

Bio & Artist Statement |

Originally trained in Architecture, I gained a BArch and Diploma of Architecture from Edinburgh College of Art and practiced as an Architect in Edinburgh until 2008. Following a period of further study on the ECA Part-time BA in Art & Design I achieved a Certificate of Higher Education in Art & Design and an MA in Contemporary Art Practice. Since 2012, I have worked independently and in collaboration as an artist and designer-maker from my studio in Melrose, Scottish Borders. My studio practice spans fine art and the applied art of bookbinding. I am committed to continue to develop and improve my making practice and in December 2025, completed a period of fine bookbinding training, supported by The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST).

At the heart of my practice lies an ongoing inquiry into the book, not only as a vessel for language and narrative, but as a tactile, sculptural form. My artist books often transcend conventional formats, evolving into abstract structures that speak to architectural rhythm, site-specific materiality, and the layered memory of place. Transformation and abstraction are recurring themes: I am particularly interested in the cover or container of a book as a visual archive, holding the environmental, natural, and architectural stories I uncover through my rich source of research-led exploration.

My research is informed by the etymology of plant names, toponymy, folklore, and mythology. I am fascinated by how botanical knowledge survives through language and storytelling, and how plants become embedded within local histories and meanings, often acquiring distinct regional names and associations. Through collecting, walking, photographing, and research, I seek to uncover overlooked narratives and invite new ways of looking at the natural world.

While the book form offers intimacy and singularity, it also opens into larger visual libraries, with developing collections of work that investigate material memory, spatial identity, the natural world, more recently themes of loss and motherhood and the passage of time through place.

In parallel with my studio practice, I collaborate with creative businesses and organisations and work part-time for Energise Galashiels a Development Trust, bringing together my creative sensibility and strategic insight to support creative and heritage project development and delivery. I am self-employed, PVG-registered, and open to freelance work with individuals and groups, whether short-term commissions or longer contracts.

Education |

MA Contemporary Art Practice (Merit), ECA, Edinburgh University	(2015 – 2016)
C of HE in Art & Design, ECA, Edinburgh University	(2016)
BA in Art & Design (Part-time) 200 credits, ECA, Edinburgh University	(2007 – 2015)
Dip Arch, & Part 3 Examination in Professional Practice, ECA, Edinburgh University	(1998 - 2001)
BArch (Hons) 2:1 ECA, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh	(1993 - 1998)

Freelance Employment History |

Felicity Bristow Studio, Freelance Artist and Designer + Bookbinder, Melrose	(2012 - current)
Alternative Business Models Research Project, Creative United (6 sessions)	(2026 - current)
Culture Collective Support Coordinator – Little Art Hub, Galashiels	(2026 – current)
SQA Exam Invigilator	(2025 – current)
Manager, Energise Galashiels Trust – Development Trust (2 days/ week)	(Oct 2024 – current)
VACMA Panelist for assessment for Creative Scotland/ Live Borders/ Upland/ DGU	(2022 – 2025)
CABN Catalyst for Transition (2 days a week)	(Nov 2022 – Dec 2024)
CABN, Comms & Project Support, Freelance (2 days/ week)	(June 2022 – Nov 2022)
Hannah Longmuir Arts, Freelance Studio Assistant, Melrose (1.5 days/ week)	(May 2021 – Dec 2022)
Designer Bookbinders, Membership Secretary, Freelance, London (1 day/ week)	(April 2022 – Dec 2024)
Creative Arts Business Network, Marketing & Projects Assistant, Selkirk (2 days/ week)	(2012 – 2019)
North Light Arts, Assistant to Creative Director, Dunbar (1 day/ week)	(2017 – 2018)
Borders Heritage Festival/ LIVE Borders, Santander Marketing Graduate (6 months)	(2017)
Creative Coathanger, Social Media Assistant for Arts Festival, Galashiels	(Oct 2016)
Eskvalley View Business Directory, Graphic Designer, Edinburgh	(2013 – 2016)
Resource HWU, Social Media & Web Assistant, Galashiels	(2013 – 2015)
Alchemy Film & Moving Image Festival, Film Residency Assistant, Ettrick Valley	(July 2014)
Borders Arts Trust, Joint Project Manager, 'Casting the Net' Exhibition & Events (6 months)	(2013)
Tabula Rasa Collaborations, Social Media & Web Assistant, Hawick (1 day/ week)	(2013 – 2014)
Canalside & The Broughty Spotlight Directories, Graphic Designer, Edinburgh	(2008 – 2012)

