

PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS by JESSIE MAHTANI née SEMPLE

A RETROSPECTIVE 1958-2012

GUILDFORD HOUSE GALLERY

10th March – 24th March 2012

155 High Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3AJ, Open 10.00 – 16.45 Mondays – Saturdays,

A lifetime of quiet dedication from one of Surrey's most painterly of painters provides the body of work for this forthcoming exhibition in Guildford. It's a unique opportunity to see 33 paintings and 13 drawings from an artist whose integrity and dedication shines through in her work.

Jessie studied at the Slade School, before winning a scholarship to the Ecole des Beaux Arts. On her return to the UK she became a tutor at Liverpool College of Art. In the late 70's, married and with a young family, Jessie moved back into her old family home in Surrey, where she has continued to paint landscape and urban subjects 'on her doorstep'. She recognizes the value and discipline of life drawing and still regularly attends a weekly class.



"Half Figure against Window" 1998
77x57 cms (HxW with frame)

Jessie paints extremely slowly – some paintings have taken over 3 years to complete, as she waits for a certain season and light to return. Her work is what she sees with her own eyes. She says:

'I do not include the flattened patterns of photographic imagery, as I wish to show how I 'bump' into the nearest sides of objects as I journey through the space in the picture. This adventure is the focus of my work.

I have a loft studio halfway up a hill, which explains my tendency to paint rooftop subjects: as they go back, they eventually disappear into the distant views of the North Downs – a very different perspective from the unseen roads beneath.'

Before applying oil paint, Jessie primes her boards herself with Egg Tempera: the slight absorbency draws the paint, offering a soft, luminous quality of colour. There are no hard edges in her images, and the subtle use of light creates something other-worldly, out of ordinary, everyday views and objects. Although Jessie is greatly inspired by traditional artists, her own works are fresh and contemporary.



"Still Life on Window Sill" 2011
26x44 cms (HxW with frame)



"Jar of Honey" 2006
41x12 cms (HxW with frame)



"With Hands Behind Head" Graphite 2001
43x56 cms (HXW with frame)

Jessie's work has been on view at the Mall Galleries, London: in the New English Art Club, the National Portrait Gallery Awards, the Painter Stainer and the Threadneedle Exhibitions. This is her first major one-woman exhibition. For further information, please email jessiemahntani@hotmail.co.uk, or visit www.jessiepaintings.co.uk.