

OAG ARTIST OF THE MONTH JULY 2021

CHRISTINE SHARP



The call of the running tide. Acrylic on canvas.

I've always loved painting and sketching right from school days. When I reached Sixth Form and it became time to consider college courses my art teacher encouraged me to aim high and apply to the Slade School of Art at 17. Needless to say I was unsuccessful! I reacted like only a stropky teenager could have, threw my toys out of my pram and went to Birmingham to study a media degree instead (and had a brilliant three years!).

However I did keep painting and sketching rather haphazardly over the years and now I've retired from my 'proper' job it has been a true lifeline, especially during lockdown. I can spend hours in my studio and then wonder where the day has gone.



The passage of sea to shore. Acrylic on board

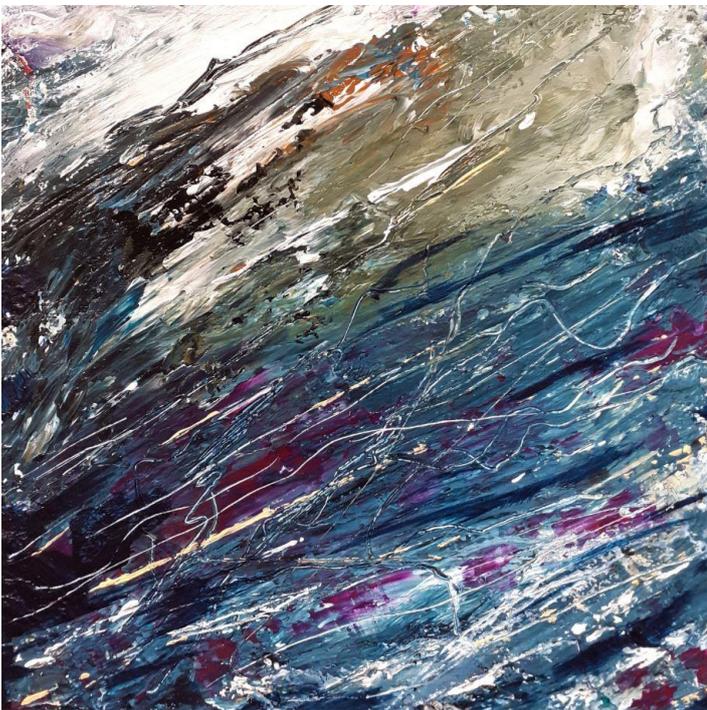


Deep cold waters on another shore. Acrylic on board.

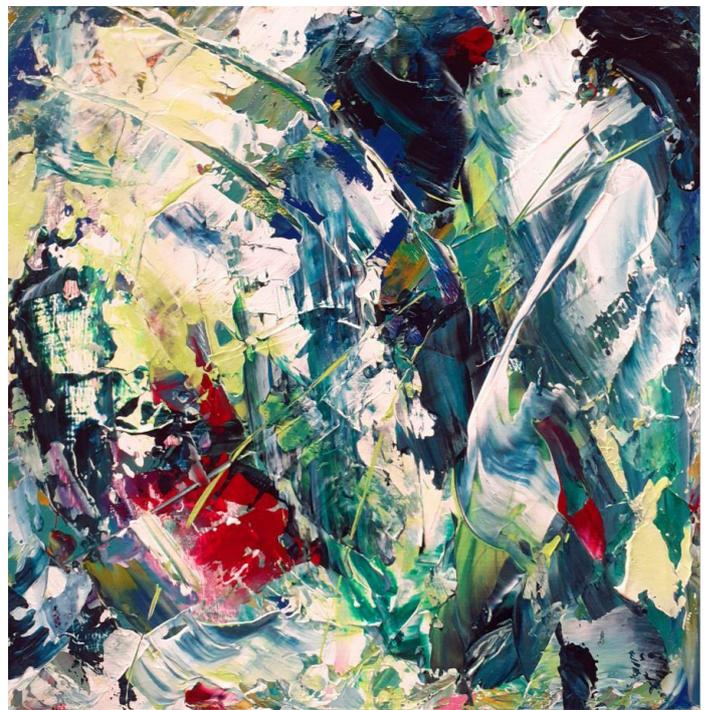


I work mainly in acrylics, painting landscapes and seascapes and have recently found my style becoming less figurative and more abstract. This trend has accelerated during lockdown - I completed Louise Fletcher's online course 'Find Your Joy' last year and that encouraged me to join Nicholas Wiltons' 12-week online course called 'Creative Vision Project'. Both these courses have had a huge impact on my work and I have really enjoyed trying out so many new techniques and ideas which will stay with me in years to come.

The isle is full of sweet airs. Acrylic on canvas.



Air. Acrylic on cradled wood panel.



Earth. Acrylic on cradled wood panel.

One thing that I've learnt through these online courses is to work on a series of paintings; that way you can put a painting to one side if you're about to throw it out the window in frustration(!) and allow yourself to move on to another (and another). My current series is called 'Elementals' – three paintings are finished and framed (two are shown above) and there's another three 'cooking' at present. I'd recommend it as a way of getting yourself out of a problem piece, it has stopped me overworking paintings and I come back to them with fresh eyes and ideas every time. I'm looking forward to continuing the journey and am very excited about what the future holds for my art. These are just a few of my most recent paintings, more can be seen on my website www.christinesharpartist.com or by following me on Instagram www.instagram.com/chrissharpartist/

I hope you enjoy browsing through them.

Christine Sharp