

S U S I E L E I P E R



Susie's interest in calligraphy and painting grew out of an editorial career where she specialised in books on Chinese art and archaeology. A lengthy spell as a scribe on Donald Jackson's *Saint John's Bible* led to a flourishing of her own painting and calligraphic work. Behind her work lies a passion for mountains: Scotland's Munros, the French Pyrenees and the sacred mountains of China.

Born and educated in Glasgow, Susie has degrees from the University of St Andrews and the Courtauld Institute of Art. She is a Fellow of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators, works freelance in Edinburgh and has a longstanding involvement with a painters' group run by Paul Keir. An in-depth interview is available on <https://www.art-scot.com/susie-leiper>.

Solo exhibitions

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| 2023 | <i>On High Hills:</i> Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh |
| 2021 | <i>Reopening:</i> Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh |
| 2020 | <i>Library:</i> Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh (online only) |

- 2017 *One never quite knows the mountain*: Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2016 *Into the Mountain*: &Collective Gallery, Bridge of Allan
- 2015 *The Living Mountain*: Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2012 *The One Life*: Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2011 *The Word on Wood*: Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh

Selected group exhibitions

- 2022 *Pattern:Books*: Upright Gallery, Edinburgh
On Sonorous Seas: An Tobar and Mull Theatre and Shona Reid Gallery, Glasgow School of Art
- 2019 *Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Awards exhibition*: National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
Palimpsest: SSA exhibition, An Lanntair, Isle of Lewis
print fold stitch: artist books from bound : unbound: National Centre for Craft and Design, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
Precipitous City: with bound : unbound, Upright Gallery, Edinburgh
Rock, Paper, Pixel: with Letter Exchange, Lettering Arts Centre, Snape Maltings, Suffolk
Lettering: Art & Illusion: Ruthin Craft Centre, Denbeighshire, Wales
Lines from Scotland: St Andrews Museum, Fife; Dunfermline Carnegie Library & Galleries, Fife; Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries
- 2018 *A brush with silence*: live calligraphic event, Round Church, Cambridge, organised by Brody Neuenschwander
bound : unbound: artist books at &Gallery, Edinburgh
Encounter: with Liz Douglas, Tatha Gallery, Newport-on-Tay
Up on the mountain and down by the river: with Felicity Bristow, Upright Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2017 *The Word-Hoard: Love letters to our land*, an exhibition by Rosamund, John and Robert Macfarlane, Wordsworth House and Garden, Cockermouth, Cumbria (National Trust)
Orchestra of Letters: A celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Snape, Suffolk (The Lettering Arts Trust)
- 2016 *Divine Inspiration*: 95th anniversary exhibition of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators, York Minster

2014	Hidden Door festival: Vault 4 with the Artist Book Group
2013	<i>bound : unbound</i> : Artist Book Group at McNaughtan's Bookshop, Edinburgh <i>26 Words</i> : Letter Exchange, London and other venues
2012	<i>Paper Page Process</i> : Artist Book Group at WASPS Patrioathall Gallery, Edinburgh <i>Words set free</i> : Letter Exchange, London and other venues
2011	<i>Celebrate Calligraphy</i> : 90 th anniversary exhibition of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators, London, Sunderland, Halifax <i>Paint Print Page</i> : Artist Book Group at McNaughtan's Bookshop, Edinburgh
2009	<i>Wych Elm Project</i> : Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
2007 –	Royal Scottish Academy (RSA), Visual Arts Scotland (VAS), Society of Scottish Artists (SSA) and Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour (RSW): annual open exhibitions, various
2006	V&A, London: pages of <i>The Saint John's Bible</i> Museum of Bible Art, New York: pages of <i>The Saint John's Bible</i>
2000	<i>Source</i> : Royal Museum, Edinburgh

