



## CONTACT DETAILS

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

When I, Lucy O'Donovan started with oil I was searching for the perfect colours and textures to depict flesh, muscle and skin tone of the human form. Working with oil was considerably different from the other mediums that I had worked with, and I started to develop a fascination with the surface qualities and colour richness of the oil paint.

As my paintings evolved, so too has my technique and I often work primarily by building up layers of thick, rich and multi coloured textures. I find that constructing a three dimensional surface in this way not only allows me to depict tissue the way I want, but that as a result a much more visceral piece of work emerges.

My painting in the present day is driven by fascination with the human body and the feelings that this invokes. For me it is important to portray the body in as honest a way as I can, irrespective of whether it would be considered classically beautiful or not. I am aware that the motivation behind this is probably a kick back against the social pressures of achieving the perfect figure.

The shape, colour and quality of flesh are something that I constantly try to attain. It is always a battle to manage the colour and texture of the oil, a balance of which I feel is never quite achieved. I tend to paint the people who are involved in my life, as an emotional attachment often drives and influences the way that I paint. I claim that painting is a fairly self-obsessed process: I often paint in order to work through my own issues and those relating to the subject.

In my adult life I have often referred to the work of several artists who have inspired and challenged me. These artists are Jenny Saville, Lucian Freud, Alyssa Monks and Francis Bacon. I find their depiction of the human form fascinating and tremendously moving. As a result I have altered my own technique and subject matter.

As an English citizen born in 1975 in Liverpool, I graduated as a veterinarian before returning to academia to complete a PhD in 2002. Outside of art, the science of mental illness is my other great passion. I carried out molecular biology research into the brain, and studied the pathways and genes involved in both schizophrenia and stroke, at the Universities of Glasgow, Strathclyde and Melbourne.

More recently I have become the co-founder of an online project called cRxeate [www.crxreate.com](http://www.crxreate.com). This consists of vets, doctors and dentists who use creativity in whatever form, to relax and de-stress during their career. The process of creativity has been shown as a way forward out of burnout and self-erosion by enriching and providing headspace

## SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

Lucy has enjoyed a wide range of art related disciplines. She has indulged in several workshops at the renowned Glasgow School of Art, Scotland, including Life Drawing and Figurative Painting. Recently she also completed a Woodcut Printing course at Trongate 103, Glasgow, and has been inspired to create a range of woodcut prints. Lucy also completed an Art Therapy workshop at the Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Glasgow in 2010.

## EXHIBITIONS

	<b>Works displayed</b>
<p><b>Figurative Art Now 2021</b></p> <p>Mall Galleries Virtual exhibition</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> July - 20th September 2021</p>	<p>Truth, 2017, Out in the Open, 2007</p>
<p><b>SELF 2020</b></p> <p>Dundas Street Gallery Edinburgh</p> <p>3rd July - 9th March 2020</p>	<p>Rehab, 2009</p>
<p><b>Threads 2019</b></p> <p>Dundas Street Gallery Edinburgh</p> <p>13th - 24th March 2019</p>	<p>Guidance, 2013</p>
<p><b>Summer Fine Art Exhibition 2018</b></p> <p>508 Kings Road Art Gallery, London,</p> <p>10-24 August 2018</p>	<p>Decision, 2002 Guidance 2013 Resolve 2013 Grasp 2014</p>
<p><b>Royal Scottish Academy Exhibition 2017</b></p> <p>The Royal Scottish Academy Building Edinburgh</p> <p>22 July - 1 October 2017</p>	<p>Father / Daughter, 2012</p>

**Portraits**

The Brick Lane Gallery,  
London,

6 April - 13 April 2017

Race for the Prize – Flaming Lips, 2008,  
Decision, 2002  
Reflection, 2001  
Masai Mara tribal woman, 2012  
CraigieJoe, 2012

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**Interpretative Realms**

Agora Gallery  
New York, US

31 July - 20 August 2015

Grasp, 2014  
Mitera, 2014  
CraigieJoe, 2012  
Father / Daughter, 2012  
Masai Mara tribal woman, 2012  
Rehab, 2009  
Race for the Prize – Flaming Lips, 2008,  
Decision, 2002  
Reflection, 2001

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**Mélange of Milieu**

Agora Gallery  
New York, US

March 6 – March 26 2015

Grasp, 2014  
Mitera, 2014  
CraigieJoe, 2012  
Father / Daughter, 2012  
Masai Mara tribal woman, 2012  
Rehab, 2009  
Race for the Prize – Flaming Lips, 2008,  
Decision, 2002  
Reflection, 2001

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**Portals of Perception**

Agora Gallery  
New York, US

14 January - 4 February 2014

Guidance, 2013  
Resolve, 2013  
Father / Daughter, 2012  
Hands I, 2012.

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**Portals of Perception**

Agora Gallery  
New York, US

17 January – 5 February 2012

Father / Daughter, 2012  
Hands I, 2012  
Decision, 2002  
Thinking, 2001  
Reflection, 2001

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**Glasgow Art Meet Up exhibition**

Big Mouth Café,  
Glasgow, Scotland

2 October – 20 November 2012

Father / Daughter, 2012  
Masai Mara tribal woman, 2012  
Race for the Prize – Flaming Lips, 2008

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**People and Places**

Big Mouth Café,  
Glasgow, Scotland

Contruction, 2004  
Reflection, 2001  
Reflection (graphite), 2002  
Decision, 2002  
Race for the Prize –Flaming Lips, 2008

2 September – 31 October 2011

Rehab, 2009  
Catherine Downes, 2011  
Thinking, 2001

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**The Body Show 2007**

BSG Gallery,  
Australia

Decision, 2002  
Reflection, 2001  
Hands II, 1999  
Hands I, 1999

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14 September – 27 September 2007

**Coelvm**

Palazzo Cesi,  
Italy

Decision, 2002  
Reflection, 2001  
Hands II, 1999  
Hands I, 1999

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1 June – 30 June 2007

**Land for Free Men**

Palazzo Martinengo,  
Italy

Decision, 2002  
Reflection, 2001  
Hands II, 1999  
Hands I, 1999

1 December – 28 December 2006

**PUBLICATIONS**

**I was selected to take part in the Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the year 2019 as a contestant - due to my then home environment I was unable to take part.**

**ARTspectrum 2012 magazine, New York City**

November 1, 2012

An article describing my opinion on the highlights of art galleries and culture in my home city of Glasgow

**Advertisement for Portals of Perception exhibition at the Agora Gallery, NYC, ARTspectrum 2012**

November 1, 2012

My work Father / Daughter, 2012 was selected for use as an advertisement for the exhibitions Portals of Perception and the Substance of Abstraction, taking place 16 January to 5 February 2013

**Advertisement for Portals of Land for Free Men exhibition at the Palazzo Martinengo, Italy**

1 December – 28 December 2006

My work Hands I, 1999 was selected for use on the flyer for the exhibition Land for Free Men exhibition at the Palazzo Martinengo, Italy 1 December – 28 December 2006

**Agora Gallery blog, Agora Gallery, New York**

March 28, 2015

Blog was written by Nikki Fraser from interview that took place over the phone - <http://www.agora-gallery.com/artgalleryblog/lucy-odonovan-interview-embracing-the-body/>