

CV Rebecca Jelbert – painter and art historian

Email: Becky@RebeccaJelbert.co.uk

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/RJelbert>

Art website: <https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/>

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-6861-0301>

*Most of the articles can be downloaded from ResearchGate.net, Academia.edu, and ORCID.

Summary

I am a published author, painter and PhD student (art history). In my book, *Michelangelo's Puzzle*, I suggest that the Sistine Chapel frescos represent a Renaissance puzzle based on the stars. I have had several articles published in peer-reviewed journals, such as *The Burlington Magazine* and *Dante Studies* (Johns Hopkins University Press). I have worked as a painter, exhibiting and selling her work in prestigious venues, such as the Mall Galleries, Christie's and Bonhams.

Watercolours: https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/RebeccaJelbert_Watercolours.pdf

Abstracts: https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/RebeccaJelbert_Abstracts.pdf

My deep interest in art history began whilst studying for a PGCE in art and design, in 2011. I didn't just want to tell the children *what* and *how* the painters painted, I wanted to try and explain *why* they made their pictures. After my PGCE, I began to research and write articles, offering new perspectives on well-known artworks. In 2024 I was diagnosed as autistic, which goes some way towards explaining my ability to remember imagery and consider the lives of artist from alternative perspectives.

- 2026 **Article** in *Journal for Artistic Research (JAR)*, 'Interpreting Michelangelo's Puzzle: The value of artistic insight and autistic perception in art-historical research', 15 June 2026. I explain how my experience as an autistic painter helped me to write my book, *Michelangelo's Puzzle* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2025). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22501/jarnet.0092>
PDF version: https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Article_Jelbert_Michelangelo_2026.pdf
- 2025 **Book** *Michelangelo's Puzzle: Forgery, Star maps and the Sistine Chapel* (Bloomsbury Academic).
Widget link to the contents page, foreword, introduction and start of chapter one:
<https://bloomsburycp3.codemantra.com/viewer/68c0745f713c090001575e3c>
- 2023 **Talk** for the 'Moore and Mining' research symposium at St Albans Museum and Gallery on 28 March: 'Infernal War: Dante, Doré and the descent of Henry Moore':
https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Talk_Jelbert_Moore_2023.pdf
- 2022 **Started PhD** in art history at De Montfort University, Leicester (part-time)
- Article** in *Culture and Cosmos* (University of Wales Trinity Saint David), 'Illuminating Mithraic Iconography: Mithras, God of Light, as the Milky Way', vol. 26, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2022), pp.51-78. Article suggests that the deity in the ancient, Mithraic tauroctony scene (religious image of Mithras sacrificing a bull) represents the Milky Way within a simplified star map:
https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Article_Jelbert_Mithras_2022_B.pdf
- 2021 **Article** in *Dante Studies* (Johns Hopkins University Press), 'Henry Moore's Wartime Drawings (1939-1942) and the Influence of Gustave Doré's Illustrations for Dante's Divine Comedy', vol. 139 (2021), pp.154-87. Article describes how Moore's wartime drawings of the Underground and coalmines appear to have been inspired by Doré's illustrations for Dante's *Divine Comedy*:
https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Article_Jelbert_Moore_Dante_2021.pdf
- 2020 **Article** in *The Coat of Arms: Journal for the Heraldry Society (UK)*, 'The Medici Coat of Arms and Etruscan Votive Sculpture', series 4, vol. 3, no. 237 (2020), pp.190-208. Article introduces a new source of inspiration for the iconic Medici emblem:
https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Article_Jelbert_Medici_2020.pdf
The National Central Library of Florence has added my article to its bibliographical archive, in connection with a Medici Bank document featured within it:
https://manus.iccu.sbn.it/opac_SchedaScheda.php?ID=289570&preview=1
- 2019 **Article** in *Journal of Art Crime*, 'Aping the Masters?: Michelangelo and the *Laocoön Group*', issue 22 (Fall/Winter 2019), pp.3-16. I introduce new evidence to suggest that the Vatican's *Laocoön Group* was forged by Michelangelo, who wanted to prove he had surpassed his ancient Masters. This includes the pose of

the Trojan priest (which differs from all the other ancient depictions of Laocoön's death), the excessive facial expression that is more akin to the Renaissance style of depiction (as seen in pictures of the Lamentation of Christ), and details in work by some of Michelangelo's contemporaries that suggests they were aware of the inconsistency of Laocoön's pose:

https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Article_Jelbert_Laocoon_2019.pdf

