

## March Newsletter

Welcome to the March Newsletter - the last of the monthly newsletters and the last of the art articles written by members of the Society's committee. On page 2 of the newsletter you will see an exciting opportunity for members.....but first enjoy something a little different.

Written by Rev David Poulton - art and its relationship with faith.

In 2014, I was on sabbatical over a three month period and I was looking into the relationship of faith and my style of art and looking for the impact it had on people of faith and no faith. A friend and colleague arranged a meeting between myself and Lou Davis in Edinburgh. Two complete strangers meeting on shared faith, alone on one July morning.

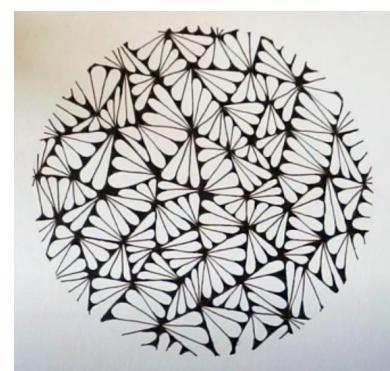
Over the years I have followed Lou Davis as an artist and printmaker, living and working in Edinburgh. Lou has had many exhibitions over the last 10 years, her first being in a selected group exhibition for "ADVENTurous" in Left Bank Leeds and two Curatorial Projects "We Stitch Angry," Amos Trust and Greenbelt Festival, and "Two Cities" Photography Exhibition, YMCA Edinburgh all taking place in 2012. Since then Lou has had a string of collective, solo and in a number of curatorial projects since then. Lou's first solo exhibition was in 2014 at The Well Cafe, Edinburgh.

However, since 2015 Lou has been focusing on becoming a printmaker, but still showcasing her work as an artist, exhibiting drawings and prints, in a variety of mixed media throughout the UK. In particular, Lou has been developing her skills in Lino relief printing and screen printing too and while attending the Leith School of Art in print making, she is now a member of the Edinburgh Printmakers studio in Fountainbridge.

Just as art and printmaking are an important part of Lou's life, so is her faith. In her early twenties, she found herself getting closer to God while having a paintbrush in her hand - I know there are a number of us within Llanelli Art Society and Y Ty Celf who could identify with this too. As Lou says, art was a hobby back then, it was a means of unwinding from a busy day in the office. I am sure we can all identify with this too.

Lou reflects on the church today which has a very mixed reaction to the visual arts being part of religion, with visual artworks being painted on bare walls to then be covered by whitewash only later to be rediscovered as works of art in their own right. As Lou wrote back in 2015 in The Connexion magazine, two multi-skilled craftsmen called Bezalel and Oholiab worked with metal, stone, wood, and fabric to decorate a temple and they were filled with God's Spirit in order for them to complete their task. For many artists today, like Lou, this Spirit is an intrinsic part of who she is and the work from simple, yet complex fine liner pen drawings to her multi-layered printmaking, is there to be seen as she celebrates her faith for the world while it displays the injustice and the economic hardship on the poor members of humanity.

Lou is currently reading for a PhD in theology through printmaking as a creative practice with the University of Glasgow. However, the roots of her artwork is drawing fantastic line drawings, such as a "fine liner pattern: teardrop triangles," which is one of her recorded YouTube videos in which Lou takes you through the creative process of completing this pattern for yourself. It is well worth looking at! While her patterns are simple, they do have a complex style of their own. Lou often adds Gold leaf work to her images and these you can see if you go to <https://loudavis.co.uk> Here you will be treated to many examples of her work, including a look at her latest Axiomatic Worlds as she walks you through the exhibition, which took place in February, also found on YouTube.



Axiomatic Worlds Exhibition Walkthrough

**Axiomatic Worlds Gallery Walkthrough**

Watch Later Share

LOU DAVIS  
AXIOMATIC WORLDS

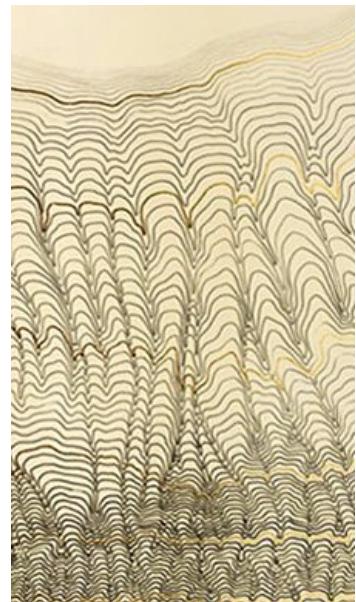
Watch on YouTube

Here are Lou's words to explain how she created Axiomatic Worlds:

"I begin each work with a series of drawings, setting 'starting conditions' or 'axioms', then describing a set of 'rules' that expand from one mark, to many, to become patterns defining complex forms. I've used these to visually model ideas; in particular ideas around economic and social justice, debt relief and ideas of jubilee. The influence of my academic history in theology and mathematics is reflected in my artwork. My recent work looks at economic trends and policies in the light of historic understandings of debt, wealth and prophetic criticism of economic inequality."

I find Lou Davis' artwork and printmaking is a place where I can find peace. Watching her videos are part of the transformation and connection I have discovered over the years. I would encourage you all to look at her work online and watch her videos. I have been amazed at how relaxing it is to try and complete her teardrop patterns and to watch a master craftsman work and enjoy something different and refreshing to look at.

Please look up Lou Davis on Google and be inspired to have a go yourself. You will find Lou on: YouTube, loudavis.co.uk, visualartscotland, loudavisart.com



## Would you like to be Artist of the Month at a new gallery in John St. Llanelli?

**LAS is offering you a unique opportunity to exhibit your work in the new Y Ty Celf Gallery opening in April 2022 in John Street (opposite Davies Craddock).**

**We will feature Llanelli Arts Society's Artist of the Month....or a collection of Artists of the Month. All you need to do is to tell us you want to participate and those names will be drawn out of a hat for the next 6 months. If you want to share the space you just need to tell us who with (you must ask them first, of course!)**

**The following space is available - 2 walls measuring 2ft 2ins x 7ft. We suggest you mark out the space on your floor to see what fits. You will have that space for 1 month. There is no fee for exhibiting and no stewarding, just 20% commission on sales.**

**You can tell us that you would like to take part in this opportunity by emailing or posting your name/s and saying yes I/we would like to take part in Artist/s of the Month. You can post this information to 10 Waun Deri, Pembrey, Llanelli SA16 0LF or you can telephone 01554 832258.**

## **Art on a Postcard Competition - Theme - Regeneration**

The winner of the competition was Melanie Kanz with her painting 'The Beauty of Cells' (acrylic). She wins a voucher for art materials. In 2nd place was Phyllis Gully with 'Grow Your Own' (watercolour) and 3rd was Yvonne Boxall with 'Seeds' (acrylic). Well done to the winners.....

