

MARY BOWEN

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MY WORK

Artist

I create work that explores our relationship with the natural world. My paintings seek to reflect and embody moments of connection, balance and stillness amid our hurried lives and the backdrop of environmental and technological change.

My practice grows from close attention to the moorland landscape, shaped by walking there often and time working in my rural Dartmoor studio. My paintings offer an intimate sense of these places, from granite tors to micro-biodiversity and shifting weather. Working increasingly at a large scale, I use my understanding of colour theory, composition and printmaking to establish an immersive experience for the viewer.

The result is a body of work that invites the viewer to slow down, contemplate and connect more deeply with nature: abstract yet visceral, rooted in processes and the elemental forces at work.

Educator

As part of my own creative practice, I have always planned and delivered creative courses in mixed media, printing, and drawing to adults and children from a wide range of backgrounds. Working like this has helped me to hone and clarify my own art practice, encouraging reflection, experimentation, and adaptability. This work has reinforced my commitment to encouraging engagement in the arts and building meaningful connections between artists and their communities. I have taught on UAL foundation courses, artist retreats, residencies, and have worked with charities to deliver this.

EDUCATION

BA (hons) in Fine Art (2.1) 2006 - University College Falmouth, Cornwall.

PGCE in Art and design, Institute of Education at UCL, London 2009

A Levels: English Lit, Psychology, Art, AAA. Bishop Stopford School, 1995 - 2002

My Fine Art degree at Falmouth taught me to develop a confident, independent practice grounded in critical thinking and experimentation. I gained excellent studio skills within the disciplines of painting and printmaking, and developed an understanding of contemporary art contexts and professional practice. The course prepared me to articulate my ideas clearly and engage with the art world in a focused, professional way. My PGCE at IOE strengthened my communication and reflective skills, allowing me to articulate and adapt my practice for diverse audiences. The course also enhanced my confidence as an artist-educator, equipping me to support others' creativity while enriching my own work.

EXPERIENCE

Exhibition and engagement

SALON ARTS, artist talk and exhibition	October 2025
DEVON OPEN STUDIOS, exhibition	September 2025
CENTRE FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, EXETER, exhibition	May 2025
COOMBE FARM STUDIOS, DEVON, artist residency and retreat	March 2025
COOMBESHEAD FARM, artist retreats and workshops	July 2023 - ongoing
LESLEY DAVEY GALLERY, LONDON, exhibiting artist	2015 - 2017
PADSTOW CONTEMPORARY GALLERY, CORNWALL, exhibiting artist	September 2016

PERSONAL

About me

I believe passionately in the power of art to bring about positive change and this has been my personal experience thus far. This intensive and life-affirming path has taught me how to communicate clearly and make authentic work that reflects my experience of the world around me.

Married to Ben and with my 3 children I love spending time walking on Dartmoor, painting in the studio and swimming in the sea!