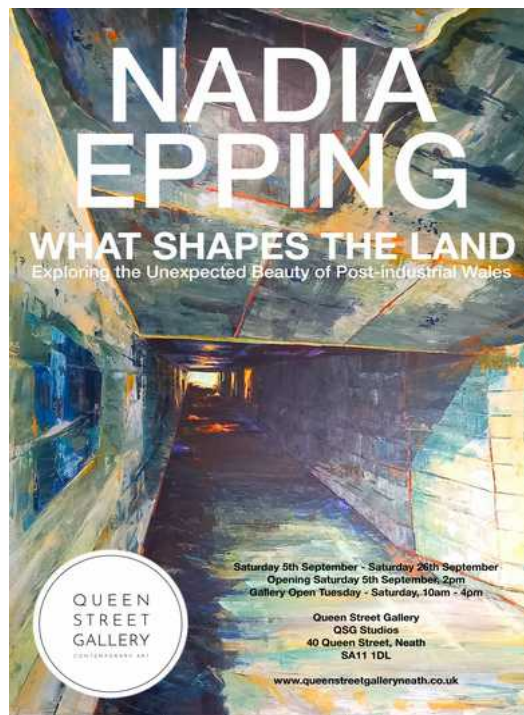




What Shapes the Land

Exploring the unexpected beauty of post-industrial Wales

Trained at Kunstakademie Duesseldorf in my native Germany, I have explored a wide variety of media in my artistic practice.

Currently mainly painting with acrylics in a representational style, my work explores architecture and the remains of human activity in landscape, with a specific focus on industrial history.

After moving to Wales in 2024, this strain in my work has developed further as a way of exploring and connecting with my new surroundings and their history.

When painting sites like the quarries, mines and industrial buildings of my new home in south Wales and further afield, I highlight spots of unexpected beauty so they can be appreciated for their own unique value in shaping the land and communities.

In a wider sense, this also connects to a concern about the way humanity and our societies exploit natural as well as human resources.

I have had a longstanding fascination with the Welsh landscape since first visiting as a teenager. Even while living a few hours away in Buckinghamshire, I often took any opportunity to find inspiration for paintings in areas like the Pembrokeshire coast.

But today, my focus has sharpened further.

I look beyond natural beauty and seek out sites that speak to the developments that have shaped today's landscape and the people within it; communities who formerly proudly earned their living from them, must now come to terms with the effects of the post-industrial closure of the coal mines, slate or limestone quarries and iron works.

The locations I choose to paint are today mainly deserted, and they and their

stories are often bypassed by tourists, who nowadays bring income to the areas.

Focusing my creative practice on these sites is a way for me to share the beauty I find in them.

Exploring the sites I paint and spending time on location is an important part of my process. When taking reference photos or drawing, I concentrate on unusual perspectives and textures, often deliberately choosing a juxtaposition of natural landscape with the industrial relics. At other times I pick a framing that deliberately avoids a too recognisable view of a landmark.

Starting out with an underlying drawing in the studio, I put on multiple thin layers of paint with brush and palette knife, achieving a painterly finish within the details of the surface. The end result in terms of colours on the canvas is still reminiscent of the source material, but often layered more loosely from strong tones and can be quite independent in relation to the original object colour.

Bio

Born in 1971 near Cologne, Germany, I now live and work in Crickhowell, Wales.

In 2000 I graduated from Kunstakademie Duesseldorf in Germany (degree 'Akademiebrief'). While in my final year, I was selected 'Meisterschüler' (master student, a title of creative academic honour) by Prof David Rabinowitch.

After graduation, I worked as independent artist part time alongside several paid roles in the creative and education sectors in Germany and since 2015 in the UK.

Since moving to Wales 2024, I have been focusing on my creative practice full time and have started exhibiting in galleries in the area.