

Louis Turpin, Biography



Born in post-war London the son of artists living in Brixton.

On leaving school he studied Architecture for a year and a half before changing direction and going to art school. The last half of his Fine Art painting course was spent film-making and, on graduation, he became involved in film work in London. He soon became profoundly disillusioned with London and moved to the countryside of the Kent and Sussex borders.

In 1975, Louis began to concentrate on painting and in an intense three month period of work he moved from abstraction to figuration. The hop garden outside his cottage was the pathway through to figurative painting. Once this change of direction had been consolidated, he began painting his rural environment and at the same time pursued his interest in the

figure. These paintings contained the same iconography as his film work. Many canvases were of his wife, Davida, dressing, eating and drinking, and in bed. Several portrait commissions followed. Louis began to show frequently in the South East, and took part in his first international exhibition 'British Artists', in Switzerland.

In 1980, Louis won the South East Arts (SEA) Major Award and SEA purchased 'Patchwork', one of the paintings of Davida. This award enabled him to complete a series of 'Provincial Interiors' which made up the nucleus of his first one-man show in 1981 at Oxford, which was timed to coincide with the inauguration of Green College, Oxford.

In 1985, inspired by Vita Sackville-West's garden at Sissinghurst, he embarked on a continuing series of British garden paintings. This year also saw the start of a series of very successful One-Man shows in provincial galleries in Both, York, Henley and Rye and of his involvement with the Odette Gilbert Gallery in Cork Street, London.

In 1986, one of his portraits of Davida was selected for the 'National Portrait Award' exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. This led directly to his being commissioned to paint 'Miss Pears 1986'.

In 1993, Louis was invited to exhibit at York in conjunction with the National Garden scheme. This was the first of a series of National Garden scheme exhibitions around the country, including a One-Man show in Henley which was the subject of a major article in the Sunday Express 'Classic' magazine.

In 1996, Louis completed several commissions to produce paintings for hotels, including a suite of six 6 foot long paintings for the Bedruthen Steps Hotel, Cornwall. 1997 saw a commission to paint the gardens and landscape of Glyndebourne.

Priors Court School, Thatcham, commissioned two large arch-topped paintings for the Headmaster's study for the inaugural opening by Princess Anne in 2000.

In 2008 Louis began exhibiting a series of ink drawings on paper of the local valleys around his hometown of Rye. It was also in this year that he worked on the first of two shows taking as their inspiration the Inns of Court, held at The Langham Gallery, Lamb's Conduit Street.

In 2010 he returned to Yorkshire for a solo show of Yorkshire Gardens.

Reviews

Louis Turpin is a painter whose work embraces the human figure, the English landscape and garden. His use of colour, which sometimes includes metallic paint or fine metallic film, is vibrant and startling, but the paint is applied with a precision and finesse which gives the feeling that his subjects are carefully observed and considered.

Ann Elliot 'The Art Of Priors Court School' 2002

Turpin's garden paintings are figurative, and stylised in a manner that is in perfect harmony with its subject. Areas of flat and overlaid colour contrast with the selective delineation of outline and form. Angular brush-work, a bright (sometimes almost translucent) palette and a fine perception of depth and texture all combine in paintings that are a celebration of light and colour.

Turpin's garden series depict the work of a different breed of artist whose compositions are wrought from soil, leaf and blossom. The paintings, however have the advantage of permanence, each one capturing the splendour and verdant pride of a garden in its seasonal prime.

Bohun Gallery, Henley-on-Thames

For Turpin, the more certain is the brush 'blow' the more certain the impact. He works across the canvas re-marking from the minuscule to the almost violently broad brushstroke. The colour is sometimes surprised at its own audacity, but the end result is of an intensely cultured and cultivated image.

Mick Rooney RA

Louis Turpin's love affair with the British garden has continued to grow and bear fruit. The early formal and contemplative paintings have evolved into confident gestural canvasses bedecked with the colours of their inspiration. The paint is applied with a sureness and passion that vibrates with vitality making each composition move and sing.

