

Hazel Greene

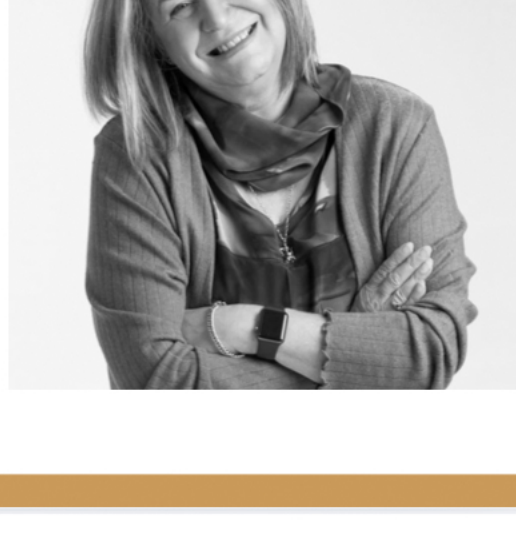
Visual Artist

Sustainability in Practice

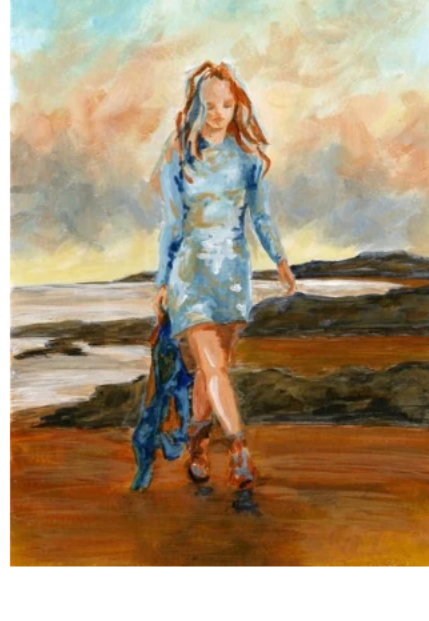


Hazel is a figurative landscape painter

I am a figurative landscape painter living in Birr, County Offaly, Ireland. I work in the traditional medium of oil painting, using a naturalistic palette. Over the past 20 years, my work has been inspired by the natural beauty of Ireland as captured in my landscapes, from the blues and greens of the Slieve Bloom mountains, to the wild lakes and formal gardens in the grounds of Birr Castle. I have exhibited nationally and internationally, and my work is held in public and private collections. I am a member of Visual Artists Ireland.



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A World in Flux

For centuries, artists have responded to the world in flux - observing, questioning, challenging and shaping the societies they inhabit. Today our 'societal canvas' is marked by concern for the earth and a rapid, ever accelerating pace of change across aspects of society as we come to terms with the reality that we're reaching the limits of certain directions.

Sustainability in Practice

Over the past two decades, my work has contributed to social sustainability through education, culture, community and heritage. Now, for the first time, I'm excited to document my sustainability journey across the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of my artistic practice.

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'Sustainable threads are being thoughtfully woven into every aspect of my practice'

Increasingly, sustainable threads are being thoughtfully woven into every aspect of my artistic practice. I have aligned my sustainable practices to the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and their respective targets and indicators. The Goals allow me to communicate my achievements in a recognisable visual language and also serve as a benchmark in which to measure future actions and progress.



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The Sustainable Development Goals that are relevant to my practice, aligned to the three pillars of sustainability.



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Society My Passion for Gender Equality and Irish Women in Culture

Goal 5 - Empowering women, Celebrating Irish women and their contributions to our heritage.
Goal 11 - Preserving the cultural & natural landscapes of Ireland.

I have created art inspired by the lives of significant women in Irish history such as my 1916 Commemorative Exhibition: 'Kathleen Kingston' and my film The Social: A story of the youth of rural Ireland in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s which tells their story through the clothes they wore, their music, and social settings. I am passionate about telling the story of Irish women through the layers of Ireland's cultural memory. My work interprets both historical and mythological figures from Ireland's history.

