

INSPIRED BY THE COAST

Painter Sue Read captures the ever-changing moods of the Cornish seascape, from tangled shoreline to Atlantic waves rolling in under dramatic skies

WORDS *Carol Anne Strange*



FIND SUE

- Visit Sue's **Barn Studio** at Wooda Farm Park, Poughill, Bude, EX23 9HJ to see her latest work. Call first on 07935 100950.
- Her **limited edition giclee prints** are fine reproductions of her original artworks. Prices from £40 for a 30x30cm print up to £200 for the largest size (sueread.co.uk).
- Sue has an annual solo show at **The Castle Bude**. She is also part of two artist and designer-maker collectives in **North Cornwall**, 'Ingenious Pursuits' and 'Cruel and Curious', which hold pop-up events. Follow her on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @suereadart.

SUE READ Artist

Early evening at Northcott Mouth, one of Sue Read's favourite beaches just a mile from her art studio in Bude, is a chance to breathe in the invigorating sea air after a busy day painting. As the light softens and the sea reflects the colours of the sky, Sue is ready with sketchbook and camera to glean ideas from this rocky cove where a sandy beach emerges when the tide is out. 'The coast never fails to surprise me,' says Sue. 'I could create a whole series of paintings from just one evening. An entire exhibition of changing light and colour.'

Born in Bude, growing up on the farm where she now has her studio, Sue is proud of her Cornish heritage and the wild coast that is home. Married with two grown-up sons, she's always loved art but only started painting in her thirties after falling unwell. Now fully recovered, Sue has been a professional artist for seven years. 'I learnt my art by sitting on the beach, studying the waves and from being immersed in the water,'

Sue explains. 'The sea is my sanctuary. I don't surf, but I do bodyboard and I'm in the water at every opportunity.'

Sue paints in acrylics and oils on canvas, board and aluminium using a variety of mark-making techniques. 'It's an intuitive process,' she says. Her large-scale coastal scenes are most sought-after, and her prints and originals can be found on the walls of prestigious properties in Cornwall and beyond – Jill Stein is a fan. As a popular artist in the Cornish art scene, with solo exhibitions including 'Mordros, the sound of the Sea', 'Colours of a Tangled Coastline' and, most recently, 'The Sea and Me' at Bude Castle, Sue finds ideas for her paintings by walking the coastal paths throughout the seasons.

'My work represents all that is beautiful and raw about the North Cornwall coast,' says Sue, as she gazes across the shore. After a successful sixth solo exhibition, she is already looking to create new 'conversations in paint' for next year, taking inspiration from this unique part of the coast.

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CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT 'A Winter's Beach' by Sue Read; Sue painting in the Barn Studio; 'Caught in the Moonlight' by Sue; the artist walking on the shore; 'Spring Light and Blue Seas' by Sue; Sue hard at work on one of her pieces



PHOTOGRAPHS CLIVE BREMMER; SUE READ