

## Murphy, Theresa

Theresa Murphy a native of Co. Armagh, moving to Foxford, Co. Mayo in 2007. Artist's Statement "I am a qualified nurse in both psychiatric and general nursing, and am a therapist and a relationship counsellor. I was brought up in a rural country area called Derrinraw, near Maghera, on the banks of Lough Neagh, Co Armagh. At the age of fifteen I moved to Portadown just seven miles from where I was born. It was a massive move for the family into a beautiful large home on the outskirts of the town. I soon had rooted myself into life on the Garvaghy road. This was an area of controversy and issues around sectarian marching was ongoing. I worked as a nurse and raised my children through some of the darkness and sadly troubled days in the north. My father introduced me to painting, initially with water colours. Eddie O'Neill, my father is a self taught artist but has a unique skills as a copper smith. When I visit home we always steal an hour or two to paint together. Although our styles differ we can still appreciate what we learn from each other. We have exhibited in the past in Armagh City. In 2004 I got the opportunity to complete a Diploma in foundation studies (Art and Design) My tutor who recognised my talent, allowed me to be free and expressive in my art work. I feel it was the catalyst for change in myself and my art. The end result for my enthusiastic work was a distinction. I always had a love and keen eye for colours. I have a natural passion and flare for creativity. When I am painting sculpturing and busy at my art work time stands still, so much so that I might spend the whole night working. I become alive when I paint and this brings an intrinsic energy which is hard to put into words. I paint in all mediums but tend to experiment, mix and blend colour in my paintings. I add materials, saw dust and various commodities at my disposal to add depth in my art pieces. I love the landscape and that's what impressed me most about the west of Ireland. I am blessed as an artist to be surrounded by such breathtaking beauty. Painting is a process of observation, experimentation and then creation. This is what makes me tick and the creative energy is tangible when I am enjoying the work."