

THE NEED TO EXPLAIN A WORK OF ART

Is there a need to explain a work of art? I was brought up to believe that an artwork should be able to stand on its own merit. Our world including art is constantly changing and with it a seemingly mandatory demand for some kind of explanation. Today a lot of art has gone into the mindset of artists who have created the work, leaving the viewer with no clue as to what may or may not have been behind the artwork in the first place.

My work, (presently on Exhibition), celebrates the decorative detail of things I see in nature, most of the images are not immediately recognisable, but are often loaded with symbolism.

NATURE SQUARED

For this Exhibition I decided to work within the confines of squares because it forms a contrast to the way I tend to draw and paint using curves, celebrating the often-missed details that are found in almost everything, but particularly in nature. As squares are artificial and man-made, they "box in" and allow the viewer to look at details of my vision of nature, through a sort of man-made window, which zooms in on the detail that nature often hides.

For my small-scale work, it is better to view it at close range, as it is more suitable for small spaces, rather than in a spacious gallery setting.

PLANNED AND CONTROLLED

A lot of my work is carefully planned and worked out. Many hours have been spent experimenting and exploring and in some cases applying the different art elements and principles of design to it. I often imposed certain composition design rules to my work, such as the Fibonacci Code together with the Golden Section and Rule of Thirds.

FREE SPIRIT

Using artistic licence I have often strayed away from my original observation, where patterns, colours and shapes dominate. I can get totally caught up in the sensual pleasure of the actual act of drawing and painting. The loaded brush, pencil, or whatever tool I am using, may have a certain grip, consistency or softness about it, which seems to take on a life of its own, as it comes in contact with the paper, canvas, or whatever ground I may have chosen. In this case I am very likely to go off on a tangent letting the "tools and materials" guide me. The results vary greatly from, wondrous, interesting, even the "wow factor", to a starting point to explore other avenues, occasionally it may end up as a mess, but rarely is the time spent wasted, as there is nearly always a learning curve taking place.

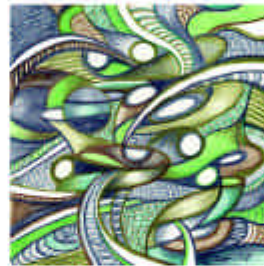
OTHER WORKS BY CLODAGH HOLAHAN

As the Exhibition "Nature Squared" has its own special theme and deals mostly with small square paintings (2D works), it must be noted that I do bronze sculptures and have turned my hand to many artistic endeavours, including some graphic work, patio design. I am also the co-author of the text book "Art Craft Design".

"Nature Squared"

by Clodagh Holahan.

An Art Exhibition of new works.



Munich Airport
DELTA CROWN ROOM

To see the full range of my work please view my website:


www.clodagh-holahan.com