

Melanie J Hodge

I grew up in California and attended Willamette University in Oregon, where I graduated with a degree in English Literature before working in a book shop.

In 1999 I set off on a grand tour of Europe, without itinerary, leading in the best of Romantic traditions to love and a life abroad.

In those (not so) long ago days I painted exclusively in watercolours, developing a self taught technique that was bright, bold and playful - and yet increasingly unsuited to the fine details which filled my imagination.

In 2010, while living in Zagreb, Croatia, I was introduced to the Croatian Naive tradition of reverse oil painting on glass by the internationally acclaimed Naive painter, Ivica Fišter. Under his mentorship I prepared my first solo exhibition of art which was held in Zagreb in 2011. In 2012 I held my second solo exhibition, the first to exclusively feature my works on glass.

Today I work from my home studio in West Sussex and my paintings hang in private collections around the world.

In 2011 I was invited to take part in a Meeting of International Naive Artists, hosted by the Hrvatsko Društvo Naivnih Umjetnika (Croatian Association of Naive Artists) in Zagreb and one of my very first paintings, "Night Owls," now forms part of their permanent collection.

This is my third solo exhibition and my first exhibition in London. I am grateful to the British Croatian Society for their invitation to be part of their month long celebration of *creativeCroatia* and for their sponsorship of this exhibition.

You can follow my work on social media:

Twitter **@mjhodgeart**

Instagram **@melanie_hodge** and

Facebook **@MJHodge Art and Illustration**

You can also contact me directly for commissions or with further exhibition opportunities by emailing melanie.hodge@me.com.

I look forward to sharing more adventures behind glass with you soon!