

Edna Eckett

I've been drawing and painting since childhood but it became more of a "way of life" after coming to Hemel Hempstead to settle down and have four children in the 1960s.

I began painting in oils on large canvases, mostly landscapes. These were thickly applied sometimes with a palette knife. Twenty years later in the eighties I began using Acrylics having been lured by their bright colours. Again landscape dominated but I found myself experimenting with buildings in abstract style. Several trips to Venice looking at palaces and churches resulted in some frenzied painting activities.

Twenty years on again I'm adding watercolour to my repertoire with a mix of collage.

Figurative elements have crept in over the years drawing people from pubs to beaches and running before they catch me. The human being going about its daily life is a fascinating "landscape."

Pure drawing –marks on paper- in its sparseness has become very absorbing and helps me to hone in on the essentials, this has a very calming influence on me.

I mainly paint outdoors on site. There is nothing to beat the danger and exhilaration of the wind, rain and sun for company, along with the odd passer by's criticism.

When I'm outside painting by the sea for a couple or so hours, then I know what real happiness is.

If not outside I make a sketch, note down the light direction, colours and really look and feel the atmosphere, ready for the studio.

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