

“ECHOS AND THREADS” – Tamsin Loveday and Helen Kirby

Sat 20th April – Saturday 18th May 2024 The Main Gallery, Fisherton Mill

“Echoes and Threads” presents the work of two Fisherton Mill resident artists who share a fascination with ancient ritual landscapes in Wiltshire.

Inspired by the energy and beauty of sacred sites such as the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage landscapes, Tamsin Loveday and Helen Kirby use unique approaches to textile-art, printmaking, and mixed media to explore connections between past and present, archaeology, spirituality, and contemporary culture.

Helen Kirby www.artlabdesigns.org

Helen is a contemporary Artist who specialises in painting and textiles.

She graduated in 2005 with MA- Fine Art at Winchester School of Art.

Helen experiences the phenomena of Synaesthesia, seeing sound as colour, line, and form, which she interprets with paint and mixed media to create her “Sound Paintings.”

Helen also works with textiles and fashion, blending hand-painted pictorial motifs and symbols fused with stitch and dye techniques.

Helen is most content when outside in the landscape, walking, climbing, and kayaking.

For “Echoes and Threads,” Helen has reached out to draw inspiration from our prehistoric ancestors; their spiritual journeys of ceremony, ritual, and daily life.

She has created a new series of Sound Paintings derived from recording the resonance of her acoustic instruments whilst playing respectfully and peacefully in and around ancient monuments, feeling connected with the ancient people. Parallel to this work, she has designed and created new textile pieces in the form of contemporary tunics with surface decoration inspired by ancient pottery and petroglyphs. Helen is also exhibiting examples of her intriguing Time, Place and Process project, “Buries,” where the landscape itself becomes a creative collaborator.

Tamsin Loveday www.tamsinloveday.com

Tamsin is a multidisciplinary Artist with a special interest in paper, printmaking, and book-arts. Her art practice includes participatory arts work with people in the Arts and Health, Creative Wellbeing, and Arts and Heritage sectors.

Tamsin graduated with BA Hons Fine Art-Printmaking from Winchester School of Art in 2009.

Her visual practice is research and process led, with core concerns being things that connect us to each other, to landscape, to the past and the traces of these things.

Tamsin’s enquiry into people’s relationships to ancient monuments and ritual landscapes began during a visit in 2022 to Tregeseal Stone Circle near St Just in Penwith, followed by several walks along processional routes to make offerings to ancient stones. Her curiosity has led to conversations with Druids, a Geomancer, Ramblers, an Archaeo-astronomer, Archaeologists, Facebook special-interest groups, Photographers, and an MSc researcher. Dense reading about Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology, about contemporary folk rituals, spiritual beliefs, and practices relating to these sites has contributed to this deep dive into the subject.

For “Echoes and Threads,” Tamsin has leant into her intuitive practice of making the hand-held sculptural objects she calls “Wands,” creating a set of these instruments representing “the wheel of the year.” Parallel to this, Tamsin has made mixed media “Energy Diagrams” which attempt to articulate ideas about “earth mysteries,” first encountered in the writings of surrealist and esoteric artist, Ithell Colquhoun. Tamsin is also exhibiting a collection of original relief prints titled “Human Henges,” which comment on diverse contemporary styles of engagement with special places.