The Metropolitan Museum of Art references this article:

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/343593> (see 'References')

Yale University Art Gallery references this article:

<https://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/53428> (see 'Bibliography')

2017 **Article** for *The Burlington Magazine* art history journal, 'Paula Modersohn-Becker's self-portraits and the influence of Dante Gabriel Rossetti', vol. 159 (August 2017), pp.617-22:

https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Article_Jelbert_PaulaModersohnBecker_2017.pdf

The Burlington Magazine is the world's leading monthly publication devoted to the fine arts. This article was referenced in the exhibition catalogue for 'Portraying Pregnancy, from Holbein to Social Media', an exhibition held at the Foundling Museum, London (2020).

2012 **eBook** - wrote, illustrated and released interactive eBook for the iPad on Apples's iBookstore:

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/book/tales-by-torchlight-shoe-zoo/id539930868?mt=11>

2011 **Post graduate PCGE** teacher training qualification in Art and Design, University of the West of England

2009 **Foundation in Art Therapy**, British Association of Art Therapists

2008 **First entry in *Who's Who in Art*** (Hilmarton Manor Press):

https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Whos_Who_2008.pdf

1992 Lord Bath bought one of my paintings, *Around the Bucket* (a watercolour of chickens feeding), for Longleat House, Wiltshire.

1991 **Worked as an illustrator** with a London art agent and had illustrations published in print and on BBC TV, including a poetry book (*The World's Stage*, published by Ginn), four BBC TV Playdays stories, and a poem and board game in *Playdays Magazine*. Example illustration:

https://www.rebeccajelbert.co.uk/Jelbert_PoetryIllustration.jpg

1990 **BA Hons, Illustration and Graphic Design (first class)**, University of the West of England, Bristol.

Paintings by Rebecca Jelbert



PAST EXHIBITIONS

- 1987 **Two man show at the 'Wykeham Galleries', Stockbridge**
'David Cross Gallery', Clifton, Bristol
- 1988 'The Eye Gallery', Bristol
'New Forest Artists Exhibition', Ashurst
- 1989 'The Breakaway Trust' exhibition, Salisbury
- 1990 'The Laing Collection', Winchester
Worked as illustrator with London agent - illustrations published in
a poetry book, magazines, brochures and on BBC TV
'Wiltshire Gallery', Salisbury
'Trinity Gallery', Dorset
'Stuart Gallery', Alresford
Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 1991 'Young Artists Exhibition', Bonhams, Knightsbridge, London
'The Laing Collection', Winchester
'A Private View', Southampton
'Alverstoke Lodge', Leon Solent, Hampshire
Exhibition at 'Rimpton House', near Yeovil
'Wiltshire Gallery', Salisbury
'Trinity Gallery', Dorset
'Stuart Gallery', Alresford
Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
One man show at 'Audio Excellence', Bristol
'Touchwood Gallery', Warminster
- 1992 One of my paintings was sold to Lord Bath to become part of the
'Wessex Art Collection' at Longleat House
'Wiltshire Gallery', Salisbury
Two man show at 'The Chettle Gallery', Dorset
'Touchwood Gallery', Warminster
Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
'Stuart Gallery', Alresford
'Trinity Gallery', Dorset
- 1993 **'Young Artists Exhibition' Bonhams, Knightsbridge, London**
'Trinity Gallery', Dorset
'National Art Collection Fund Exhibition', Glassenbury Park, Kent
Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
'Wiltshire Gallery', Salisbury

