powerchair like this either with so many features that have comfort and health benefits and in case of an emergency, such as the flat position. Ray has set me up with everything I need to be in control of my movements, I can even press a button that puts me in a pre-determined position. It's like an armchair, it's so comfortable. I've had some tweaks since so really appreciate his after sales service. Would I recommend them? Absolutely."



With a specialist showroom and seating clinic near Oxford, we are a respected and family-run provider of mobility and rehabilitation equipment across the UK.

Call for a free consultation: 01993 880200

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