Teaching Employment History |

Felicity Bristow Studio – Bookbinding Workshops	(2021 – current)
GSoFA Forres, PT Tutor teaching book structures	(2025)
ECA/ UoE, Tutor 1 st Year/ Diploma Unit Tutor in Architecture, Edinburgh	(2004 – 2008)
ECA/ UoE, Guest Tutor 1 st Year in Architecture, Edinburgh	(2003 – 2004)

Architectural Employment History |

Helen Lucas Architects, Architect	(2002 – 2008)
Nicholas Groves-Raines Architects, Architectural Assistant & Architect	(2000 – 2002)
Gray, Marshall & Associates, Architectural Assistant	(1999 – 2000)
The Hugh Martin Partnership, Architectural Assistant	(1996 – 1998)

Voluntary Roles |

Works + Trustee, Galashiels	(2025 – 2026)
Health in Mind – Peer to Peer Volunteer, 6 monthly individual support	(2022 - 2024)
Visual Arts Scotland (VAS) Joint Vice-President, Edinburgh (6 months)	(2019)
Visual Arts Scotland (VAS) General Council Member, Edinburgh	(2016 – 2020)
Business Chair & Secretary of St Boswells Nursery & Playgroup, St Boswells	(2012 – 2015)
Inverleith House Gallery, Invigilator, Edinburgh	(2008 – 2010)

Recent Awards, Commissions & Bursaries |

Saltire Society, To See Ousels 90 th Anniversary Commission	(2026)
SOSE Pathways Award for Felicity Bristow Studio – Manual heavy-duty guillotine	(March 2026)
VAS Inches Carr Craft Creative Development Award – Final shortlist	(September 2025)
VAS Inches Carr Craft Creative Development Award – Holding Conversations Commission	(August 2025)
Maureen Duke Education Award 2025	(July 2025)
The Hope Scott Trust, Grant to support 'Roots + Crowns' Exhibition, Arbroath	(2025)
'Making History' – Arbroath Abbey Residency and Commission (HES & Craft Scotland)	(Oct 2023 – March 2024)
Highly Commended – Designer Bookbinders UK Competition for 'Love Poems' binding	(Oct 2023)
Art Walk Porty 'See - Sea – Seed' Walks 1 & 2 Commission - (Bristow + Wilson), Musselburgh	(2022)
Craigentinny & Telferton Centenary Cookbook and Workshops - (Bristow + Wilson), Edinburgh	(2022 – 2023)
QEST Craft Award Fine Bookbinding Training course (PT training with Tom McEwan)	(2021 - 2025)
Culture Croft Coaching for Creatives Award – coached by Holly Davey	(2021)
Digital Boost Grant for new ecommerce website	(2021)
Visual Arts & Craft Makers Award (South of Scotland) Grant to support CPD & Research	(2019)
Art Walk Porty 'Landmarks' Commission - (Bristow + Wilson, @Plot_55b), Edinburgh	(2019 – 2021)
Art Walk Porty 'Edgelands' Commission - (Bristow + Wilson, sound piece edited by Ross Whyte)	(2018)
Being Human Festival, 'Alternative Arrangements' Commission (collaboration with Claire Pencak)	(2017)
Art Walk Porty & 'Journey Lines' Commission, (collaboration with Mark Timmins), Edinburgh	(2016)
The Hope Scott Trust, Grant to support CPD & Research at The Boiler House, Melrose	(2016)
Visual Arts & Craft Makers Award (South of Scotland) Grant to support CPD & Research	(2016)
University of Edinburgh #ILW2016, Award for Collaboration	(2016)
University of Edinburgh #ILW2016, Chromatography Workshop Grant	(2016)
RIAS Rowand Anderson Silver Medal, Commendation	(2000)
Andrew Grant Bequest	(1999)
Building Design Magazine, Top 100 Young Designers in the UK	(1999)
Edinburgh Civic Medal, Civic Medal Exhibition, Shortlisted	(1998)

