

Linton 59



CLARE MARIA WOOD

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Clare studied Fine Art Painting at Wimbledon School of Art in the late 1980s. She had a successful career as a Head of Art and now works as a full-time artist from her studio in Cambridge. She exhibits throughout the UK in galleries and selected exhibitions and her work is held in numerous private collections.

Clare's abstract landscapes are her expression of 'place', which range from journeys around the craggy Cornish coast, rugged North Yorkshire Moors – where she was brought up – and the open-skied Cambridgeshire Fens. Her recent 'Woodland' series are a direct response to her local beech woods and their ever-changing light and colour throughout the seasons. Her finished pieces evoke the energy of a living, breathing landscape.

Clare says, "Each day starts with a dog walk at dawn, which awakens that connection with my surroundings. What really excites me is the ephemeral nature of the woodland so early in the morning. The glowing sunrise and copper leaves glimpsed fleetingly between the static beech wood trunks are framed, just for a moment, before changing again. Back in the studio I work intuitively to begin with, usually on several pieces at the same time, which allows me to see what is working and expand on ideas. I build layers of paint, drawn marks and collage and scrape back into the surface to reveal flashes of previous marks and colours, allowing the history of each piece to take centre stage. As paintings develop I then take a more critical approach, refining and resolving areas while striving to keep the energy of the initial marks."

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The Darryl Nantais Gallery, 59 High Street, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4HS
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Proprietor: Karl Backhurst