



Gallery Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2019

High summer is always punctuated by the riot of colour whether in our gardens or on the hills. The intensity of light also brings countless colours and hues to our sea and shorelines too, with horizons constantly shifting. Which mesmerizes most ?

This month our featured artist is Margaret Cowie, whose use of colour is wonderfully riotous; light and shade; and detail. All this can be found in Margaret`s work, from her still life work of colour of colourful flowers, to her landscapes which draw you in . We will be fortunate to have more of Margarets work in the Gallery during the autumn. Supporting ALL our local artists is very much at the heart of the Gallery here in Torrion and we look forward to seeing you here. Come and enjoy this special space. If you cannot make time for a visit in September, we will be hosting our annual `Out There in Torrion Exhibition` in October

Sheila Bates

Our Featured Artist this month Margaret Cowie

I was born and brought up in Aberdeen. My formal education had very little art content in it and I ascribe my initial interest in art, or more specifically, in Art History, to the really rather good articles on the subject in Arthur Mee`s Childrens Encyclopaedia which I was brought up on at home. I was fascinated by the subject at a very early age.



After university I studied as a local government accountant while working with Durham County Council and moved to the Highlands to work after qualifying. During all my years working in public finance I had art as a hobby (and a relief from the job).



Initially I went to lectures and demonstrations organised by Inverness Art Society, without actually engaging in artwork myself, but, somehow or other, I ended up as the Society Secretary. I decided that I had better do something about my total lack of expertise. This was just as well as I later had two terms as IAS President, and as the figure head, it helps if you can paint a bit.

Over the next few years I attended evening classes, workshops, painting weekends and even painting holidays at home and abroad, as the hobby became an obsession. After initial problems with watercolour. Definitely the most difficult medium for a beginner to tackle, I tried gouache which I found easier to cope with, eventually returning to watercolour with much more confidence and success.

I also like to paint in acrylic (particularly out of doors) and in oils, in oils too I also enjoy working with pen and watercolour wash, pastel on soaked paper, mixed media and collage. As for subject matter there is very little that does not inspire me and that I don`t enjoy tackling- landscape, buildings, flowers, figure and portrait work, still life and abstract, although I am primarily a representational painter, are all "grist to the mill", but I think still life must qualify as my favourite genre.

I think that good drawing skills are of paramount importance in painting and that attendance at life classes

invaluable in helping to develop these.

I am pretty catholic not only in the media I like to use and the subject matter I like to paint, but also in the artists I most admire. These range from the likes of Giotto, Holbein and Velasquez right up to some of the abstract expressionists, and our own Ivon Hitchens and Howard Hodgkin. My favourite groups/movements in art history are probably the Post-impressionists and the Glasgow Boys.

If you were to ask me what inspires me to paint I would have to say it is a desire to capture the beauty I see in the world, both natural and manmade, and the example set by the great artists of the past in making us see things in fresh and memorable way. Over the years I have been involved in many groups and solo exhibitions in the Highland Print Studio, in Inverness Library, in Eden Court Theatre, in the Floral Hall and in the Blue Door and the WASPS Link Studios in Nairn, I am a tenant in the latter where I share a room with two other artists.



Margaret Cowie

The gallery is hosting the Sir Hugh Thomas Munro Exhibition created by the Munro Society to mark the Centenary of the Death of Hugh Munro. Munro was born October 1856 and died March 1919. He is famous for his creation of the Munro Tables of Scottish Mountains over 3000 feet (914.4 m) The Exhibition runs from 29th August through to September the 27th. Many local people and visiting climbers are proud to have completed The Munro's we welcome this Munro Legacy to Torridon.

Dates for your Diary

Loch Torridon Centre \ Food and Craft Markets

September 12th 10 am – 3.00 pm

October 24th 10 am to 3 pm

Summer

24 March – October 31st

Monday to Saturday

10am – 4pm

Closed Sunday

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