



## Gallery Newsletter

December 2016

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"Out There in Torrion -  
Catching the Tide"

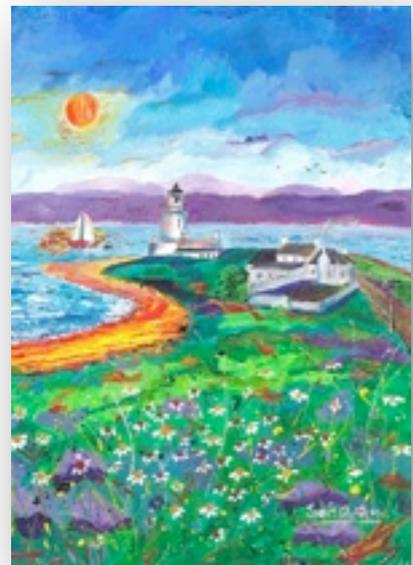
## FIRSTLY, HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT THE LOCH TORRIDON CENTRE GALLERY

### Interview with Sarah Dunton

#### Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am originally from rural Paddock Wood in Kent, romantically known as the "Garden of England", and I have been passionate about craft and painting from a very young age. As a self-taught artist who loves life and the outdoors, I have spent time experimenting and exploring different mediums and art styles. In recent years I have focused on my bold characteristic use of colour to produce work which is instantly recognisable.

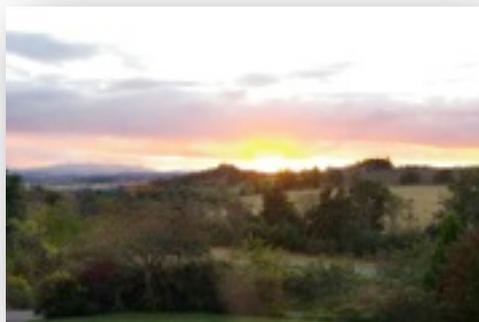
When I decided to begin a new work direction I started by designing bespoke, luxury greeting cards. I then began making quality wooden, handmade plaques which proved very popular, but I felt there was so much more creativity in me - I wanted to express my vision of my surroundings in an explosion of colour and the best way to do this was through my paintings. I had painted many scenes over the years using a variety of different techniques, but I was never confident to display my work, let alone sell it!



#### Where are you based? Do you have a studio?

I am based in Avoch on the south side of the Black Isle where my family and I moved in 2006. We fell in love with our house which is at the top of a steep hill and, despite being a little tricky to negotiate in icy weather, has the benefit of fantastic views over farm land, the Moray Firth and the beautiful hills towards the West. I decided to call my fledgling business after my house name 'Laverock', which means Skylark in Gaelic, and so the name Laverock Arts and Crafts was born. And yes, before you ask, we are lucky enough to have a chorus of skylarks surrounding our house every summer!

My studio faces west with my work space placed under the window to take full advantage of the view so I can gain inspiration whenever I am confronted by a blank canvas. I am never lonely in my studio as my loving Welsh Springer Spaniel, Willow, is always at my side, curled up on her bed, dreaming and snoring, and bringing a smile to my face.



### **I love your vibrant colours and style – what inspires your work?**

The inspiration for my work comes from my beautiful surroundings. The Black Isle has been my main source of motivation since moving here with the old fishing villages, the landscapes and the coast providing an endless source of fascination.



I have recently started painting other landscapes within the Highlands which is renowned for its wild beauty and I have found much to inspire me. I particularly enjoy painting remote locations on the West Coast and the more far-flung islands with their isolated crofts and rugged scenery. The same scene can be expressed in so many ways in my paintings by adjusting the light and time of day.

I am constantly looking to reinterpret the landscape, finding my own unique direction. Ultimately, it is the light and colours which drive, excite and inspire me. I try to capture the ambience and character of the landscape with enhanced colours to accentuate the effortless natural splendour of my theme. My paintings are described as having a modern, contemporary feel to them which are bold, free-flowing and autonomous. I mainly work in acrylics as I find they capture my feelings and are very diverse; however, I also use watercolours, oil, charcoal and pen.



### **What are you working on at the moment?**

I have just finished a beautiful commission of Munloch Bay which is centred on the setting sun over the bay and captures the sense of comfort the location

brings to this person since her father died. I have worked on many commissions and listen to my clients' emotions about the location as this plays a very important part as to how I paint the landscape for them.

I am currently working on a landscape at Coillegillie, near Applecross, which is for an art exhibition in Strathpeffer in November. My husband took a series of photographs of the area I am working from and my painting will illustrate a beautiful composition of a croft, with ruins in the foreground, that overlooks the Cuillin mountain range on Skye. He took the photographs whilst walking Willow, while my youngest daughter and I were doing the Applecross Duathlon for her Diamond Duke of Edinburgh Award this year!



### **Apart from the Loch Torridon Gallery where can people find your work?**

My work can be found at the Inchmore Gallery, located between Inverness and Beaulieu; the Fortrose Gift Shop, Fortrose; The Storehouse of Foulis; Cameron's Tea Room, Foyers; The Emporium, Cromarty, the Strathpeffer Art Fair (November); Fortrose Art Fair (August). I have also taken part in the winter exhibition at Eden Court, Inverness.

I have a website where people can browse my latest work together with my prints and high quality gift cards at [laverockartsandcrafts.co.uk](http://laverockartsandcrafts.co.uk). I also keep in touch and update people via Facebook, instantly displaying my work and announcing any craft fairs I am due to attend over the coming months. I can be contacted direct by email at [sarah\\_dunton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah_dunton@hotmail.co.uk)

### **‘Spotlight On’ – “Out There in Torridon ~ Catching the Tide” Exhibition through 31 March 2017**

Following the underlying theme “Out there in Torridon”, our new winter exhibition “Catching the Tide” recently opened for which we were delighted to welcome new work from both our established artists and a few new names. Works include paintings, pottery, felt work, weaving and photography. We encourage everyone to come along and take a look – the gallery will be open throughout the winter on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, 11am – 3pm.

Here are a few of the works to whet your appetite:



"West Coast Storm" by Sarah Woodcock



"Seaweed at Low Tide" by Monique Bervoets



"Coasting" by Deborah Wickham



"Time and Tide" by Katherine Sutherland



"Thaw" by Julia Ranger



"Mackerel" by Alison West



“Earthenware plate with Fused glass and fish motif” by Vicky Stonebridge



“Fish trap” by Sheila Bates



“Passing Showers” by Roseanne Wiseman



“The River to the Loch” by Margaret McKay

This, and previous issues of the newsletter, are available to download from the Centre website via the [Exhibitions page](#).

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#### Summer Opening Hours

Easter – October  
Monday to Saturday  
10am – 4pm  
Closed Sunday

#### Winter Opening Hours

November – Easter  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
11am – 3pm  
Closed Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday