

Artist profile: Lesley Wellings

'A Great Day' (Pastel)



My family and I have lived in East Cowes on the Isle of Wight for nearly 50 years and when my youngest child started Middle School, I decided to undertake a Ceramics Course at the Isle of Wight Technical College. This led to numerous other courses beginning with a basic drawing class and ending, approximately 18 years ago, with me gaining a Foundation Degree Certificate in Art and Design. Since then I have continued with my pottery and have my own studio at home.

'Lakeside' (Watercolour)



My preferred mediums have always been pastels and watercolours, however, five years ago I was given, as a gift, a voucher for an Encaustic Wax Workshop with Lynette Corin at Arreton Barns and have become totally addicted to this unpredictable and exciting art form. I have now extended my studio to include an encaustic workshop but still attend the classes at Arreton every Saturday morning.

'Storm Surfer' (Encaustic Wax)



My wax paintings range from fantasy to land/seascapes and I have recently delved a little into the challenging world of abstract. Some examples of my work can be seen at Folksy.com

Encaustic Wax is a 2000 year old art form which, nowadays, involves melting natural Beeswax that has been slightly modified and coloured with various pigments. It can then be applied to many non-porous surfaces such as canvas, tiles and specially manufactured non-porous paper. It is also possible to print a design onto fabric, which can then be worked into with embroidery silks.

Various materials can also be embedded into the wax such as leaves, tissue paper and text from magazines etc.

The basic tools are a small iron that can be easily converted onto a mini hotplate and a heated stylus for adding detail.