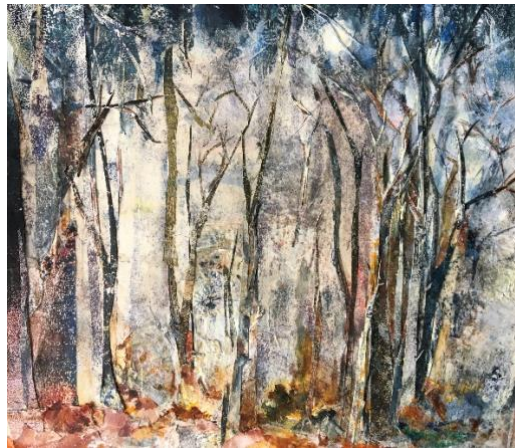




Caption: 'Springtides', 162cm x 122cm, Oil on canvas 2009

## An Artist's Life in Lockdown

Annie Broadley explores how Covid and lockdown has dramatically changed her perspective and creative style

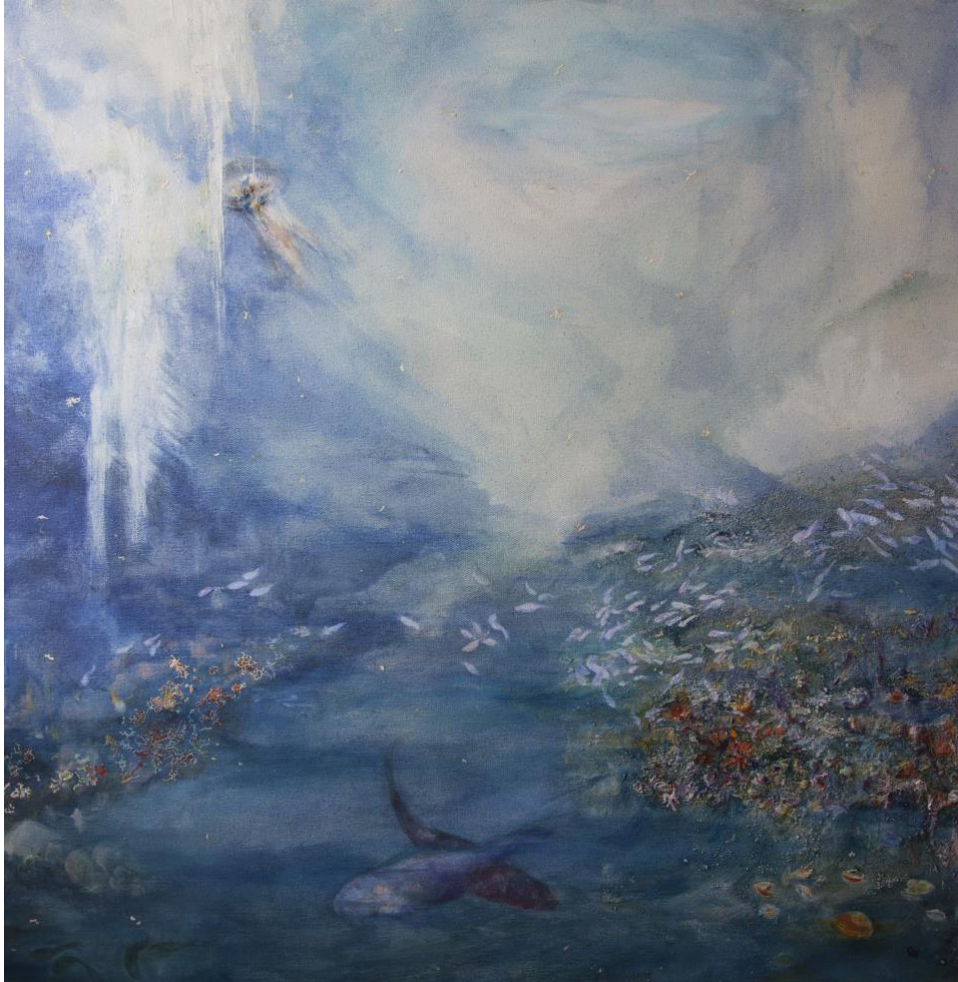


Caption: 'November Trees', 22cm x 29cm, Mixed media & ink on paper, 2021

**It's been ten months since the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a pandemic. Hundreds of millions of people have lived through lockdowns. Many have made the abrupt shift to working from home; millions have lost jobs. The future looks uncertain.**

