



Gallery  
Newsletter  
MAY 2019



It really seems like no time at all , since the quieter days of February working through our plans for the coming season. Such has been the hive of activity at the Gallery . The Mezzanine is now refurbished and we are delighted to be showcasing work from some of our established artisans as well as new lines within their discipline from one or two folk.

We feel that our new look upstairs is a great way to welcome back the freshness and new light of Spring too . We are currently exhibiting new ART work from Derek Young ,Stewart Robertson, Kathy Sutherland, Fiona Mackenzie , Gemma Mackenna & Lys Stevens. Our local crafts scene is also buzzing with new work from Margaret Maunder , Vicky Stonebridge , Liam Mackay , Alison West and Lorraine Newman & Jane Burns . The range of creative skills in our midst is a complete inspiration !

The Community Centre also hosts a regular Food & Craft Market on a Thursday .You can meet some of our artisans who will be trading here throughout the season . The next market is 30<sup>th</sup> May . Our Summer Season Exhibition ~ “ The Living Land, Sea , Sky ” opens at the Gallery on 6<sup>th</sup> May .

Springtime - bursting at the seams with new energy and casting away the cobwebs. If your artistic energy is still dormant , boxed in & deadened by the demands of life just remember it is still there ! Back in February I came across a very beautiful quote that is worthy of passing on , especially in these days of political upheaval.

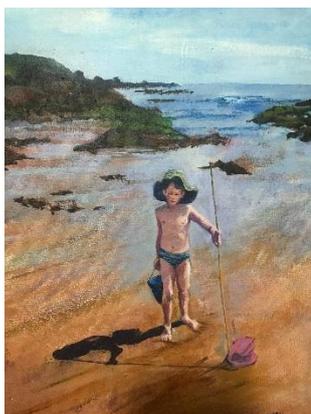
“ Before a child talks , they sing. Before they write they draw. As soon as they stand they dance. Art is fundamental to human expression “ Phylcia Rashad.

Our featured artist for May, a perfect example of this quote , is Gemma MacKenna , who has spent her career teaching art and now is able to focus more on her own development which is always an inspiration . Her work covers a range of subjects , seasons & disciplines.

Sheila Bates

*Gemma writes ~*

I grew up in the new town of Cumbernauld. Looking back it was a rather sterile environment culturally, with little in the way of art galleries, but it did have some rather good public art. I always enjoyed being creative and was given the freedom to express this creativity, sometimes to the regret of my parents, my foray into interior design (my bedroom) a fine example of this! My father had an unfulfilled ambition to go to art school and had a series of art publications, from the sixties I think. I often sat under the stairs and flicked through these folders of fine art images wondering how these artists had managed to create such wonders.



I graduated from The Glasgow School of Art in 1994, Drawing & Painting, and began teaching in 1995. I still teach today, just not on a regular basis. I love being in the classroom, surrounded by art stuff!

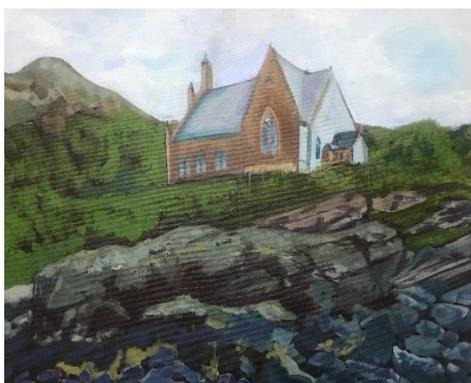
My husband and I moved to Gairloch almost five years ago. I have tiny little room at the front of the house packed full of painting and silversmithing equipment. Drawing and painting is my first love, for ease I work mostly in acrylics and charcoal, but much prefer oils. I did a two year course in silversmithing before going to art school and still love to make things, usually incorporating sea glass in some way.

I think I have a traditional approach to drawing and painting. In the past my work mainly featured figures or portraits. Since moving to Wester Ross however I have been inspired by the magnificent scenery, you cannot help but be inspired by the changing effect the weather has on the landscape.

I work both indoors and out, choosing media which suits my mood, or the scene. I try not to define myself in terms of style or subject matter, I simply respond to whatever catches my eye. Teaching less and having more free time I hope to explore more of the techniques and media I encountered at art school. I feel I am at the beginning of my career in terms of being an “artist” and for now, just exploring my own creativity, as opposed to helping others explore there’s is enough. You can view my work on my Facebook page – Wester Ross Art.



Storm over Skye



Untitled – work in progress



The boys are back in town

**Summer** April – October  
Open 10am till 4pm  
Monday-Saturday  
**Closed: Sundays**

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