

# GALLERY

## Leslie Robinson, Artist

**ALTRINCHAM TODAY: Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your artistic background?**

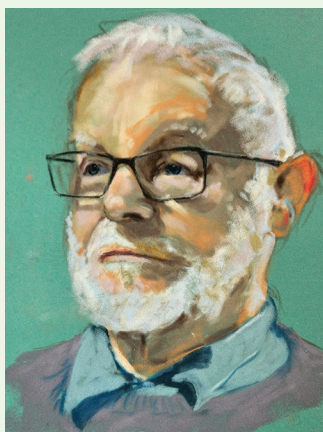
**Leslie Robinson:** Ever since I was a child I've loved creating art and painting my first oil when I was only 12 years old. However, I was discouraged from a career in art as 'you'll never make a living out of art'. So I became a diagnostic radiographer, which, although seeming to be a more science-based discipline, is all about solving dilemmas to create a visual output. Unlike x-rays and scans which are black and white, my art work is profuse with colour.

**AT: Tell us more about your work and your artistic influences.**

**Leslie:** I paint in a loose, impressionistic way, often combining abstract with realism. My subjects tend to be landscapes, flowers and cats, however my first love is portraiture, possibly also influenced by my career in radiography. Years of looking at anatomy and the human form means I find it 'relatively' easy to understand the planes and structures of the face. But I'm more interested in what lies beneath; for me portraiture's holy grail lies in capturing the essence of the person rather than their physical likeness (although this is important too!).

**AT: Where do you exhibit, and where can people buy your work?**

**Leslie:** I'm a relatively new artist so haven't developed a large enough body of work for a permanent exhibition. Having said that, I do have a work of bodies (see what I did there) displayed at both Tameside General Hospital and the School of Radiography in Liverpool, and published in a number of scientific journals.



When I first retired I created a small collection called 'subjectify' which attempted to combine the realism of x-ray images with abstract images of the patient in order to remind radiographers that behind their images were real people with unique stories to tell. Shortly after I received an email from a patient attending for breast imaging at Tameside saying that it was one of the most moving paintings she had seen and it had helped her on her journey. That's enough reward for me! Most of my sales come from commissions

though, mainly portraits, and word of mouth.

**AT: What are you working on at the moment?**

**Leslie:** I have five completely different items at various stages of doneness dotted around my conservatory (commandeered as a studio): a birthday card for

an aunt; three small canvases on which I have painted colourful backgrounds to turn into abstract flowers; and a large charcoal sketch of Alan Forrest Smith. This last is particularly exciting. Alan was a local writer who passed away a couple of years ago. His wife Tamara approached the ASA portrait group (which I co-ordinate) and asked if we would be involved in one of Alan's plays she is producing at Altrincham Town Hall on June 20th. We will be sketching the audience and the players during the play. These sketches along with the portraits the group are currently making of Alan will also be published in a book. It's really exciting to have something that celebrates Alan's work and life as well as the community of portrait artists at the ASA.



**i** Leslie will be exhibiting her work at the Altrincham Society of Artists (ASA) Exhibition at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls in the last week of July. She can be contacted for commissions through Instagram @leslirob10 or email [leslirob10@gmail.com](mailto:leslirob10@gmail.com)