

J R Oatts

Artist & Creative

Macclesfield, Cheshire

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jroattsart.com

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J R Oatts is a British abstract artist whose practice centres on colour in motion. Working across painting, and mixed media - including silk, print and sound, she explores how materials hold histories, identities, memories and hidden meanings.

Her current research is rooted in Macclesfield's silk heritage and its connection to global silk routes, with a growing focus on socially engaged, site-responsive work, community storytelling and the cultural regeneration of heritage spaces.

Education & Training

MA Fine Art, Falmouth University (part-time & online) January 2025-December 2026

Starling Artist-Leader: UNLOCK training, Cohort 2, 2026

Art in Coaching CPD AoC-Accredited Training, Elan Coaching. 2024-25

Future Creative Leaders Programme, Creative Equals, London. 2015

CPD in Painting City Academy, Slade, St Ives School of Painting, 2011-2019

Painting and Illustration, Central Saint Martins Summer School, 2010

BA (Hons) History of Art, Design & Film (2:1), Middlesex University 1994-98

Key projects

Postcards from the Silk Road, Paradise Mill, November 2026

Final Major Project for MFA. Site specific exhibition at Paradise Mill, the factory floor of the last working silk mill and sole survivor of Macclesfield's industrial and creative past.

Silk Journeys, Christ Church, Macclesfield, September 2026

Paintings on silk installed in the stained glass windows of a heritage church built by silk industrialist Charles Roe, exploring silk, place, memory and journeys to Macclesfield.

Journey to Here: More than one Silk Road, Macclesfield, 2026

Collaborative community project, exploring personal journeys, Macclesfield's silk heritage and global silk routes through reflective writing, painting, collage and shared mark-making.

Artist, Snowdogs at Hatchlands Park, National Trust / Wild in Art, 2025-2026

Selected artist for *Dazzler*, a public art sculpture created for a large-scale art trail supporting public engagement, place-based cultural activity and charitable fundraising.

Artist, Music for the Senses Art Trail, Manchester / Wild in Art, 2025

Selected artist for *Positive Vibrations*, a painted guitar sculpture for a city-wide public art trail celebrating music, creativity and public engagement across Manchester.

Theatre Artist, *Ugly Duck*, MADS Theatre, Macclesfield, 2025

Lucien-Freud style commissioned artwork for stage play.

Exhibitions & Fairs

Stockport Open Exhibition, Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery, June–August 2026
Group exhibitions, various, BobCat Gallery, Putney, London 2023-present
Capital Group Annual *Taking Pride in Art* exhibition, Paddington, London, 2024, 2025, 2026
Stockton Heath Gallery, Cheshire, January–May 2026
Luminous, ArtCan group exhibition, Hare and Hounds, London, April–May 2026
Manchester Art Fair, Manchester Central, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
Bollington Art Trail, Open Studios, Bollington, Cheshire, 2024
Wunderkammer, BobCat Gallery at 54 The Gallery, Mayfair, London, 2024
Fiesta!, Inky Fingers, London, 2024
Northern Exposure gallery, Bollington, 2024-present
Fronteer Gallery, Sheffield, various group exhibitions, 2022-2024
Wildcard Artist, *Sky Arts Landscape Artist of the Year*, Series 8, 2024
Sophie's Secret Postcard, Royal Marsden Hospital Charity Auction, 2023
Chroma 2, America Square, London, 2023
Secret Postcard Show, Old Lock Up Gallery, Cromford, 2023
Through Her Eyes: A Celebration of Female Artists, Lyric Hammersmith, London, 2023

Exhibition listings 2010-2023 exhibitions can be found at jroattsart.com

Relevant work experience

As well as being a professional artist, I have over 25 years work experience in the creative industries, working across film, advertising, broadcasting and concept development, with craft and production skills in multiple disciplines. My background has helped shape my ability to develop ambitious contemporary art projects, collaborate with stakeholders and communicate clearly with different audiences.

- Experience in visual storytelling, strategic communication and concept development
- Freelance creative director working across brand, advertising, content and campaign development
- Experience as a journalist, filmmaker, radio presenter and editor
- Creator and host of *The Outvertising podcast*, spotlighting LGBTQ+ people and allies in advertising
- Creator of *Faster Ideas* blog/ vlog/podcast and creativity platform showcase creative thinking and practices of global creatives and creative thinkers.

Additional Roles

- Creative coach and mentor using art to support creative professionals and individuals navigating confidence and professional change.
- Volunteer artist / facilitator, East Cheshire Hospice Sunflower Centre, 2026–present
- Trustee, The Print Block CIO, Macclesfield, 2026–present
- Mentor, Bloom, 2018–2021
- Creative Circle / DMA / D&AD Awards judge 2019-present
- Member/exhibiting artist, ArtCan

DBS checked & safeguarding trained