

## JAN WALKER

### Spirit of place



Born in London, 1952

Grew up in Devon

Trained as an Art teacher

Teaching in The Fens, Cambridgeshire, before moving to Weymouth, Dorset more than 20 years ago. Continued to teach in two Dorset schools until 3 years ago. Now working full time painting, especially focussing on the Jurassic Coast

Jan works to commission and has exhibited locally and further afield.

Jan took part in Dorset Art Weeks open studios 2008

Jan was an award winner for painting in the Marshwood Vale Arts Award exhibition 2008

Jan was featured in the Dorset magazine March issue 2009

For the last three years, I have based my work around a particular interest in the geology of the Jurassic Coast and the weathering, erosion and re-building processes at work, but the Ridgeway is also a constant presence. Walking on the coast, close to my home, I see the Ridgeway every day as my inland horizon line.

For me, this landscape holds mysteries and secrets of a place where others have walked and lived before me for many thousands of years, leaving clues of their existence in patterns, shapes and textures in the land.

Inspiration for the Ridgeway paintings is rooted in my response to the ancient history of this landscape and the traces found within it. Walking along the ancient tracks connects me to both the geological past and the reminder of human habitation.

Intensely aware of the time held in the soil and the ongoing weathering and wearing processes exposing and redefining the surface of the land, I find myself echoing these processes by layering paint on the canvas, scratching back in places and cutting through previous layers, exposing hidden areas previously laid down.

Working on a painting, the markings, traces and textures of the surfaces are ever-present in my memory and it's these feelings of making connections with the past that are central to the evolution of the painting.

