

## Artist's Statement



I have worked as a practising artist since 1988, exhibiting prints and paintings in galleries across the north of England, showing in both a solo and group capacity. From 1992 to 1995 I studied Fine Art to MA level which inspired me to develop my practice into a wider variety of mediums and approaches. My printmaking skills include silkscreen, lithography, lino and woodcut. I have worked extensively with multi-media paintings using plaster of Paris, textile dyes, oil paint, rubbings and collage. Textile pieces include a ten-foot sail made from dyed silkscreen printed patchwork. Recent works have become increasingly installation based working with textiles, photography, video, sound and found objects.

In my work I am interested in the myths and Meta narratives that inform our society; whether they are ancient beliefs such as faith systems or fairytales; or modern day understandings about how things 'are' or 'should be'. I am most interested in seeing how reality and actual experience measure up to these, or how each interweaves the other. For example, in *Mend*, I look at the 'myth' of romantic love and document the experiences of 12 couples in long term relationships against an image of healing through brokenness (the cross) – or is it hurt that cannot be mended? In *Walking on Glass* I took the fairytale of The Little Mermaid as a starting point to examine issues around self image and self esteem and in *Colourblind* I use the format of the Ishikawa colour blindness test to confront the viewer with his/her beliefs about racism – another well-disseminated myth being that if one is liberal one will think or feel no antagonism. In *Sleeping Partner* the myth, as I have mentioned, is that we can all sleep if we really wanted to and that sleeplessness is fairly harmless.