

# Sophia Hughes – CV 2020

Sophia grew up surrounded by the work of very fine artists from her own family, but only began to find herself as an artist when her work became abstract. She studied Fine Art at the West of England College of Art, Bristol 1959 – 62, then became a domestic ware potter to pay the bills. She later added beautifully made hand-built pots and this led to making sculptures that didn't quite work because clay was the wrong medium. So she progressed to steel, wood, Perspex, etc., all abstract. She also found and painted pieces of driftwood from the River Severn until, in 2011, she finally admitted to herself that the painting should be on canvas.

Now painting is her main occupation, experiencing it as a continual exploration into the unknown. Each painting gains its own authority as she works on it, and then she lives with it for a while, discovering what she has done. Her inner life is probably as much an influence in her work as is the visual stimulus of the world around her and the work of other artists.

In describing her way of working Sophia says: "some abstract painters start with drawings that they then abstract. I start with a blank canvas, a colour and a feeling, and I have to decide whether to start with a brush or a palette knife. Exciting and unnerving. It is a journey of going inwards, finding what I recognise as my language, my way of expressing that energy and quietness that I experience in my deepest moments. Fifty years in Subud have given me that connection to my inner guidance and I consider myself to be very lucky to be on this path."

Sophia is also known as the artist who impaled herself on her own sculpture in 2010, about which she wrote in an article in the Guardian. The 7ft. repaired sculpture now stands proud in her garden with its replacement mirror polished steel rod.

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<b>Painting Exhibitions</b>	
Lansdown Gallery, Stroud (with Anne James)	2019
Fresh. Art Fair, Cheltenham with Hadfield Fine Art.	2017
Affordable Art Fair. Battersea with Hadfield Fine Art.	2017
West Bristol Arts Trail.	2016/17/18/19
The Old Passage, Arlingham.	2010/16/18/19
Open Studio' at own home.	2012/14/16/17/18
Lansdown Gallery, Stroud. (solo show)	2014
Subud Hall, Bristol.	2014
Sidcot Arts Centre, North Somerset.	2012
Martin's Gallery, Cheltenham.	2011
<b>Sculpture Exhibitions</b>	
RWA Autumn Exhibition.	2009
The Gallery Upstairs, Henley in Arden.	2007/11
Stroud Arts Award Finalists exhibition, (won the public vote but not the prize)	2007

<b>Ceramic Exhibitions</b>	
Gallery Le Fort, Bath	2008
The Gallery Upstairs, Henley in Arden.	2001/03/05
Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen.	2003/04
Beaux Arts Gallery, Bath.	2003
S.W. Regional Development Agency, Exeter.	2001/02
3D Gallery, Bristol.	2000/01
Fossway Artists, Compton Casey.	2000
Compton Casey Gallery, Glos.	1995/96
Yew Tree Gallery, Slad, Glos.	1991 to 1999
Beaux Arts Gallery, Bath.	1991