



Gallery Newsletter

May 2018

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Summer Season Exhibition

“Night and Day”

You are warmly invited to join us on Wednesday 16 May for an OPEN AFTERNOON from 2 - 4 pm to help celebrate new work and meet some of the artists

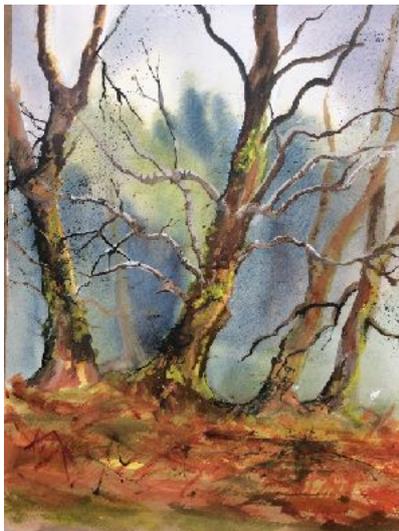
With Story Teller and felt-maker Jane Burns
Refreshments

Everyone welcome

Interview with Gill Wilson, artist

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I have been married twice and have two grown up children. I come from a family of artists and work by my great, great grandfather, John Oxley, can be seen in Whitby Art Gallery! I've painted all my life but decided to read Social Studies (B.A.) at King's College, Durham University, rather than go to Art College. This means that I am mostly self-taught although I have attended numerous residential art courses in France and U.K. and did attend Leek College of Art to gain a GCSE in Art.



I don't work from photographs but either complete the whole painting outside or do a sketch in situ which I later use for the basis of a painting in the studio. I've taken part in many exhibitions, in France, Canada and Scotland, winning awards in three of them. I have also had solo exhibitions in Edinburgh and Aberfoyle. Other interests include gardening and walking when I can.

In my late teens I had an accident which resulted in significant back pain. Five years later, my life changed for ever when a dye called Myodil was injected in to my spine for x-ray purposes, and is still there. This dye was later found to be a nerve irritant causing constant severe pain and many other health issues which have

dogged me for almost fifty years. This has obviously impacted on the development of my art as I am limited in the amount of time I can spend painting and promoting one's artwork takes quite a lot of energy!

Where are you based? Do you have a studio?

I lived in Torridon and Achintraid for twenty two years where I was a member of WRAG and had a small studio/gallery in Achintraid. We moved south to Ardnamurchan in 2014 to be nearer to family and grandchildren. In addition to sharing a very large poly-tunnel with my daughter, I now have a little studio/gallery in Strontian which is getting known and doing well.

What inspires your work?

In two words, light and dramatic weather! I have always loved counterchange and hope my paintings reflect this, in the placing of bright yellow ochres against the dark blues of shadowed landscape. I also love wild skies and am constantly trying to capture their drama and relationship with the land. I truly believe that working outside gives a freshness and spontaneity to any painting. Ardnamurchan is much softer and gentler than Wester Ross and although it is lovely, I do miss the grandeur of the north.



What are you working on at the moment?

*I'm lucky to live near **Resipole Gallery** which displays work by very well known artists . I have just completed three " postcards" for an exhibition which is to be held there in May and which is including some local artists. I'm now trying to fill a space on the gallery wall after selling a large watercolour two days ago. This was one I completed on a bitterly cold day near Arisaig so am planning to go back and do another. I'm also trying to find time to go over to Canna to take some of my cards and a painting to the shop there.*



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

*5) My work can be seen here in my studio/gallery on Longrigg, Strontian and also in the Strontian Hotel. I have a page on **Facebook**. Occasionally I have work on display at Resipole Gallery.*

Gill Wilson has a number of pieces on display at the Loch Torridon Gallery.

'Nature as Art' by Lynn Bennett-MacKenzie

A childhood spent in remote rural places where people were scarce but nature abound; many years in this upbringing shapes my work as we too often rush by in our ever busy lives. Aims, achievements and deadlines keep us fearful of slowing down. The economy rules the headlines but a walk in nature grounds me. These spaces give you a healthy respect for the power of mother nature!

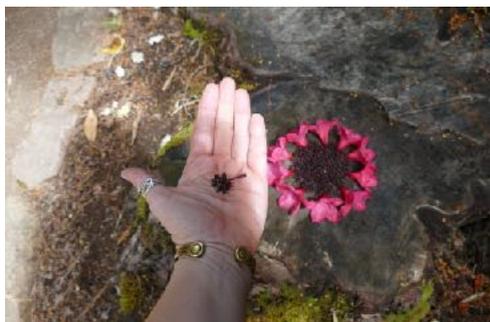
All too often as humans, we “separate” ourselves from what is around us, often aiming to overcome the elements and surroundings, beat them into submission, control them for our own benefit. We conveniently overlook the fact that we are also part of the environment and nature, and are made up of the same stuff. Every action has a reaction be it positive or negative...

You may ask what is Nature Art? There have been many discussions about this but my perspective is that of being in a space, sensing and making some kind of connection. My work is about awareness, noticing surroundings, appreciating, taking the time to enjoy it. The wonder of noticing something in the passing, interacting with it, creating something out of material that might be generally classed as debris or unimportant. Everything has its place and purpose, even the dreaded Scottish midgie!



Part of the process of creating nature art works is often having to force myself to slow down, sit, observe, use the senses. It is also a meditative process as I get absorbed, work and switch off from the wider world...once begun, a work becomes a compulsion and once begun has to be completed, despite what may be going on around me.

The often fleeting lifespan of a work is a reminder of the impermanence of our being, an echo of humanity – ephemerality, uncaptured apart from digitally. The value is emotional not monetary.



I often also pick up materials to be used in a longer lasting work – pieces to be drawn on, glued, waxed, cast, rubbed from, painted with ... whatever the material dictates and the imagination takes me, but also aiming to capture the essence of the space from where it came.

We are all creative beings and in these times when the environment is more important than ever, could more of us take time to stop, sense, react to the place we are in and create/appreciate in small ways? Art is for everyone and if we can make one person pause and see with fresh eyes – that does make a difference!

Lynn Bennett-MacKenzie has a number of pieces on display at the Loch Torridon Gallery. For more information, and to see more of her work, please visit her [website](#).

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