

Little Dress Ups

—made by hand in Metung from upcycled scraps and offcuts

Years can slip by before the moment for an idea is ripe. This small collection of *Little Dress Ups* has quietly flirted with my artist's eye since December 2013 when I wrote a journal entry titled *Happenstance*

As I clear my workspace I discover a palimpsest that has built up in layers of colours and marks around the edges of the work in progress — unplanned and beautiful in their serendipitous happenstance — holding all the spontaneous abandon of the paintings of my small grandchildren — uncontrived and magical in their appeal.

I began to save scraps — offcuts and palettes that told the colour story of each evolving painting from that time onward — becoming precious to me in a way I couldn't explain.

Recently during the long days of retreat of '20/'22 and holding thoughts of 'making do' I found myself rediscovering and looking through my strange treasured collection and I knew that its moment in time had come.

In the same spirit as my grandmother Anna who stitched warm blankets for her family from worn coats and woollen jumpers during the Great Depression of the 1930's I began to see what I could make from nothing other than what I had before me. As much as anything my priorities were to counteract the overwhelming feelings of world wide despair and anxiety with a feeling of curiosity, playfulness and fantasy.

And so it was that these *Little Dress Ups* came into being — a happy interruption that may in the way of *The Road Less Travelled* spark a new direction and a rediscovered joy that comes from wandering off on a side track without any particular outcome in mind other than the simple joy of *Happenstance*.

Post Script — a tribute

As I put these words together I have been remembering the enduring songs of John Lennon from the 60's. Two in particular are anthems for the time that we find ourselves in

Life is what happens to you when you are making other plans

And more particularly for this moment *Imagine*.

Jo Sabey

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