

Artist Statement

Primarily a figurative painter, for me, the process of making is as important as the outcome. The main concerns of my practice revolve around social observation. A fascination of personalities, and the many layers that make a person, underpins my work. I represent these layers metaphorically through my primary medium of oil. The question of 'what lies beneath?' comes in to play. I often use photographic images as a source of reference.

The threads of my work muse over societal issues. I look at social media, particularly the Facebook community, focusing on how people choose to represent themselves through their profile imagery whilst investigating the psychology behind that phenomenon. For this project I have set up a Facebook page through which people can interact:

<https://www.facebook.com/LetsFaceBkIt/>

I have created a body of 17 studies I asked a community of artists from a local art club to pose for me using Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" as a reference. This culminated in an online book:

<http://www.blurb.co.uk/b/4309184-knockholt-art-club-final>

I am looking to extend this concept by looking at my peer group of artists studying in and around studios.

I also look at different social integration including binge drinkers. I look upon this situation as a communal activity being peer group lead. Through this work I have also started to question stereotypes intimated by the titles of each work.

Currently my work also investigates modern communication questioning our use of technology in the workplace, at home and whilst in public view. I am captivated how globally we appear dependant on technology and absorbed with communication through devices but so remote with the humans in the immediate vicinity.

Andrea Coltman 2016