Grape Lane Gallery, York

The man who creates the most beautiful gardens in Britain does so not with a fork and spade, but with a brush and paint. He loves to work with bright light and colour yet the riot of colours never overwhelms the senses and Turpin's stylised technique enables him to combine vitality with the shades and stillness inseparable in the mind's eye from the classic English garden.

Philip Jacobson, The Sunday Express, August 1995

Solo Shows

Stable Gallery, Oxford	1981
Drew Gallery, Canterbury	1982
Easton Rooms, Rye	1985, 89, 91, 93, 98, 2000, 2006
Beaux Arts, Bath	1986, 88, 97, 99
Bohun Gallery, Henley-on-Thames	1987, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, , 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 2009 2011
Grape Lane Gallery, York	1988, 90, 93
Portrait Exhibition, Rye Art Gallery	1992
Bank Street Gallery, Sevenoaks	1992
Oddfellows Gallery, Kendal	1996, 98
Retrospective Exhibition, Hastings Museum & Art Gallery	1996
Greenwich Connecticut	2002 04
Rona Gallery, London	2005, 2007
Hestercombe, Somerset	2006
Hybrid Gallery Honiton Devon	2008
Kentmere House Gallery, York	2010

Works in Collections

Fondation Elebor, Switzerland; Rye Art Gallery, Sussex; South East Arts Permanent Collection; Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne; Sir Richard Doll; John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford; Bath University; Pears; The Thatching Advisory Service; National Westminster Bank; Burton Agnes Hall; Professor T Ryan; Sir Paul McCartney; Higashi Hope Foundation; Fred Olsen Cruise Lines.

Group Shows

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| 1977 | 6 British Artists, Romainmotier, Switzerland
Easton Rooms, Rye
Southover Gallery, Lewes | 1993 | Royal Academy Summer Exhibition
'Painted Garden' exhibition, York National Gardens scheme) |
| 1980 | 'Three Artists' exhibition, Easton Rooms, Rye
Gallery Tonne, Oslo, Norway | 1994 | 'Making a Mark', Drawing Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London
Royal Academy Summer Exhibition
Royal Society of Portrait Painters summer show, London
'Painted Garden' exhibition, Kendal (National Gardens scheme) |
| 1981 | 'Ten Years On', Falmouth, Cornwall | 1995 | Royal Society of Portrait Painters, London
'Home Ground', Easton Rooms, Rye |
| 1982 | South East Arts touring exhibition, 'Here and Now'
'Award Winners', two man show at The Maltings,
Farnham | 1996 | Royal Society of Portrait Painters, London |
| 1983 | Guildford House, summer exhibition | 1997 | The Tarns and Waterfalls of Cumbria exhibition, Kendal |
| 1984 | 'The Drawing Show', Easton Rooms, Rye
New Ashgate Gallery, Farnham | 1997 | Glyndebourne |
| 1985 | Bath Contemporary Art Fair
'Spring Garden Show', Odette Gilbert Gallery, Cork
Street
Beaux Arts, Bath
Bohun Gallery, Henley-On-Thames
Phoenix Gallery, Lavenhom | 1998 | Royal Society of Portrait Painters, London |
| 1986 | 'Portrait Award 1986', National Portrait Gallery
International Contemporary Art Fair, London | 2000 | Valley House Gallery, Dallas, Texas |
| 1987 | 'Gallery Artists Show', Odette Gilbert Gallery, Cork Street
'Coastlines', Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne
Bath Contemporary Art Fair
'Day Book Picture Show', Smith Gallery, London | 2000 | Royal Society of Portrait Painters, London |
| 1988 | 'Self Portrait Show', Bohun Gallery, Henley-on-Thames
Parnham House Exhibition, Devon | 2001 | Royal Society of Portrait Painters, London |
| 1989 | International Contemporary Art Fair, London
'Small Works' exhibition, Bohun Gallery, Henley | 2002 | Royal Society of Portrait Painters, London
Invited to paint and exhibit at Sissinghurst
Featured in publication 'The Art of Priors Court School' |
| 1990 | Summer Show, Beaux Arts, Bath
International Contemporary Art Fair, London | 2004 | Gallery Lydia Corteille, Paris
Brewery Arts, Cirencester |
| 1992 | Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA | 2005 | Royal Society of Portrait Painters, London |
| | | 2006 | Invited to exhibit at discerning Eye Exhibition The Mall Galleries
London |
| | | 2007 | Exhibited at the Discerning Eye Exhibition The Mall Galleries
London |
| | | 2007 | First exhibited with Fosse Gallery Stow-on-the-Wold |
| | | 2008 | First solo show at Hybrid Gallery, Honiton, Devon |
| | | 2008 | Royal Academy Summer Show, London |
| | | 2009 | Royal Academy Summer Show, London |
| | | 2010 | Inns and Outs Show, Langham Gallery, London |
| | | 2010 | Collection Plus Exhibition Rye Art Gallery |
| | | 2011 | Grays Inn Exhibition Langham Gallery London |
| | | 2011 | Sheep Show Fosse Gallery Stow-in-the-Wold |

