

Elizabeth Blackadder (born 1931)

(Modern/ Contemporary Artist)

Where/when was she born....?

Painter and printmaker Elizabeth Blackadder was born in Falkirk, Scotland in 1931. She is a modern CONTEMPORARY ARTIST. She studied at Edinburgh College of Art under artist William Gillies, and lectured at the college from 1962 until her retirement in 1986. In 1956, she married fellow artist John Houston.

Who is she - what does she do...?

Elizabeth Blackadder is a modern CONTEMPORARY ARTIST. **Her main work is in watercolour, and is normally Still life.** She has a very definite style and painting technique. Contemporary artists worldwide, work in many different painting styles, and unlike Post Impressionism or Fauvism, many artists work alone, and not as part of a group, and are often quite individual in style, use of materials, themes etc.

Her main works are....?

Blackadder is well known for her delicate **WATERCOLOUR paintings of flowers** and **still life subjects.** Another favourite subject are **her cats** - which often creep into paintings along with flowers! However, she has also painted **landscapes** and **portraits.** Her early works are mainly landscapes, influenced by her visits to Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia. In the 1960's, she acquired a growing reputation for her paintings of flowers. Regular trips abroad, particularly to Japan, helped stimulate her interest in colour and pattern. The **compositions** of her still lifes are influenced by simplicity of Japanese art/ Japanese prints, and the backgrounds are often left **blank/ empty.**

What materials does she use.....?

She paints with both oil paint and watercolour, but uses thin washes of WATERCOLOUR most frequently. She builds the painting up in thin layers of water-colour paint. This **style** is well suited to conveying her **technique** of sensitive brushwork.

She chooses the **subject matter** of objects such as **fans/ cloth/ flowers/ vases** etc. Her paintings sometimes also **include printed or collage elements.** Her work can be seen at the Tate Gallery and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and has appeared on a series of Royal Mail stamps. Her flower paintings are very popular with the public. The Royal Academy Shop sells her paintings as prints on various online websites.

She was elected to full membership of the **Royal Scottish Academy (1972)** and **the Royal Academy as a painter (1976)** giving her the honour of being the first woman to achieve this.

Elizabeth Blackadder was awarded an OBE 1982, and was then promoted to a Dame in 2003.

She also became Scotland's **first female "painter laureate"** in February 2001.

