

**Susie Prangnell : Balance**

**Quay Arts Café**

**Tue 13 Oct 2020 – Mon 22 Mar 2021**

Susie Prangnell has had a lifelong passion for art, especially abstract art. Poster paint and felt-tipped pens together with a good supply of paper and “too much imagination” provided comfort and refuge throughout childhood and quite a few house and school moves.

She wanted to study Fine Art after A Levels, but her family were dismissive of her ability to make practical use of an art college education, so she didn't go to university. After finishing her last exam paper at school aged 18, Susie started full time work the next day on a factory production line. She attended life-drawing classes at the weekends, read avidly about art and artists, and visited exhibitions and galleries as often as possible to try to make up for that missing education.

She was able to continue her self-directed study and practice during the raising of her family and earning a living. In 2006, Susie completed a short Arts course with the Open University which she really enjoyed and finally got some points towards a degree, however, it was the physicality of the actual painting process that she wanted to pursue to improve and develop her skills and find a way to connect with the art she wanted to make.

In 2008, the opportunity came for Susie to engage with her art practice full-time when she left her job in the Civil Service and came to live on the Isle of Wight. She enjoys getting out into the wilder landscape to make expressive location sketches. Back in her studio in Northwood, her favourite medium is pastel, but she also works using watercolour, ink, acrylic and collage.

*“I am fascinated by contrasts and I like to express this in my work through colour, composition and marks to create tension. I try for a balance between wildness and constraint pushing the work until it is perhaps only just clinging on to order and coherence.*

*I enjoy the idea of a painting having a history and taking on a new life, so I often work layers over a previous painting that I have partly erased. The remnants of the previous work provide structure and areas that I can choose to obliterate or reveal in the new piece. For me that contrast between the hidden and the apparent is also suggestive of time passing and constant change.*

*Fragility and resilience can be explored through the medium of pastel itself, essentially resulting in an artwork which is created from dust but can nevertheless appear bold and vibrant.”*

#### **Selected Exhibitions and Awards:**

- 2020 Drawing from the Heart, joint exhibition, The Gallery Holt, Norfolk, August- September
- 2020 Award Winners Exhibition (online), The Mall Galleries, London, June - September
- 2020 The Pastel Society 121st Annual Exhibition, The Mall Galleries, London, 5th - 16th February, *First Prize, The Pastel Society Catalogue Award*
- 2019 St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery Lymington Hampshire 19th Open Exhibition May - June 2019
- 2018 Joint Exhibition Rum's Eg Gallery Romsey Hampshire
- 2017 Quay Arts Open Exhibition “I must down to the seas again” July - September
- 2017 Solo Exhibition Rum's Eg Gallery Romsey Hampshire April - May
- 2017 Joint Exhibition “New Year, New Work” Rum's Eg Gallery Romsey Hampshire January-February
- 2016 St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery Lymington Hampshire 17th Open Exhibition. *Highly Commended.* June - July
- 2015 Selected for St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery Hampshire Open Studios Showcase Exhibition August - September
- 2015 St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery 16th Open Exhibition June - July.