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Fran White

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

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**B**orn in Cambridge, Fran was educated at Cranbourne Chase School, Wardour Castle, near Tisbury, Wiltshire. She began her creative journey in 1970 at the age of 19. Having been taught how to develop & print B/W photos by a friend, she began working as a photographer's assistant then a photographic stylist [collecting props for editorial & advertising photo shoots]; a career that would prevail for much of her young adult life.

This led directly to her running a linen hire business, supplying fabric backdrops for hire and a period of creative education and learning that culminated in Fran commissioning woven linen fabrics from mills in Ireland, Scotland & Belgium, to sell to trade & retail. These linens were used in Interiors, for clothing and also starred in three films: Mr Turner, Mr Holmes and Brightstar.

In 1999 Fran established the Linen Shop to sell her beautiful woven natural linen fabrics, initially from home, before moving into retail premises in the centre of Horsham in 2012. She closed the Horsham premises in 2016 to spend more time concentrating on developing her painting career, however, her fabrics remain close to her heart and she has continued to sell online "while stocks last".

With this new found freedom, from her light and airy home studio, Fran now dedicates much of time to creating artwork in a contemporary abstract style, working across a broad range of media including acrylic and graphite on both stretched and un-stretched canvas, board, paper, card, and, occasionally, her own linen fabric.

Fran's current body of work is based on an investigative enquiry into women and books, specifically women reading books. She has undertaken extensive additional painting tuition in order to fully explore her personal style, which has led to an expansive evolutionary practice of making and unmaking an image emerging, prior to the final abstracted version becoming apparent at an unpremeditated moment during the process.