

Alex Gourlay D.A. M.C.S.D.

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BIOGRAPHY

Alex, a graduate of Glasgow School of Art in 1967, works and paints from his home in Port Appin, Argyll.

Born 1941 Loanhead, Midlothian, Scotland, Alex was educated at Greenock High School. He first started training at the Glasgow School of Architecture in 1960, before moving to the Glasgow School of Art in 1963, where he spent the first two years in the experimental Section 5 with Ted Odling and later in the department of Printed Textiles under tutor Robert Stewart.

After leaving art school, Alex had a career as a Scenic Designer with BBC Television, working on a wide range of major TV productions both in the UK and abroad. He became Senior Television Designer in 1989 and Head of Design at BBC Scotland in 1993.

A member of the Chartered Society of Designers, Alex was a Scottish committee member culminating in the design of the Design Renaissance International Conference in 1993 in Glasgow.

Since moving to the west coast of Scotland in 1996, as well as painting, Alex has undertaken architectural design commissions including a green oak framed extension to a house in Glen Creran, a new house in Strath of Appin, a summer house extension in Lismore and extensive alterations to his own home in Port Appin to create a new studio.

He now mainly spends his time drawing and painting, regularly exhibiting throughout Scotland, taking inspiration from the landscape of the West Highlands, most recently in the Outer Hebrides, and from frequent visits to Finland and the Lanquedoc region of southwest France, where he and his wife Midge have a holiday home.

ARTIST STATEMENT

“I enjoy living on the edge – the coast and the shore – a place of arrivals and departures – the attraction of opposites. The age-old qualities of nature in the rocks, trees, the skies and water consistently recur as themes in my paintings. My work is heading towards a tension between realism and abstraction: technical control versus the effects of chance. I try to avoid mannerisms and treat new subjects with a fresh outlook – a change of direction. Each new location provides a visual renewal and a new challenge to grapple with.”

EXHIBITIONS

- 2009** Kranenburg Fine Art, Oban.
- 2008** HOS. Port Appin Studio.
- 2007/8** Pier House Hotel, Port Appin.
- 2007** Christmas Exhibition. Peter Potter Gallery, Haddington.
- 2007** Scottish Art. Bonhams, Edinburgh.
- 2007** Spring Show. Kranenburg Fine Art, Oban.
- 2007** Resipole Gallery, Ardnamurchan.
- 2006** Resipole Gallery, Ardnamurchan.
- 2006** Peter Potter Gallery, Haddington.
- 2005** Resipole Gallery, Loch Sunart.
- 2004** Holroyds Gallery, Fort William.
- 2003/4** Greens & Blues, North Berwick.
- 2003** Barcaldine House Hotel, Oban.
- 2003** Winter Show. Kranenburg Fine Art, Oban.
- 2003** Summer Show. Kranenburg Fine Art, Oban.
- 2002** Winter Show. Kranenburg Fine Art, Oban.
- 2002** From a Distance. McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Greenock.
- 2000** Family Tree. A family exhibition at the Link Gallery, The Royal Edinburgh Hospital, the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and St. John's Hospital, Livingston.
- 1999** Family Tree. A family exhibition at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.