



Gallery Newsletter

December 2017

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

Interview with Cindie Reiter, acrylic/mixed media artist

I always read the Torrion Gallery newsletter with a cup of tea and a great deal of interest so I was very pleased to be asked to be featured artist.

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I was born in Wales, and lived in various places in England but have been in the Highlands for 28 years, the majority of my adult life.



I have two grown-up children, who both now live in Edinburgh. I attended art college back in what seems like the dark ages, but later completed a degree in Psychology, thinking about perhaps working in art therapy. This helped me when I worked in mental health and helped found a small social enterprise, which taught traditional textile skills and encouraged people to develop design skills. I was a decorative artist, painting trompe l'oeil murals and decorative items when my children were small. Then, when they were a bit older I worked in libraries as well as mental health. I didn't paint at all for several years,

but when my husband retired five years ago I gave up full-time employment to concentrate on art.

Where are you based? Do you have a studio?

I've lived in Lochcarron for more than 18 years and have a studio at my home. I also run Lochcarron Gallery with two friends, Aileen Grant and Mairi Young and am lucky enough to have studio space there too, where I can work during quiet periods at the gallery. I always seem to have left whatever I need next at the last place I was working.



What inspires your work?

I am inspired by the Highlands, it really is a beautiful place to live. I find it hard to describe how much my surroundings move and challenge me, which is perhaps why I



try and communicate in paint instead. I aim, and usually fail, to capture what I see. The light and the reflections, the huge skies and rich colours of Wester Ross, to remember and share with others. I take my sketchbook and camera with me wherever I go and often stop in the middle of a journey to sketch or just look at the view.

I am especially inspired by the villages and houses, dwarfed as they are by the hills, lochs and huge skies, the way that people have continued to live in such a challenging environment. One of my first inspirations was the Welsh artist Kyffin Williams who painted

brooding landscapes, wee houses and small farms and whose landscape subjects have much in common with the Highlands.

I'm also inspired by so many wonderful artists, from Kurt Jackson to Ann Blockley and Ran Ortner to Tibor Nagy. I am so lucky to be able to see, be inspired by and share the art of so many talented local artists, I visit galleries and exhibitions whenever I can and spend far too much time online looking at art.



What are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently working on a couple of commissions, some new work for Lochcarron Gallery and some decorative items for Christmas sales. I also recently started an online course concentrating on Alla Prima Oil painting. I have mostly given up on sleep.

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

I have work at Lochcarron Gallery, Patterns of Light in Kishorn and the Waterside Cafe Lochcarron. In the past I've also had work at Skyeworks Gallery, Inchmore Gallery and I recently had a solo show at The GALE Centre in Gairloch.

Cindie Reiter has a number of pieces on display at the Loch Torridon Gallery. For more information, and to see more of her work, please visit: www.facebook.com/HighlandLittleFish https://twitter.com/Cindie_Reiter <https://highlandlittlefish.com/> <http://www.redbubble.com/people/cindiereiter/shop>

‘Spotlight On’ Laura EllaKirk, artist

I grew up in Cove until the age of 7 when our family moved 4 miles away to Firemore (beside the beach). Attended a portfolio course once a week in Ullapool during my sixth year at high-school to go alongside my advanced higher art for applying to Art School. At 18 I moved to Edinburgh to attend Edinburgh College of Art.



After a general first year, which gave a taste of all the courses ECA had to offer, I specialised in Sculpture, and spent the next three years attaining my Bachelor of Arts with Honours degree – including writing my dissertation on tea which is another passion of mine. Graduated June 2011.

Moved back home to resume working at the local pub/hotel and cafe in Poolewe (had to earn a living). After a couple of years I was given the opportunity to stock some of my work in the Bridge Cottage Cafe in Poolewe thanks to my second set of parents (Connie and Michael) who gave me the opportunity, and my actual parents for letting me use their shed as my studio as I didn't have my own at the time. From there I started my own business as a part time artist (created during spare time/days off from work). Today I use my own shed and spare room in my home in Poolewe as studio space and have managed a year as a full time artist.

Inspiration comes from many years of childhood spent on the beach collecting shells which would then sit in boxes or jars doing nothing. One day I decided to cast some of the shells into resin to create an ornament and to let the shells be displayed properly; from that came the idea to create a variety of ornaments to sell using shells collected from Firemore beach, where I still go for walks often with my mum and family dog.



During my later childhood I spent many hours helping my Grandpa with his herd of cows, including going up the hills and past the lochs to fetch them at the end of each summer which meant spending even more time surrounded by the areas' gorgeous scenery. I decided to use the hills' heather to cast into resin to preserve its beauty. From this also came a love of wildlife which inspired me to paint and draw a selection of animals which I sell in form of originals, greeting cards, keyrings, prints and magnets.



I recently started working with fused glass which I'm enjoying experimenting with, creating my own designs and making into jewellery. I'm planning on expanding this in the near future to make window ornaments and hopefully more.

I create a variety of arts and crafts and sell them at the Poolewe Tuesday market and a few other locations over the season.

My work is stocked in a many local outlets including the Bridge Cottage Cafe in Poolewe, the Shieling in Gairloch, the Russian Arctic Convoy Museum in Aultbea, the Gallery in Loch Torridon Community Centre and Dandelion Designs and Images Gallery in Skye. My work can also be found online in my [Etsy shop](#) and I have a website under construction.



Further information about Laura EllaKirk and her work can be found at www.facebook.com/LauraEllaKirkArtist/

‘Spotlight on’ Jane ‘Jed’ Picksley, wire work sculptures and jewellery

Jane ‘Jed’ Picksley has been making sculpture and jewellery full of character from recycled electrical wire, driftwood, beach debris and broken machines since 1998. No two pieces are the same.



“The material preceded the art - back in 1998, the streets of Edinburgh were covered in discarded old tube televisions as people upgraded to flat screen TVs. I found that every old tube TV had four coils of varnished copper wire in it, and this material (beautiful, flexible and readily available in a mysterious range of colours) has been my favourite plaything every since.

“I started making dragons because no one can say they are wrong and refer me to dragons in a zoo! There are no rules for imaginary creatures.

“Having exercised my confidence in manipulating the wire to achieve increasingly elegant imaginary forms, I will now try anything. Copying particular dogs and trees is fun, but I agonise over getting horses right, often unwinding them until I’m happy. “That horse is really going somewhere” was a favourite compliment.



“Beach debris from my birthplace and parental home in north east Scotland, my student jaunts east of Edinburgh and recent travels around Wales all complement the flow of the wire. I love bringing sea-smoothed objects into my work and I don’t forget that this wire once carried electricity, so the continuation of flow in our imagination is very satisfying.

“All the wide-gauge wire in my recent work comes from the rewiring of my current home, Wheatstone House. This house has been rewired more than twice since it was built in 1910, but no one had ever extracted the old wire so I am lucky to be using the tinned copper that was popular in pre-1920s construction. The gentle silvery sheen will not alter with time. By contrast, the wide-gauge solid copper wire will verdigris (Spanish for “green grey”) over time unless varnished.



“I strip all the rubber coatings from the wire myself, really valuing the recycling element of my work. If you tire of your sculpture, or squash it into ugliness, it retains a weigh-in value!

Jed welcomes commissions and suggestions. Please email jed2f4@yahoo.co.uk. You can view more work and items for sale at www.wheatstonewirework.co.uk.

Remember the Autumn Exhibition, “Out there in Torridon”, is now open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:00 - 15:00

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