brenda hayden
ARTIST

MEET THE ARTIST

From childhood, I have always drawn on anything resembling pens and paper scribbling and doodling down many an exercise book and on the backs of leaflets and envelopes.

At 16 on leaving school, I was accepted into the Women's College Of Fine Arts, Tokyo (Joshibi) to study Nihonga, literally translated as 'Japanese Painting'. This was an inspirational period which laid the foundations of how I work today. The freedom to paint daily with the discipline of studying a particular subject as a starting point, followed by the development of the artwork within a studio context set the course of my life as an Artist.

A period of teaching followed, focusing on Textiles both creative and Aesthetic and with practical outcomes.

My favourite quote is 'Drawing is the art of taking a line for a walk'. This is possible with pen, paint, threads and fabrics, taking art into a host of adventures.

I have, always taken my sketching gear on holiday using the time and space to indulge my passion for drawing and so when my children were older was able to spend more time on my art work.

Using watercolours very traditionally I began to develop paintings and started to exhibit my work locally, but there was a sense that I needed to look further and broaden my horizons. I enrolled on a Fine Art degree course gain some experience in printmaking, painting, art history, sculpture. The focus of this course was entirely different from my experience in Japan. The aim here was to develop in the student the ability to explore freely, experiment and develop an instinctive approach to the development of subject matter and therefore a piece of work. There was less emphasis on the traditional use of the materials

Following this I spent time developing larger scale paintings using Acrylics and threads flotsam and jetsam incorporating textures.

Over the last few years I have been teaching Art to Adults and through this discovered that no one really teaches exactly HOW to draw. Most people think it's a God given gift - but I have found that if a person is willing and wants to learn it is possible to teach through learnt techniques. It was great fun developing courses to do this and in the process, I have found it informed my own work enormously.

At the present time, I am working on smaller oils which allow an intimacy with the paint not possible with larger pieces of work in Acrylic.