**We don't know when, or if, our societies might return to normal – or what kind of scars the pandemic will leave.**

**We all know that work will not be the same again but in what ways might it be different? It seems as if everyone has a story to tell and Annie Broadley, a professional Scottish artist from the Scottish Borders, is one of them.**



**Caption: 'Under the Ice Dome', 94cm x 94cm, Glue tempera & oil on canvas, 2015**

***"I have had to rethink what and how I paint" says Annie, who before the March 2020 lockdown, was working from her studio in Edinburgh's Arthur Conan Doyle Centre. Here she enjoyed a large, light filled studio with plenty of room for her materials and space to build, stretch and prepare her own large, painting canvasses.***

***Since the March 2020 lockdown, Annie hasn't been able to work in her studio and has been working from her remote Borders home. "I began by using a spare bedroom and have gradually been colonising other parts of the house. It means working on a much smaller scale than I am used to. I have gone from sketching in Antarctica to sketching in my garden. It has meant going small – both in subject and in size"***

This has had an impact on her style and has sent her work in a different direction. Plus of course, galleries are not open from which artists, like Annie, can promote and sell their work.



Caption: Examples of Annie's 2021 work in progress  
Above left: 'Roots' 20 x 25 cm, Ink on paper. Above right: 'May' 39 x 50cm Oil, pigment & beeswax on canvas"

However, from a challenging situation, there have been some positives. Annie continues *"When I couldn't reach my studio, I had to buy my materials online, and I ended up using some that I had never used before"* This has led to her developing new themes and revisiting familiar ones but seeing them with a fresh eye. Out of those experiments, the **Roses and Briars** paintings emerged. *"In Roses & Briars, the roses appear to be trapped in the middle of tangled vegetation. This seems to me to have parity with the Covid situation where most people are living under severe restrictions"*



Caption: 'Roses & Briars 1', 46 x 43cm, Monoprint & mixed media on paper 2020

**Annie recognises that everyone is working and living with their own challenges and that the Covid virus is impacting upon all ages, with many suffering tragic loss and pain.**

*“These are difficult and sad times for so many. Covid and this lockdown has made me think deeply about the struggles facing people and this is also coming out in my work now. It started me wondering about how we deal with fear and apprehension in a world where the future seems so uncertain.*

*The thrush (below) with its beautiful song represents survival, a home, family around us who care. This is a sketch for my latest painting where the thrush is pre-eminent but which will also include other symbolic images”*



Caption: 'Sketch of a thrush' 16cm x 20cm, ink and acrylic on paper 2021

**Annie concludes** *“I hope that some of my paintings might, albeit in a small way, bring some pleasure to those who are finding times hard”*

**-ENDS-**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

For more information, please visit <https://anniebroadley.com/>

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**ANNIE BROADLEY:** After graduating from the University of Stirling Annie worked for many years as a theatre electrician designing lighting and sound for productions and taught theatre

sound and radio production to drama students at the University of London Goldsmiths' College. She then studied art at Blackheath Conservatoire and the City Lit in London before joining the Painting Course taught by Paul Martin at Leith School of Art in Edinburgh. Annie has exhibited in London, the Scottish Borders, McTears in Glasgow and in galleries in Edinburgh which include the Doubtfire Gallery, Leith Gallery, the Torrance Gallery and also at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre where she has her studio.

Annie works a lot from sketch books and what interests her is usually rooted in the natural world. She believes nature has the power to stop us in our tracks - in places like Antarctica the beauty and grandeur found there can be quite overwhelming. But we can also be filled by a sense of wonder when we take time to examine very small things too. Having a look at the structure of organisms and seeing how they have evolved to fit their environment is endlessly fascinating. What it all comes down to of course is survival.



The view from Annie's Edinburgh studio in Edinburgh's Arthur Conan Doyle Centre

**Paul Martin, Artist and former Head of Painting, Leith School of Art, Edinburgh says:**

*“There is a profound and beautiful intensity to Annie Broadley’s painting which reflects a genuine sympathy for, and understanding, of the life of matter and the movement of things.*

*There is a deep-down richness to her grasp of the life of a plant or animal, or the ungraspable force and grandeur of towering ice, or the mysterious energy of wind or rain.*

*All this is achieved through an exploration of primal pigments and equally characterful mediums such as egg tempera, varnishes or oil, which shine and coalesce as a ripple or dew on the surface of a stone, and glow with light like bird's plumage.*

*It makes you look and think, and it makes you re-consider what you thought you saw or remembered”*