Collections & Publications |

Cookbook (Centenary Commission by CT Allotments) published by Art Walk Press	(2023)
Plot 55b Felicity Bristow + Susie Wilson (Residency Artist Book published by Art Walk Press)	(2021)
The Boiler House, self-published	(2019)
The Banks of a River, self-published	(2016)
Edinburgh City Fine Art Library Collection (2016), Edinburgh & Private Collections	(2012 - current)

Exhibitions (Including upcoming) |

SE Scotland Printmakers & Book Artists Group Exhibition, Waterfall Gallery, Hawick	(September 2026)
Recovery Room – Group Exhibition, Dr Neals Garden, Duddingston, Edinburgh	(August 2026)
SE Scotland Printmakers & Book Artists Group Exhibition, Priorwood, Melrose	(June 2026)
VAS Common Ground; The Living Landscape at Kirkcudbright Galleries	(January 2026)
VAS Inches Carr Craft Creative Development Award – shortlisted for Custom Lane Exhibition	(September 2025)
VAS Inches Carr Craft Creative Development Award – shortlisted for Dalkeith Exhibition	(August 2025)
VAS Inches Carr Craft Creative Development Award – longlisted for Showcase Exhibition	(July 2025)
SE Scotland Printmakers & Book Artists Group Exhibition, Priorwood, Melrose	(2025)
Making History Exhibition 'Roots + Crowns' at the Signal Tower Museum, Arbroath	(Aug 2025 – Nov 2025)
Borders Art Fair, Kelso	(2025)
QEST Paper Exhibition, The Hub, Sleaford	(2024)
SE Scotland Printmakers & Book Artists Group Exhibition, Melrose	(2024)
Visual Arts Scotland Annual Exhibition, 'REVERB', Edinburgh (online)	(2022)
'Womersley', Group Exhibition, Zembla Gallery, Hawick	(2021)
Art Walk Porty, Project Room, Edinburgh	(2021)
BABE 2021 Online Exhibition of Artist Book Films curated by UWE ('erosions + accumulations')	(2021)
VAS & SFMA Online Exhibition – 'Adapt/ Adjust' Showcase for artists & makers	(2021)
SSA Online Exhibition – 'Urban Departures' curated by Art North Project Room 2020	(2020)
'Tools for Survival' (collaboration with Jenny Pope & Liz Douglas), The Scott Gallery, Hawick	(2019 - 2020)
Visual Arts Scotland/ SSA Annual Exhibition, 'OPEN 2', Edinburgh	(2019)
OPEN Call Exhibition, Process Gallery, Sandway, Sandway Rd, Lenham, Maidstone	(2019)
Batch:2 (curated by Claire Pencak), Commissioned Process Exhibition, The Bakery, Jedburgh	(2019)
Upright Gallery Festival Exhibition, bound : unbound Collective, Edinburgh	(2019)

