



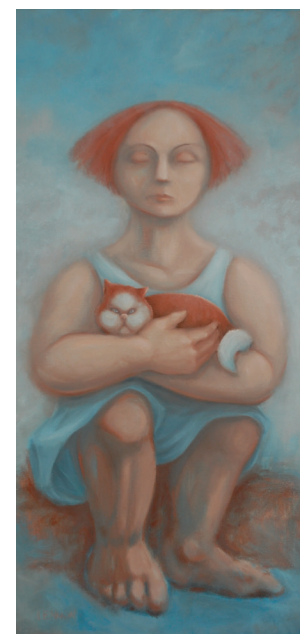
Following a Creative Path

I have always been creative; whether it was playing bass in the local punk bands (yes I am that old) or painting murals on my mates bedroom walls, much to the annoyance of their parents I may add, I have always had a compulsion to create.

Leaving Dunbar in my mid twenties with my lovely wife Elaine and daughter Carrie to live in Edinburgh and study Illustration and Media Design, I then, upon graduation, established a freelance graphic design business. Almost 3 decades later I am still putting food on the table through graphic design. In between however, I formed a very successful contract magazine publishing Agency Whitelight Media, with my good friend and business partner Fraser Allen. Initially just the two of us but we quickly grew the company until there were 12 employees.

This was success in a way but running the business left little time to fulfil my artistic urges. Just over 10 years ago I stepped aside to leave more headspace to pursue my art in a more dedicated fashion; spending more time in my studio developing my craft. I started to exhibit regularly and the next stage of my progression was to open my own small gallery Lennon-Art Gallery in the bohemian Edinburgh area of Stockbridge. Again like leaving college and straight away forming a business, this demonstrated arrogance, fool hardness perhaps, but was indicative of the punk 'do it yourself' ethos - I didn't need anyone's permission or be part of the establishment to do it.

My art is part of who I am, I paint, sculpt and more recently create traditional photomontage, to express myself.



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Okay that's enough of the history let's talk art. My art is part of who I am, I paint, sculpt and more recently create traditional photomontage, to express myself. The painting and Sculpture: clay forms and direct stonecarving, have a quiet gentle spirit to them. Often these monumental figures betray a soft vulnerability below the surface. It

is often said that the artist paints himself in everything he does, it is not deliberate but I cannot deny it. I am drawn towards feeling of isolation and alienation, people connecting or not connecting, silence, introspection. Simple gestures can sometimes be profound.

As other artists know, it's no easy path and requires a lot of discipline, many hours of perspiration and indeed frustration but I am moved that my art can reach out and touch people, this is the reward.

www.lennon-art.co.uk

As my work became more sculptural in style it was natural that I interpret this in a 3 dimensional way this led me to working with clay and then stonecarving. The world of art is so exciting, you open one door and then get led down other paths, the trick is not to lose the focus, it's harder than you think! At the beginning of this year I moved to a bigger space in Albion Road Edinburgh, here I've been able to have my graphic design business, painting studio and gallery all under the one roof. I know I'm very fortunate and keep reminding myself when things appear tough.

"Alan Lennon's paintings explore the human form with a recurring theme of isolated figures, often surrounded by the open sea, with facial expressions which depict deep contemplation and thought. In works such as "Adrift" and "Fish out of Water", there is an unsettling sense of loneliness, despair and vulnerability. But, of course, you can find your own hidden meaning in these soulful compositions.

Alan is also a most accomplished sculptor working with both clay and stone to create meticulously carved Heads and Busts."

Vivien Devlin, Arts & Travel Writer

