

# Interview with the Artist **Heather Roy**

Qu= Is there an element of art you enjoy working with most? Why?

An= I love the planning and imagining stage, where anything is possible! I spend time making mental connections between images that intrigue me.



Qu= How do you overcome creative blocks?

An= I work on several pieces at a time, and often look at my art books when I'm stuck. I'm a great believer in studying other artists' work to guide my problem solving.

Qu= Does nature inspire your work? How?

An= As a figurative painter, I use nature as a background, although I can't resist painting the odd floral or landscape, especially in encaustic.

Qu= What artist(s) are you influenced by?

An= I love the work of Peter Doig, Joan Eardley, James Ensor and Alice Neel among many others.

Qu= What role does the artist have in the community?

An= In teaching art to both children and adults, I think it's very important to nurture art appreciation and /or practice as an enriching aspect of life, and a tool to understand new ideas and express feelings. Children are very intuitive about making art and responding to it, this unfortunately disappears entirely if not nurtured. The power of art to convey ideas, experiences and feelings makes it a humanizing force for very vital and authentic communication.