Awards

2023	Pax Christi Award from Saint John's University, Minnesota, to all members of the team who created the <i>Saint John's Bible</i>
2020	Shortlisted for the John Byrne Award 2020
2018	W Gordon Smith Award for painting, OPEN 2018, joint exhibition by VAS and SSA, RSA Edinburgh
2016	Jerwood-funded collaborative residency with musician Timothy Cooper and poet Samuel Tongue, Cove Park, Argyll and Bute
2015	RSA Open exhibition: Edinburgh College of Art library prize RSW: John Purcell Paper Award
2014	Visual Arts Scotland: Morton Fraser Award
2011	Visual Arts Scotland: Nancy Graham Memorial Book Award

Selected commissions

- 2022 Mhairi Killin: *On Sonorous Seas*: calligraphic interpretation of poem by Miek Zwamborn, exhibited at An Tobar and Mull Theatre and at Shona Reid Gallery, Glasgow School of Art
- 2019 Benjamin Tindall Architects, Springfield Church, Fife: painted inscription on cornice
- Royal Bank of Scotland and Nile: calligraphy for polymer £50 note
Commissioned lettering from Royal Scottish Academy; Royal College of Physicians, Educational Institute of Scotland; National Museums of Scotland; The Glenmorangie Company; Wolffe
- 2018 Royal Bank of Scotland and Nile: calligraphy for polymer £20 note
- 2017 Robert Macfarlane, author: painted titles on mounts of photographs by his parents for *The Word Hoard* at Wordsworth House Museum, Cockermouth, Cumbria
- 2016 St Cross College, Oxford: donor recognition panel for new wing
- 2015 Royal Bank of Scotland and Nile: calligraphy for polymer £5 and £10 notes, issued 2016 and 2017
- 2013 St Cross College, Oxford: artist book for donor
- 2012 Benjamin Tindall Architects, Museum of Edinburgh: painted inscriptions on shop beams; reception signage on linen; transcription on to wall of Martyrs' Monument text
- 2011 St John's and King's Park Church, Dalkeith: excerpts from *Psalms* painted on wall of nave
- 2010 Crown Office: writing of Letters Patent for House of Lords
Edinburgh International Festival: wall of painted poetry in the Hub, Edinburgh
Polygon: illustrations and cover artwork for *The Book of Crows* by Sam Meekings
- 2008 Middle and Inner Temple, London: writing of 2500-word commemorative charter for 400th anniversary
- 2007 The Queen Mother's Memorial Fund for Scotland: design and writing of donor book
- 2002 – 6 Unique Events: handmade books for Robert Burns International Humanitarian Award
- 2003 CBBC: Shoebox Zoo, writing on screen as double

- 1999 British Museum: inscriptions in copies of *Gilded Dragons* for Her Majesty The Queen and President Jiang Zemin of China
- 1998 St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh: donor book for Phoebe Anna Traquair Song School appeal
- 1997 Royal Museum, Edinburgh: map of China for *Precious Cargo* exhibition

Collections

Bank of Montreal; British Museum, London; Edinburgh College of Art; Edinburgh and Lothian Healthcare Foundation; Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Glamis Castle, Angus; National Library of Scotland; National Museums Scotland; Royal Collection; Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA; V&A Dundee

Selected publications

<https://www.art-scot.com>: Issue 3, interview by Roger Spence

Lines from Scotland, Fife Contemporary 2019

Letter Arts Review, juried issues, various; cover artist 28:4, January 2015

Celebrate Calligraphy, Society of Scribes and Illuminators, London 2011

Wych Elm, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh 2009

The Saint John's Bible, Prophets, Wisdom, Historical, and Letters and Revelation volumes, 2008 – 2010

Slightly Foxed, no. 1 (2004); no. 13 (2007), cover

An Leabhar Mor (The Great Book of Gaelic), Canongate, Edinburgh 2002

Words as Images, Society of Scribes and Illuminators, 2000

Precious Cargo: Scots and the China Trade, National Museums of Scotland, 1997