

## Sophie Abbott BA Hons Profile

*"I aim to create atmospheric paintings that capture the essence of a place in time. The combination of this visual snapshot and a bold painting technique creates work that has a playful, luminous and unique quality."*



Sophie lives and works in Brighton. With the sea as her backdrop she is surrounded by an ever-changing environment which she explores through her fluid, experimental style of painting.

She says about her work:

*"I aim to create atmospheric paintings that capture the essence of a place in time. The combination of this visual snapshot and a bold painting technique creates work that has a playful, luminous and unique quality."*

Sophie's paintings are incredibly uplifting. Her colours are optimistic and her playful, free mark-making is energizing.

Some of her paintings have the appearance of being 3 dimensional, the optical illusion created by her use of complimentary colours and tones.



Her inspiration comes from a huge range of things she has seen; from a small piece of fabric or a flip flop right through to a beach seen or little buildings. She responds to these in various ways: the colour, shape or juxtaposition to something else.

Sophie then uses these images in a very intuitive way in her paintings, which are not so much about the literal representation but more to do with her playful imagination and capturing a moment or a feeling.

When visiting Sophie at her home in Brighton you are struck by how much her personality is expressed in her house and the colours she wears. The front of her house is painted in a fantastic pink which can be found in most of her work. She has a very infectious optimism and you can't help but notice this in her paintings.

Travel also influences Sophie's work and is a constant theme running through her kaleidoscopic paintings. Memories of a dazzling landscape are always a source of reference;

seascapes, harbours, forests or amazing city views. Closer to home her paintings have evolved out of trips to local allotments and old fashioned sea side towns.

Combining these influences Sophie allows her paintings to take on a life of their own, as they metamorphose into landscapes full of hazy memories, with areas of solid form, mark making and motifs, underpinned by a rich build up of colour. The abstract and experimental nature of Sophie's paintings allow the viewer to respond to them in their own personal way, as she creates a playground for the imagination.

Sophie exhibits regularly on the south coast and in London, including The Mall Galleries in the 'I dreamt in the City' exhibition. She exhibited alongside Tracey Emin and Gavin Turk in 'The Nature in You' show at the Pepperton Gallery, London.

Sophie has work in private collections in New York, Chilli, Italy and the United Kingdom.

## **EDUCATION**

BA Hons 2:1

Art and Related Arts,  
University College Chichester,  
College Lane, Chichester.

3 month exchange with Beja Art College, Beja, Portugal.

B-Tec Foundation Course in Art and Design. Awarded with a Merit.  
Mid-Warwickshire College of further Education,  
Warwick road,  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

A-Levels:

Art A

Theatre Studies B

General Studies C

## **EXPERIENCE**

*2005-2008*

Member of Open Studios, 168 Kings Road Arches, Brighton.

*2001-2004:*

Curated Monthly Exhibitions at Nelsons Gallery, including Brighton Festival Fringe Shows.  
Trafalgar Street, Brighton.

*2003:*

Member of Central Brighton Artists Committee.

*2003 and 2004:*

Worked with Fourwalls Stand at the Spring Affordable Art Fair, Battersea Park, London.

*1998-1999:*

Volunteer at Fabrica, Duke Street, Brighton.

*1997:*

Part of team assisting David Nash (Sculptor) at Goodwood Sculpture Park, Goodwood, nr. Chichester, West Sussex.

*1996:*

Part of team assisting Andy Goldsworthy (Sculptor) at Cocking Quarry, Cocking, nr. Chichester. West Sussex. 1995-1997:Related Arts Field Board Representative,UCC,Chichester.

For further information go to [www.sophieabbott.net](http://www.sophieabbott.net)