National Centre for Craft & Design Exhibition, with bound : unbound Collective, Sleaford	(2019)
'Facets' WASPS Selkirk Group Exhibition, Old Gala House, Galashiels	(2019)
'Tools for Survival' (collaboration with Jenny Pope & Liz Douglas), The Briggait, Glasgow	(2019)
Upright Gallery Exhibition, '20/20' (Group show), Edinburgh	(2018)
Art Walk Porty & 'Pleasurelands' Exhibition (collaboration with Susie Wilson), Edinburgh	(2018)
Upright Gallery Exhibition, 'Up on the mountain & down by the river' (with Susie Leiper), Edinburgh	(2018)
&Gallery Exhibition, bound : unbound Collective, Edinburgh	(2018)
Visual Arts Scotland/ SSA Annual Exhibition, 'OPEN', Edinburgh	(2018)
Being Human Festival, 'Alternative Arrangements' Performance (collaboration with Claire Pencak)	(2017)
ESAF 2017, City Arts Centre, Edinburgh	(2017)
Art Walk Porty & 'Edgelands' Exhibition (collaboration with Susie Wilson), Edinburgh	(2016)
Visual Arts Scotland Annual Exhibition, 'FLY 2016', Edinburgh	(2016)
Art Walk Porty & 'Journey Lines' Exhibition, (collaboration with Mark Timmins), Edinburgh	(2016)
ECA Masters Degree Show, '#Popsicle', Edinburgh	(2016)
Talbot Rice Gallery, 'Interim' MA/ MFA Exhibition, UoE/ ECA, Edinburgh	(2016)
The Planning Department, '#dak01' Exhibition, The Bakery, Jedburgh	(2016)
The Embassy, 'Salon-athon' Embassy Members Show, Edinburgh	(2016)
TEDx Edinburgh, 'Interactive Spaces' Exhibition, Edinburgh	(2016)
Visual Arts Scotland Annual Exhibition, 'Converge', Edinburgh	(2016)
Hidden Doors Festival 2015, solo proposal, Edinburgh	(2015)
'Open Pages', Stirling University, The Artist Book Group, Stirling	(2015)
Visual Arts Scotland Annual Exhibition, 'VAS:T', Edinburgh	(2015)
'Working Perspectives' Exhibition, Tweeddale Museum & Gallery, Peebles	(2015)
British Council Maker Library, invited artist by GRAS Architects, Edinburgh	(2015)
Lyth Arts Centre 'Summer Exhibition', The Artist Book Group, Wick	(2014)
Hidden Door Festival 2014, The Artist Book Group, Edinburgh	(2014)
'Bound : Unbound', The Artist Book Group, MacNaughtan's Book Shop, Edinburgh	(2013)

Residencies |

Scriptorium, 'Making History' Residency (HES & Craft Scotland)	(2024)
Art Walk Porty, Landmark 2019 - 2021 (collaboration @Plot_55b with Susie Wilson), Edinburgh	(2019 – 2021)
Magnetic North, #RoughMix Residency - Emerging Artist, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles	(2017)
Artist in Residence, 'Working Perspectives Project', Tweeddale Youth Action Group, Peebles	(2015)

Selected relevant Workshops |

GSofA Forres, Inverness - Bookbinding Workshops for MDes Innovation students	(2025)
Live Borders – Bookbinding Workshops	(2023 – 2024)
ESALA, Edinburgh University, Guest Speaker	(2022)
VAS Hands on Day, Workshop + arranging Workshops and Talks	(2017, 2018 & 2019)
The Drawing Room Workshop, 'Walking Books', Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh	(2018)
Read-i-licious Book Festival, Paper Workshops, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles	(2016, 2017 & 2018)
'Simple Book Structures' Workshop & Portfolio Class, Galashiels Academy, Galashiels	(2016)
Creative Coathanger & Mainetti, Coathanger and logo Design Workshop, Galashiels	(2016)
Girl Guides 90 th Birthday 'Altered Books' Workshop, Eastgate Theatre, Peebles	(2016)
Imaginate Theatre 'Draw-ing(s)' Chromatography Workshops, Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh	(2016)
ASCUS Lab/ ESAF, 'For the Love of...' – Chromatography Workshop	(2016)
University of Edinburgh #ILW2016, 'The Art of Chromatography' Workshop	(2016)

Membership |

Member of Society of Bookbinders (Scotland)	(2022 – current)
Associate Member of Designer Bookbinders	(2021 – current)
Professional Member of VAS	(2012 – current)
Professional Member of SSA	(2012 – current)
Founding member of bound : unbound Collective, Edinburgh	(2013 – 2022)
Member of a-n	(2012 – current)
Holder of AIR Public & Products Liability Insurance - £5m	(2012 - current)
ARB Architectural Registration – No 066181C (Registration not renewed from 2022)	(2001 – 2021)

Additional |

Full Driving License and own car	(1993 – current)
Disclosure Scotland PVG Scheme Member (Freelance Artist & for SQA)	(2013 – current)

Contact Details & Socials |

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References | Available on request