

Artist Profile: Birgit Ackroyd



Birgit Ackroyd – About the Artist and her work

I am Swedish, but have lived in the UK for many years, mainly on the Isle of Wight, and currently in Cowes overlooking the sea. I have no formal art education, but have always had a keen interest in drawing/painting. I even found my life drawings dated 1959/60 recently!!



Life Drawing I still do life drawing, and had always thought of myself as a drawer rather than a painter! Charcoal, pencil, colour pencils, ink and wash and sometimes pastel or watercolour. I love the shape and form of the human figure. I am a retired PE teacher and have watched the figure in dance and athletics over the years. I love capturing the human form in movement.



Landscapes and Still Life Then, 14 years ago, I started more seriously looking for the right medium for me, and fell in love with watercolour. The way it behaves randomly, and you only get one chance! You lose control but in a delightful and surprising way. I find the colours simply work, sometimes it takes your breath away... for landscapes, for instance, often inspired by my background, I tend to photograph my surroundings with my eyes, take it home and put it on paper. Then I don't have a lot of details and the colours can be what I see not what they really are.....



Halong Bay Vietnam

Painting when Travelling I have travelled extensively lately, Vietnam, India, Cuba, Europe and Sweden of course, sometimes with bike sometimes without. I always take paint, brushes and paper with me, and sell my work to my travel companions to give the money to charity.



Mixed Media And then sometimes I just want to play. Using any material that I can find. So far most of them have been based on a life drawing as in the one to the left, but sometime quite randomly out of my head for better or for worse. I love painting, or creating a piece of work that could please someone... The Island is special.