



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. 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

Works displayed

D31 ART GALLERY

Truth, Nov 2015 - Sept 2017

13 Scot Lane
Doncaster
DN1 1EW

online March - 17th June 2023

Threads 2019

Guidance, 2013

Dundas Street Gallery
Edinburgh

13th - 24th March 2019

Summer Fine Art Exhibition 2018

Decision, 2002
Guidance 2013
Resolve 2013
Grasp 2014

508 Kings Road Art Gallery,
London,

10-24 August 2018

Royal Scottish Academy Exhibition 2017

Father / Daughter, 2012

The Royal Scottish Academy Building
Edinburgh

22 July - 1 October 2017

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

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

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

Portals of Perception

Agora Gallery
New York, US

14 January - 4 February 2014

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

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

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

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

The Body Show 2007

BSG Gallery,
Australia

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

14 September – 27 September 2007

Coelvm

Palazzo Cesi,
Italy

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

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/>