

Hollywood film producer buys Scawby artist's work

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HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD: Bidy Hodgkinson, who is based in Scawby, North Lincolnshire, currently has a show running in New York

A PROMINENT North Lincolnshire artist is on the path to major success after exhibiting her work in New York and selling a painting to a Hollywood film producer.

Abstract artist Bidy Hodgkinson, who has a studio in Scawby, said her latest exhibition focuses on death, something she finds fascinating.

Bidy, 55, who is artist in residence at Lincoln Cathedral, said she was a full-time mother before taking up painting after she got divorced.

The mother-of-four said: "It was my children who persuaded me that I had artistic talent.

"They bought me some paints for Christmas and said it was my turn to go and do something for me.

"They said I shouldn't miss the opportunity.

"I think women in mid-life sometimes struggle with finding a new direction."

Bidy then took up a place studying fine art at the Chelsea College of Art.

Her latest exhibition, called Pathway to Abstraction, was showcased at the Agora Gallery in Chelsea, New York.

Bidy's work is inspired by what she sees as modern Britain's "lack of a culture of death".

The work is a study of time and change, but also an unambiguous statement on the beauty that can be found in death, she said.

Through her work, Bidy tries to illuminate the stages of decay in life.

She said: "I feel we spend all this time talking about giving birth and it's inevitable that we are going to die. We don't let people die even if they are ready to go.

"This is a particular problem in the west. In the east, death is part of the life cycle. They deal with it a lot better than we do.

"Here we like to preserve life at all costs.

"Elderly people are lonely and terrified of death.

"They don't want to make a nuisance of themselves.

"There's something beautiful about getting older. I find it much more interesting to draw the faces of older people."

Biddy said part of her daily routine is spending time in the woods looking for interesting fungus or dead animals.

She said her work is textured by nature, displaying layers of unpredictable colours which sometimes clash and sometimes build.

"To exhibit in New York is a massive deal to me," she said.

"If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere, so the song goes.

"We have nothing like New York's gallery district over here. There are five streets with 500 galleries. You get an awful lot of people passing through.

"I've sold to a big film director in Los Angeles."

Biddy also has an exhibition coming up in London and is planning to move south to Stamford in Lincolnshire.

"It's really exciting and I have some big opportunities coming up," she added.