Ireland's natural landscapes are roads often travelled throughout my practice. I am interested in capturing atmospheric perspective, landscapes with detail fading into distance, and the fleeting changes of the light. Ireland is rich in her natural environments and has remained relatively ecologically unspoilt for centuries.



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Society My Legacy and ongoing commitment to Education, Culture, Heritage, Community and Charity

Target 4.3 - Making Technical Arts Training accessible to all
For over 20 years I have been delivering adult painting classes, sharing knowledge and helping others to develop the technical skills of figurative drawing and painting.

Target 10.1 - Ongoing Commitment to Vital Charities
The Jack & Jill Foundation - for the last 8 years I have provided 3 pieces of postcard sized work that are auctioned anonymously (you buy it because you love it). This raises funds for home nursing care for children with life limiting conditions.

Target 11.4 - Preserving our Cultural Heritage
In addition to the heritage and cultural elements of my work, I contribute to the preservation of our cultural heritage nationally as a member of Visual Artists Ireland. At a local level I am the current Chair of Birr Theatre & Arts Centre and former Visual Arts Coordinator of Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival.



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Economy Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production.

Targets 12.2 & 12.4 - Sourcing paints and brushes from sustainable suppliers
I currently use a mixture of paint brands including Winsor and Newton, a Certified B Corporation™ (B Corp), committed to social and environmental responsibility, and Michael Harding, an ethical and vegan producer, part of a global effort that ensures raw materials are sourced and obtained in an ethical manner. Therefore, when replacing my paints it will be from these suppliers. My new brushes are from Rosemary & Co who offer natural, synthetic and vegan options, and I will replace my brushes as needed with such 100% ethically sourced or vegan products.

Target 12.6 - Incorporating sustainability reporting into my practice and sourcing materials from suppliers who do likewise.
In 2025 I took part in 'Create Green', a bespoke training course for creative and artisan businesses delivered by Offaly Local Development Company. Create Green is pioneering a network of creative, local businesses who are seen as playing an increasingly important role in the implementation of the circular economy and the transition to a sustainable future. Practices like mine have historically delivered on sustainability themes but crucially we have not communicated this into a reporting framework. The course gave us the tools to communicate our sustainability achievements and the knowledge to go further in our ambition by looking at our suppliers to encourage and endorse sustainability reporting throughout our supply chains.



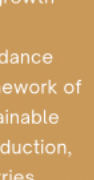
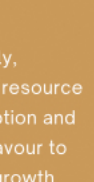
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Economy Goal 8 - Working for a Sustainable Local Economy

Targets 8.1 & 8.4
As mentioned in the previous page, I have undergone comprehensive training via the Create Green Programme. Training modules included sustainable value, practices, production and operations. Create Green is supporting creative & artisan businesses to fulfil the requirements of sustainable legislation in a way that is tailored to the specific needs of the sector. As a network of businesses we are championing local and sustainable economic growth while improving resource efficiency across Offaly.



Target 8.4
'Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead'



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Environment Goals 7 and 13 - Lowering our Scope Emissions

Target 7.2 - Scope 2 emissions.
The energy use of our business is minimal as I have downsized my studio space considerably with the latest move. I paint using natural light so that reduces the need for lighting! Otherwise my work space is powered by electricity, and I have recently switched my supplier to a 100% renewable energy supplier, FloGas. This switch has led to an immediate reduction of my scope 2 emissions, significantly lowering my business carbon footprint.

Scope 3 Emissions - Production processes, distribution and transport.
Scope 3 emissions are those emissions that result from any business activity that impacts my business before it reaches me (upstream) and after it leaves me (downstream). For example, if my paint suppliers use an energy intensive method to process and transport my materials to me, this can impact the overall carbon footprint of my business. To ensure emissions are kept to a minimum I choose suppliers with comprehensive sustainability strategies.



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This document - 'Sustainability in Practice' was made possible by training and mentoring provided by the Create Green team at Offaly Local Development Company.



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