

Sally Whelan – “Painter Sally” is a British figurative and portrait artist.

She creates compelling works with a strong narrative and bold composition that provoke a feeling of curiosity from the viewer.

Her daring use of a limited and sometimes non-existent background, coupled with her ability to capture the very soul of her sitters, seems to cast her subjects adrift. With nowhere to hide, unflinchingly raw and vulnerable, her characters are caught in the spot light, idolised, and are powerfully unapologetic for the state we find them in.

A witty charm and well observed sense of humour blends uniquely with a hintingly dark undercurrent.

“Bodies, people, their stories, their skin, the hidden shades and depths, from the inside out, a fabric that is always changing. Never predictable, always challenging and something i feel compelled to depict.”

Sally works predominantly in oil paint & utilises a range of surfaces to paint on - “*whatever the painting tells me it needs*” - from chunks of wood found on beaches, forest floors and abandoned buildings, to old leather bags & metal street signs, from pieces of furniture, to the finest linen canvas.

A carefully tailored life of endless travel, colourful and creative experiences, a curious mind, open heart, and a steely determination, culminate into a self-taught education that currently spans 18 years.

Having travelled extensively in her early 20's, and eventually landing in Byron Bay, Australia, the young painter lived here for 3 years in an artistic collective making films, props, sets and experimenting with sculpture, collage, painting, murals and worrying attempts at taxidermy puppetry.

“It was a place of complete artistic and personal freedom to try new things, surrounded by incredible scenic beauty and likeminded folk”

Sally had her first solo art exhibition “***Wolf & Beads***” in 2010, while living in Byron Bay.

Moving back to the UK in 2012, Sally worked as a hairdresser and Make-up Artist for the BBC and painted in her spare time.

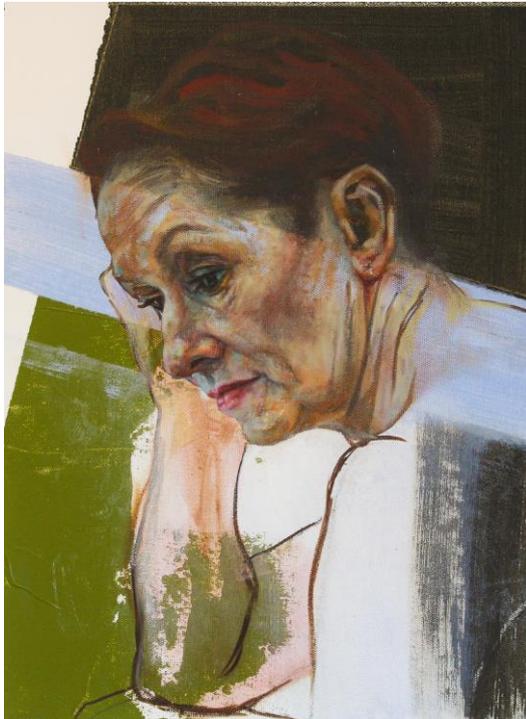
She showed her work in group shows in London, before moving to the West Country to work as a wig maker for TV, Film & Theatre. Still dedicating all her spare time into developing her painting practice, she had her first UK solo exhibition “***These Little Walls***” in 2016.

“The last couple of years have been pretty much non-stop, since I made the leap into full time ‘arting’. My work has been exhibited in some fantastic group shows all over the UK alongside some incredibly talented artists, I’ve been commissioned to create some outrageous paintings, and at the end of 2018 had my 2nd UK solo show ‘I’ve Fallen So Far, For The People You Are’”

Sally works endlessly on her ever growing body of work, as well as commissioned oil paintings for private collectors. She also creates paintings for the TV and film industry. Her most recent projects being the drama series ‘*Sex Education*’ - currently showing on **Netflix** - as well as ‘*Phillip Pullmans Dark Materials*’ airing in 2020 on the **BBC**. Sally has shown and sells her work internationally, including Australia, America, Canada, Europe and throughout the UK.



Blue Velvet - 2018 – oils on canvas – 60 x 76cm



Are Those Dreams Inside Your Head?- 2019 – Oil & acrylic on canvas – 11x15 inch



Crow Bar – 2018 - Oils on canvas – 70 x 100cm