

SHEENA GRAHAM

A Scottish Landscape: Gairloch and the Outer Isles



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An exhibition at Gairloch Museum Art Gallery
July/August 2023

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An exhibition by Sheena Graham

My paintings are inspired by both the coastal landscapes and the peat and heather moors around Gairloch and the outer Hebrides. In each of them I seek to express the atmosphere of changing seasons.

To achieve the rich autumn colours of the peat and bracken moor in the paintings of Shildaig Croft, I made orange coloured soft pastels by burning North Uist peat, gathering the bright rusty iron oxide ash from the fire and mixing with gum arabic.

The paintings depicting timber boat wrecks, lying in their last resting place on the shore in Badachro are local memories of the past that fade and disperse as they decay naturally with time and tide.

Sheena Graham - BA (Hons) Painting



Biography

Sheena has a diploma in Interior Design from Glasgow College of Building and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Painting from the University of Creative Arts. She worked in the family technology business she set up with her husband Iain in 1986 until it was sold in 2008.



Family Background

The family have a home in Badachro, with connections to Gairloch going back generations through Iain's family. Iain's grandfather was Thomas Mackenzie, known locally as Thomas the Duke. The photograph above is of his fishing boat, a Zulu named the 'Mermaid', registration UL2.

Artist's Statement

I am motivated as an artist to use drawing and painting to communicate and express what I see and feel about a particular subject, just as poetry is to the poet and music is to the musician. The natural world, its life forms, geology and landscapes are my inspiration.

I try to express in my paintings the wonder of the natural world, the feeling and atmosphere of different landscapes and natural forms influenced by weather conditions and the passing of time.

I work from observation in many mediums but currently predominately oil and watercolour. My interest in the natural world stems from my childhood holidays spent around farms for long periods of time, mostly in the wild landscapes of the North West Highlands. It was there that I developed an enduring relationship with the land and also with the people who lived there, their culture, values and way of life. The relationship and connection with the West Highlands continues, and I endeavour to express this through my art.



The Guiding Light, Badachro Bay

Watercolour on paper, 42cm x 58cm



The Stalker's Track, Lochan Fuar

Watercolour on paper, 42cm x 30cm



Early Spring, North West Coast

Oil on canvas, 60cm x 60cm



Autumn in the Western Isles

Oil on canvas, 80cm x 80cm



A Summer's Day, Mellon Udrigle

Oil on canvas, 60cm x 60cm



Spring in the Outer Hebrides

Oil on canvas, 80cm x 80cm



Summer on the Island of Vallay, North Uist

Oil on canvas, 80cm x 80cm



The Still of Winter, The West Coast

Oil on canvas, 80cm x 80cm



Upturned Wooden Boat, Badachro Bay

Mixed media on paper, 58cm x 42cm



Sea-washed Stones, Redpoint Beach

Oil and pastel on canvas, 80cm x 55cm



The Pivot, Badachro Shore

Acrylic on paper, 40cm x 28cm



Evening Falls, Shieldaig Croft

Pastel and watercolour on paper, 20cm x 22cm



Autumn Gold, Shildaig Croft

Pastel and watercolour on paper, 20cm x 20cm



Bracken & Heather, Shildaig Croft
Pastel and watercolour on paper, 20cm x 20cm



Evening Light, Shildaig Croft

Pastel and watercolour on paper, 20cm x 24cm



Peatlands, Shildaig Croft

Pastel and watercolour on paper, 20cm x 24cm



Highland Quarry

Mixed media collage, 20cm x 20cm

Gairloch Museum

In 2019 Gairloch Museum relocated to a stunning new building - a former nuclear bunker in the centre of Gairloch - and in 2020 was named an Art Fund Museum of the Year. As well as showcasing the area's history, culture and natural heritage, the Museum runs a vibrant programme of events and exhibitions throughout the year.

Displays at the Museum include the original lens from Rubh Re lighthouse, a replica croft house showing how people used to live and an interactive gallery explaining the area's geology and wildlife. The Museum shop stocks a specialist range of books and CDs of local interest and crafts by local makers. On the first floor, Am Bàrd cafe serves wonderful food with a view to match. Outdoors, there are a number of items linked to the area's fishing heritage to explore as well as an archaeological trail that winds its way round 12 roundhouses (used as dwellings during the Iron Age).

www.gairlochmuseum.org





Sheena painting in her home studio in Inverclyde.

With many thanks to my husband Iain and to
our daughters Mairi & Fiona for all their
support & encouragement.

with special thanks to:
www.denisefindlay.com
www.northcolour.com
www.gairlochmuseum.org

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