

Artist Statement

My art is bound into my feelings for what I make-and what makes that making happen -; familiar and vividly new locations and encounters with the model: life, each of these broad arenas practiced, expressed in many different media and their combinations: drawings on varied paper, types of pastels, gouache, oil mainly on canvas – and any mix of these.



Over nearly forty years I have developed an increasingly diverse way of painting and drawing; increasingly from seeking a fathomless ‘correct’ way of practice to expression of feeling of the encounter; of something come upon, as it were, unexpected- a term of Peter Lanyon, whose work I admire and continue to learn from, that resonates with me. Work can be down almost ‘in the moment’ or developed over some time from series of reflections. Moments of first experiences can recur, or change in later return visits to the sketches. I have made series from visits to Andalucia, Donegal, Sweden’s Arvika, the English Lake District, Sardinia and Greece, South Carolina and Majorca.

I have been fortunate in my journey to have met, been taught by and become close friends with a string of valued artists, my mentors. These include Anne Lockwood, European artist and exhibitor who urged me to loosen up: ‘you’ll never get anywhere until you make a mess’! The best and most lasting energy of words I continue to enjoy, freed at first by the use of scene painters’ charcoal, better for expression, not so good for hesitance. Anne also taught me the value of occasional sculpturing in clay to feel the fullness of the body; to draw and paint multi-dimensionally. Alas Anne went back to Germany.

Continuing over decades, Larry Wakefield, internationally acclaimed artist working in southern England, Greece and Germany; architect and artist, who talked and wrote about blobs and lines as implicit grasp of doing art that comes through strongly amongst his art.

Another good friend, Andrew Vass, an East Anglian artist who has exhibited regularly at Broadbent Gallery in London. a fan of Lanyon’s work, engaged me in more exploration of loosening up. The Peak District artist David Ainley kept me reflecting over the most recent decades, as does Peter Cartwright, member of the Southwell artists. Further quality conversations that open possibilities I have enjoyed with John Newling, a multi-media artist who exhibits across the UK and who once worked with Joseph Beuys.

I write about Lanyon and some of the artists who have influenced me. I recall after one talk, a retired-major type of guy asked me why I had painted such ‘savage nudes’, made me a little apprehensive. It turned out he had bought one! Painting offers joy, that I like to share.

I am now Professor Emeritus Cultural Geography, that includes understanding the ‘doing of art’.

Exhibitions

2018	'Abstraction' Tarpey Gallery (3 exhibitors)
2018	Old LockUp Gallery, Cromford Postcards (mixed show)
2016	'Resilience' Royal Derby Hospital (three large works 1m x 1.5m, joint show; three exhibitors)
2013	Midlands Open, Tarpey Gallery (mixed)
2012	Southwell Minster (Joint show with Derbyshire Artist David Ainley)
2011	'Beyond the Horizon' Richard Attenborough Gallery (now Embrace). University of Leicester mixed show, (also exhibition catalogue and talk)
2010	'Flirting with Space' Exhibition, Campus Gallery, University of Derby (Solo)
2010	'Travel and Mobility', Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham July (mixed)
2010	Tarpey Gallery, Castle Donnington (mixed)
2010	Looped images of my Art at Royal Geographical Society RGS/IBG, <i>Art and Geographical Knowledge</i> Annual Conference special theme, linked with my conference paper. Manchester 2009, later shown at ArtEarth symposium, Dartington.
2009	Art Open Group Show, Nottingham
2009	Guest artist, Southwell Open Studios

2009	Bull Yard Gallery, Southwell (solo)
2009	Bull Yard Gallery, Southwell (solo)
2009	The George Gallery, Newnham-on-Severn, Gloucestershire (solo) – March/May
2008	Life Drawings, ArtSpace Southwell Art Group (mixed)
2003	Wordsworth Festival, Solo space
2003	Bull Yard Southwell (Solo)
2002	West Bridgford festival, West Bridgford (mixed)
2002	Manhattan Gallery, Nottingham (mixed)
1999	Sudbury Theatre, Suffolk (solo)
1997	Saffron Walden Art Gallery/library (solo)
1996	Braintree Art Gallery (solo)
1996	Royal Academy Summer Exhibition
1983	Chairpersons Gallery, Colchester (mixed)
1982	Colchester Art Society, The Minorities (mixed)