

Artist spotlight

[Lucy Ash](#) is an abstract painter who draws on her own life experiences to capture emotional responses on the canvas



Lucy Ash, 'Iris (02)', 2018

How would you describe your practice?

I'm an abstract painter who draws on my life experiences to express an emotional response to love, death and injustice. Time, mathematics and rhythm are also key themes that are developed in series rather than one-off works.

Which materials do you like working with?

I use colour and texture to convey meaning and emotion in my work. My technique is integral to this expression. I generally work on stretched linen or paper and favour oil paint to achieve depth of colour and feeling. In addition, I often layer paint with mixed media; ink, spray-paint and wax crayon all help to build the tactile tension I'm after.

"Paul Klee has definitely been an influence – I admire the way he creates order from motion and feeling."

- Lucy Ash

Can you name an artist who has been influential in your work?

Paul Klee has definitely been an influence – I admire the way he creates order from motion and feeling. His work is both witty and revolutionary. In his colour theory, colour is freed from its naturalistic, descriptive role and becomes abstract and full of possibilities.

Can you talk about a contemporary artist working today who you find interesting?

I'm always struck by the way [Sean Scully](#) uses geometry, rhythm and texture and how it enables him to convey such rich emotion. I'm also a big admirer of Jasper Johns. I find his process of the repetition and re-examination of everyday objects compelling. His tactile surfaces and the way he works in series also offer me inspiration.



Lucy Ash. 'Homeland (02)'. 2017

Have developments in digital production influenced your artistic practice?

My current work follows a background in animation studios and digital artwork. I created an ongoing series of paintings that draw directly on the storyboard essence of narrative film. However, my work is mostly a reaction against the digital age. Working on images digitally can produce an impressive look, but the physicality of paint is what interests me and how it connects with the viewer viscerally in a way that computer-generated artwork can't.

Does your work feature in places outside of the gallery space?

I've created paintings specifically to hang along the outside of the Gardiner Chantry Chapel in Winchester Cathedral. This hushed spiritual setting added an additional dimension to the artworks. My latest exhibition *Echoes* features a cycle of works created in response to the melodies, lyrics and themes of jazz artist [Trish Clowes](#) and hang in the gallery at the Turner Sims Concert Hall in Southampton.

"Art can start conversations and can lead to greater openness and engagement at work."

- Lucy Ash

How can art enrich different settings, especially places of work?

Art can start conversations and can lead to greater openness and engagement at work. A diptych I had in a large corporation initiated a conversation that led to an employee coming out. If you can be yourself in the workplace you can be more productive, be happier and have a more fulfilled life.

How would you like to see your work displayed in the work environment?

Hanging artwork isn't easy. Generally, I'd like my work to be somewhere the workforce can engage and interact with it daily. Art has a lot to say and can touch us on a deep level. As part of the workplace environment it can improve our wellbeing and productivity so it's important that it can be seen.
