

# TRACES OF US

## A Solo Show

By

## Toni Cogdell



**Toni Cogdell's striking, figurative portraits have captured the eyes of many, including the British Musician, Goldie who connected so deeply with Toni's works that he added a piece of hers to his growing collection.**

**"Art is my whole world, as David Bowie said of music, it's "the house that I live in". I make art to connect with life, it's my filter on my lens into the world, or perhaps more accurately it is the process which refocuses and renews my filter as well as a bridge between my inner and outer world. I hope the resulting paintings can provide the same for people looking at them."**

**- Toni Cogdell**

Toni Cogdell was born in Bristol, England, in 1979. While exhibiting her work across the UK as well as selling internationally, she has honed her process and techniques combining acrylic, spray paint,

collage and oil paint to give voice to her expression; a personal style seeking to connect with the world around her.

Painting intuitively, in the space between figuration and abstraction Toni finds a freedom which allows her to go deeper into the intangible substance of the psyche and human condition without restricting or enforcing definitive ideas. Pulling recognisable truths into the work while opening to the unknown, her paintings are looking for a balance, a coming together of moments, a kind of imperfect beauty.

*“Through my paintings I explore human emotion, sense and memory; facets of our inner world piecing together to make us who we are. Humans built from the inside out. I've always been pulled toward making art that expresses some of the intangible, mysterious currents of our minds and inner lives. I am on a pursuit to make contemporary portraits that dig beneath the skin to swim in our consciousness, to reveal our stories and the marks we make on ours and others' lifelines, the traces of ourselves we give, revisit, and leave behind. How we live on the inside and how this connects to our outer lives.” – Toni Cogdell*

Nature is a main influence of Toni's work. The power and movement of nature is her fulcrum; *“I return to it, lean into it, to remind myself what's important, who we are when stripped of the chaos of society.”* As well as nature, poetry and music inspire Toni. The expression she feels and gets when hearing/reading a piece Toni resonates with is then reflected onto her works.

Toni's upcoming solo exhibition with TAP Galleries Ltd will include an exciting collection of new works as well as a selection of previous works created in 2020.

The works in this exhibition have been on journeys of their own, each hoping to reach a kind of harmony from the clutter of days spent painting, leaning toward something out of reach, looking to find traces of us interconnecting, communing. Through paint on canvas is an action to blend chaos into beauty, the kind of beauty that tilts on the curve of a wing as it swoops into water and then sky; below, above. It's a call to find an opening, a space to breathe, an acceptance of the multitude of landscapes within us and the places in the world we may belong as we arrive and depart.

## **EXHIBITION INFORMATION**

Dates: 21<sup>st</sup> August – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Venue: TAP Galleries Ltd 21 Hutton Road Shenfield CM15 8JU

FREE ENTRY Gallery opening times: Monday-Friday 9:30am – 5:30pm Saturday 10am – 5pm *Viewing by appointment available outside these times*

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Find out more about the artwork on show and the artists on the Turner Art Perspective website at [www.turnerartperspective.com](http://www.turnerartperspective.com)