Biography

- 1967 Foundation Course at Guildford Art School
- 1968 Studied Fine Art Painting, at Falmouth School of Art
- 1971 DipAD Honours, Fine Art Painting
- 1974 Moved to Kent/Sussex border
- 1977 Painting purchased by Fondation Elebor, Switzerland
- 1978 First exhibited at Easton Rooms, Rye
- 1979 Work purchased by Rye Art Gallery Permanent Collection
- 1980 Won South East Arts 'Major Award'
Work purchased by South East Arts Permanent Collection
- 1982 Painting purchased by John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
SEA touring show 'Here & Now'
- 1984 Featured in TVS arts documentary 'Putting on the South'
- 1985 First exhibition at Odette Gilbert Gallery, Cork Street,
London
First of continuing series of solo shows at Beaux Arts, Bath,
Bohun Gallery, Henley-on-Thames and Easton Rooms,
Rye.and the Bohun Gallery, Henley
- 1986 National Portrait Gallery 'Portrait Award, 1986'
Painting purchased by Bath University
Painting purchased by John Radcliffe Hospital and Mrs Lee
in memory of Emanoel Lee
First exhibited at the International Contemporary Arts Fair,
London
- 1987 Commissioned to paint 'Miss Pears 1986' which was
unveiled on TV AM and is now in the Pears collection
- 1988 Publication 'The Painted Garden' by Anthony Huxley
- 1989 Exhibited at the International Contemporary Arts Fair
and reviewed by the Sunday Telegraph
- 1990 Works purchased by the Chairman of National Westminster
Bank for their Head Office
- 1992 Retrospective Portrait exhibition, Rye Art Gallery
- 1992 Venice Beach exhibition, Los Angeles
- 1993 First National Garden scheme collaboration
- 1995 Feature article in Sunday Express 'Classic' magazine
- 1996 Produced a series of major paintings for the
Bedruthen Steps Hotel, Cornwall
- 1997 Commissioned to paint Glyndebourne
- 2000 Arch top paintings commissioned for Headmaster's study,
Priors Court School, Thatcham
released first C.D."Allotment tapes
- 2001 First Exhibition, Greenwich, Connecticut
- 2002 Invited to paint at Sissinghurst, Kent
- 2003 Moved to new studio, Wittersham, Kent
- 2004 Illustrated book of poems 'Bonfire Boyes' by Andrew
Guainere
Feature article in '25 Beautiful Homes' in June
A year of mixed shows: Gallery Lydia Corteille, Paris; Easton
Rooms, Rye; Stratton Gallery, Hastings; Brewery Arts,
Cirencester
Released new CD 'House on the Hill' with Roger Hubbard
- 2005 Paintings commissioned for new Fred Olsen cruise liner
'Boudicca'
Exhibited at Rona Gallery, London and the Bohun, Henley-
on-Thames
- 2006 suite of paintings purchased by Fred Olsen for Helegan dining
room on 'Boudica'
- 2007 First show with the Fosse Gallery, Gloucestershire
Show at the Bohun Gallery, Henley and the Rona Gallery, in
Mayfair, London
- 2008 Began exhibiting ink drawings, exhibited RA and Discerning Eye
- 2009 First Inns of Court Exhibition, exhibited RA
- 2010 Yorkshire Garden Exhibition, York