Artist Biography and Statement

Bridget March

Bridget was a freelance product designer and a senior lecturer at Leeds College of Art in England before giving up her job and home to move to Vietnam and dedicate her life to drawing and painting. Bridget focuses on the urban environment of cities and villages and capturing the spirit of Vietnamese communities. She uses watercolour in the English tradition to capture the softness of small towns and the fading colours of hidden histories in Vietnam's bustling cities.

Her work has been exhibited in a range of galleries in the UK and she had her first solo exhibition at Vin Gallery in Sept 2013. Bridget is also a columnist for one national and one regional magazine and published her sketchbook and journal on Hoi An in 2013.

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The job of the artist is to notice things..... and help others to see and understand.

What Bridget notices is the way people live and work, the way people have shaped their urban environments in cities, towns and villages through their activities and their cultures.

Bridget, 58, is from Northern England. She studied Art and Design in Harrogate and Leeds and had a successful career as a furniture designer for 18 years. She could only draw and paint in her free time. Still, her paintings, etchings and drawings were widely exhibited in the UK and she won some commissions for private collections.

In 2003 she joined the renowned Leeds College of Art where she became a senior lecturer. Working in this creative community of students and professionals had a lasting effect on Bridget's approach to her work. She learned the art of Printmaking and became an accomplished etcher. She was working all day at the art college and working nights and weekends on her own work to sell at exhibitions and markets.

In 2011, an unexpected invitation from a friend persuaded Bridget to give up her job to come to Vietnam where she felt she would have the right conditions to concentrate on drawing and painting.

Since arriving in Saigon in September 2012 Bridget has produced nearly 200 pieces of work, large and small and published her first book, 'A Week in Hoi An'. Her successful, first, solo exhibition 'Memories of Hoi An' in Sept 2013 placed her firmly on the art map of Saigon.

