



DOLORES PHELPS

PROCESS

Her subject matter focuses on abstract landscape, and also specializes in evocations of the surrounding forest where she lives, the nearby mountains of South Wales and more recently, large scale abstract paintings on paper. By applying a poetic and gestural visual language, Phelps seeks to express nature and natural forces in her work and often says that the paintings need to be true to the materials of which they are made and the natural forces working upon them. Light, especially as it may be evoked by running water through pigment, is very important to any watercolour artist, and Phelps has developed specific techniques that are evocative and dynamic whilst flying in the face of traditional watercolour painting. Phelps works to achieve poetic and beautiful images that demonstrate clearly the artist's hand, but also hover on the edge of recognition and the spectator's memory and imagination.

One of Phelps's major influences for her abstract compositions is the Abstract Expressionist painter Paul Jenkins. Gravitational flow of water creates compositions in watercolour, ink and gouache on paper. The naturalistic but abstract forms created in this way fascinate her, related as they are to patterns made by natural phenomena seen in nature, such as shorelines, growth patterns, and weathering. The beauty and balance of the natural world and its forces is reflected in her art.