

Liz Foster CV

Liz Foster
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BIO

b. 1971, Leeds UK

Liz Foster was born in Leeds in 1971 and after several moves around the UK, is currently based near York in the north of England. She studied Fine Art (Drawing and Painting) at the Glasgow School of Art. Later studying for an MFA at the University of Hull, where she researched visual perception theory in relation to contemporary painting practice. Foster has developed her studio practice alongside a range of educational and community based work.

Her current paintings look at memory, time and loss which she brings to life through abstract mark-making and an enquiring use of colour, for which she is increasingly well know.

Foster has exhibited widely, including at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2021. Other notable venues include the Royal Scottish Academy, London Art Fair, The Mercer and The Ferens Art Galleries. She has work in both public and private collections, selling both within the UK and abroad. She has been long-listed for the John Moores Prize twice.

STATEMENT

My practice is one of continuous transition and evolution. My current paintings explore ideas around marking the passing of time; the repetitive brush marks act as a visual representation of transience - counting out moments one by one. By repeating and building layers of marks, they create a pattern. The pattern, in turn, forms rhythmic motifs and forms that can be read as macro or micro views of the world.

As a process-led painter I don't plan a final image before I begin. I lay down marks and then respond to them, building a painting by adding, removing and editing the image over several months. I might use a particular colour palette to drive a work, but this also has to shift and evolve as the painting develops. For me, painting is a balance between control and instinct. The final composition only comes into focus towards the end of the process.

My paintings are abstract, reflecting my thoughts, feelings and memories but not illustrating them. The material quality of the paint is equally as important as the theme and colour is always central to what I do.

Painting is a fundamental expression of who I am, it is my language. I find joy in the materials and each work is a new adventure, posing questions and challenges that are limitless and fascinating.

Education

2002-2004 University of Hull, MA Fine Art

1997-1998 Portsmouth College, Further and Adult Education Teachers' Certificate

1990-1994 Glasgow School of Art, BA (hons) Fine Art - Drawing and Painting

1993 - School of of Art Institute of Chicago (Autumn semester)

Residencies and Project Work

2018-2019 Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust - Lead on community arts project and commission for public artwork

1998-2000 Artist in Residence - Taunton School, Somerset. Resident artist with an open-access studio within the Fine-Art Department

Awards

2024 Jackson's Award - Artist Support Pledge

2023 Artist Surfaces Award - Artist Support Pledge

1993 Student Exchange Scholarship Award - School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Art Fairs

2021 art&York (online)

2019 art&York

2008 London Art Fair - Represented by Beverley Knowles Fine Art

Longlists

2004 and 2018 John Moores Painting Prize

Teaching

2018-2024 Fine Art Tutor with York Learning (community adult education provider)

2002-2008 Art and Design Tutor - Prior Purslove College, Guisborough

2000-2002 Fine Art Course Leader - Scarborough Sixth Form College

Solo Exhibitions

2023 Painting, rise@bluebird, York

2007 Flower, National Trust Beningbrough Hall, York

2006 Taste, 20-21 Visual Arts Centre, Scunthorpe

1999 New Paintings, Air Gallery, London

Group Exhibitions

- 2024 York Open Studios, Hospitium, York
- 2023 Leeds Summer Group Show, Leeds Playhouse
- 2023 ArtSpace Open, Old Parcels Office, Scarborough
- 2022 The Mercer Open, Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate
- 2022 Kaleidoscope, The Bowery, Leeds
- 2022 JOY, Dovecot Gallery, Doncaster
- 2022 The Ferens Open, Ferens Art Gallery, Hull
- 2022 Art on a Postcard, The Bomb Factory, London
- 2022 Colour, Frontier Gallery, Sheffield
- 2021 The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy, London
- 2021 The Edit, One Good Gift, Sheffield
- 2021 Towards the Light, Art Cafe Contemporary, Whitby
- 2021 Re-Cultivate, Cultivate Gallery, London (online)
- 2020 New Light 'Curator's Choice', Scarborough Art Gallery, Scarborough
- 2019 The Ferens Open, Ferens Art Gallery, Hull
- 2008 London Art Fair, represented by Beverley Knowles Fine Art
- 2006 Multiplicity, Kirkleatham Museum and Art Gallery, Redcar
- 2004 Painting is Dead, Long Live Painting, Hastings Museum & Art Gallery
- 2004 Women's Work, Artlink Gallery, Hull
- 2003 Unframed, Cupola Art Gallery, Sheffield
- 1997 York Open, York City Art Gallery, York
- 1995 6x6, University of Northumbria, Newcastle
- 1994 New Generation, The Compass Gallery, Glasgow
- 1994 Paths of Exploration, The Assembly Rooms, Glasgow
- 1993 R.S.A. Student Exhibition, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh