

# Meet Ruaridh

## Art opens many doors



Ruaridh Lever Hogg attended Mary Hare School from 2009 to 2011. He studied Art & Design, Photography and Geography in 6th Form, and after 6th Form went onto the University of Dundee. Ruaridh has become a successful artist and has even appeared on TV. Where did his artistic talent come from? How much does he really like being in front of the camera? We let Ruaridh tell us a bit more.

**“ I often give the advice, don't let your deafness stop what you can do. ”**

**You have your very particular style as an artist. Can you tell us a bit more?**

During my university period I had a variety of style of paintings to explore to develop my painting skills and experiment a lot in different types of paints. After I graduated with a BA in Fine Art, I discovered my painting style suited working with oil paints.

My strength areas are portrait, landscape and imagination genres. Since then, I still work with oil paintings!

**Tell us a bit more about your time at Mary Hare. Did it influence your career choice in any way?**

Yes, in the part of it. Before I went to Mary Hare, I already knew what I would like to become in the future. I was lucky

to have two brilliant art teachers to support me to learn more about art and develop my research skills and to look at other artist for inspiration or influence.

**With a BA in Fine Art and an MA in Fine Art and Humanities you must really love to study your subject. Have these studies shaped the direction you took as an artist?**

Yes, it does help me to shape up in my artist career by listening and working with art lecturers, with their experience and background to guide, to understand about 'what is art?'

This encouraged me to visit exhibitions and read more in philosophy.



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**Your signature is using tartan and animals in much of your artwork. Where did this inspiration come from?**

It came at the right moment, when I worked in project ability as workshop assistant supporting adults with learning difficulties to paint and draw. I was tasked with sorting out the canvases on the shelf with piles of old canvas to reuse or throw away. I noticed the box with the strips of multi-coloured tartan next to the shelf. I wondered if these tartans will be thrown away. Eventually I asked the project leader what would happen to these and I was allowed to take some. I ended up taking too many tartans. Somehow, I got the idea. I thought, 'why not to paint the portrait on the tartan?'

**You play quite a prominent part in the deaf world with your mentoring. How does this work alongside you as an artist?**

I think the role model is really important to show the younger deaf generation that people can do it. I'm lucky to have my talent to give the opportunities for the young deaf people to be inspired.

**Does being deaf influence how you see the world through your art?**

I don't think being deaf had influenced me to see through the art world. I think it's important to be yourself. I often give the advice, don't let your deafness stop what you can do. You have an ability to be visual or to be creative.



**You appeared on The Big Painting Challenge. Was this one of the things on your bucket list?**

Yes. I wasn't expecting to be selected for the competition. I never saw that coming. It's one of the best experiences I have had. The BBC crew were fantastic! I had a big learning curve and the expert judge helped me to discover my painting skills which enabled me to continue to in develop my painting career.

**What other goals have you set yourself for the future?**

After my role on a trainee scheme in ITV SignPost ended, I became a freelance cameraperson and editor, which helped to expand my skills and knowledge in the media. SignPost have been a fantastic department to support and helped me to develop the knowledge of the media?

**What has been one of your proudest moments as an artist?**

I have lots of proud moments. In the past to become involved in an art project for the university and tutor the art exhibition to help children and young adults enjoy art. I like to influence them to become artists in the future as a new generation.



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