



Cas Holmes, Artist and Author

Cas Holmes is an award winning artist based in Kent. She graduated from University College of Creative Arts, followed by research into paper and textiles in Japan (supported by a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship and Japan Foundation Fellowship.) Renowned for her use of 'the found', she is the author of four books* for Batsford, including her most recent 'Textile Landscape: Painting with Cloth in Mixed Media' which takes an eclectic view on how different places, everyday subjects and the landscape we live in, can inform your textile work. She works in textiles and mixed media and exhibits gives talks and runs workshops internationally. Cas is also the author of *Textile Landscape* (2018), *Stitch Stories* (2015), *The Found Object in Textile Art* (2010) and *Connected Cloth* (co author Anne Kelly, 2013).

Urban Nature: *Cas Holmes has an abiding interest in the connections between land, place and environment. Trained in fine art she works in mixed media using found materials in a process described as 'extreme stitching'.*

Moira Vincentelli, essay for the exhibition 'Reflections': *At first glance, the materials and techniques she uses give the impression of something we 'already know', yet the artist is able to conjure up familiar images and associations and give them new meanings.*

I am influenced by the ideals of **wabi-sabi**, things often overlooked, details, worn surfaces and the beauty found in the transience of things imperfect. The intimacy of our gardens and homes, and the connection to our outside spaces, fields and pathways; 'stitch sketching' to capture a moment before it is gone. My work is an intuitive response to 'place', not limited by the familiar, but inspired by the small observations and change.

I have an Honours Degree in Fine Art and gained further practical experience through long-term studies in Japan and Canada (supported by the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship and the Japan Foundation). A British Council Award to Canada allowed further research into art organisations re-using found materials. I enjoy the challenge of working on site-specific projects either for temporary or permanent installation for indoor and outdoor spaces. I often work in collaboration with other artists, performers and the broader community both in the U.K. and overseas.

Commissions include work for hospitals, art centres and with regional councils. Projects undertaken focus on environmental/social issues and are usually of a participatory nature.

I offer talks on Japanese Papermaking and Textiles as well as workshops where I adapt ideas for use with found materials and materials appropriate for school use.

By combining the advantages of new technology with textile and paper based work I am continuing to push the boundaries between tradition and innovation and extend further my visual vocabulary. In addition to free-lance projects in the community I teach at Degree level as well as Adult Education. I believe the process of making should be as accessible as possible, focusing on an exchange of ideas, skills and experiences.

