

Susan Wells



Floral/coastal/landscape art

Trail Location: Bishop Lloyd's Palace, 51/53 Watergate Row

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Biography

Twelve years ago, I had a massive change of direction from teaching Biology and writing and illustrating A level textbooks, to taking my love of creating art seriously and set out to become a professional artist. I participated in many short art courses at Heatherley's School of Art in Chelsea and the St Ives School of Painting.

I am in my element whilst walking, sketching and painting 'en plein air', inspired by the flora and landscape along the south-west coast path near my home in Cornwall. My experience as a biologist explains my careful observations of the flowers clinging to life along the edge, where land meets the sea. However, I am no longer limited to detailed botanical drawings of coastal plants, but free to portray them in rich colourful oil paintings.

My work has developed greatly since taking part in the Porthmeor Programme (2018-19) at the St Ives School of painting. I had participated in many art courses over the years but this 12-month programme, with super input from my tutors, helped me to focus and find my direction. Since completing the programme, I have exhibited at The Penwith Gallery, Sandiway Golf Club, The Little Cheshire Gallery and Chester Arts Fair, and had success in selling several paintings.

Inspired by the coast around St Ives, I have produced several paintings of sea and rocks, using oils, soft pastels and watercolour. I am obsessed with the view across St Ives Bay to Godrevy Lighthouse (the one that inspired the author Virginia Woolf). I have also developed a mixed media technique to portray the wonderful patterns formed by minerals leaching from the rocks around old mine workings in Cornwall.

Now living in Cheshire, and again with a floral theme, my recent work is a series of large oil paintings depicting colourful herbaceous borders.

Susan Wells BSc (Hons) PGCE CBIOL MRSB