- 'Touchwood Gallery', Warminster
- Exhibition at 'Devizes Contemporary Art Gallery', Wiltshire
- 'Stuart Gallery', Alresford
- 1994 **One man show at 'CRA Gallery', St Albans**
- 'Trinity Gallery', Dorset
- 'Stuart Gallery', Alresford
- Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 'Touchwood Gallery', Warminster
- 'Wiltshire Gallery', Salisbury
- 1995 **'Young Artists Exhibition', Bonhams, Knightsbridge, London**
- Exhibition on Hayling Island, Hampshire
- One man show at 'CRA Gallery', St Albans**
- Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 1996 **'The Laing Collection', Mall Galleries, London**
- 'The Contemporary Art Group', London
- Exhibition in Harpenden, Hertfordshire
- One man show at the 'First Floor Gallery', Romsey**
- One man show at 'CRA Gallery', St Albans**
- Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 1997 **One man show at 'Beau Monde', Soho, London**
- Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 'Young Artists Exhibition' at Christie's, London**
- 1998 Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 1999 'Young Artists Exhibition' at Christie's, London
- Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 2000 'Meon Gallery', Fareham
- Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 2001 Exhibition at 'Wiltshire Gallery', Salisbury
- Two shows, 'Wessex Artists Exhibition', Salisbury/ Romsey
- 2002 Set up web site to sell 'house portraits'
- Gave talks to school on portrait painting (Farnham, Surrey)
- 2004 Prize for best watercolour in show at 'Bursledon Art Exhibition', Hampshire
- Gave more talks to school on portrait painting (Farnham, Surrey)
- 2005 Set up web site for 'house portraits'
- 'Saltgrass Gallery', Lymington
- 2006 'North Bristol Artists at Home' - open house exhibition
- Ran an 'arts and crafts' table for a year at a local nursery
- 2007 'At Home' exhibition with my mother, Wendy Jelbert

'Homecoming' exhibition, Grant Bradley Gallery, Bristol

'North Bristol Artists at Home' exhibition, Bristol

Bursledon Art Exhibition, Hampshire

2008 'Hampshire Open Studios' – exhibition with Wendy and Rosalind Jelbert

November 2008 - North Bristol Artists art trail (Bristol)

December 2008 – Bursledon Art Exhibition (Hampshire)

2009 'The First View Gallery', National Trust Stourhead, Wiltshire

2010-2012 'The First View Gallery', National Trust Stourhead, Wiltshire

'Sky Blue Gallery', Bristol

OTHER WORK

1987- to date Many private commissions

(houses, pets, pregnancy scans, and children's realistic portraits combined with their own artwork)

1991 Illustrator with a London art agent (Sylvie Poggio) - illustrations published in print and on BBC TV, including a poetry book (*The World's Stage*, published by Ginn) and four BBC TV *Playdays* stories.

1987-2000 Regular, annual shows:

Various art society exhibitions (Winchester, Warsash, St. Albans and Farnham)

'Bursledon Regatta Art Exhibition', Hampshire

'The Curdridge Art Exhibition', Hampshire

'Bursledon Art Exhibition', Hampshire

1990-2000 Annual Exhibition at Titchfield, Hampshire

2012-to date After 2012, I continued to carry out private commissions and exhibit in a variety of venues, including the 'The First View Gallery', National Trust Stourhead, Wiltshire.

Having three children made it more difficult to find time to paint, but it did open up the art I made. I was inspired by their incredible, spontaneous artwork and began to experiment again with my own painting – as I had done as an art student. I started to paint superimposed paintings that combined children's drawing with realistic details, and this journey – that drew me away from the purely representational - eventually developed into abstract expressionism.

Although it's not talked about often enough, many women artists continue to face the very difficult challenge of balancing motherhood, artistic practice, and financial stability. I started to work part-time for the NHS after leaving art college and this has provided an interesting, parallel life for me – working as a medical summariser, an assistant practice manager, and then for the Referral Service in Bristol. Since moving to Monmouthshire, I have been inspired by the beauty of the Welsh mountains and have found myself returning full circle to rural landscapes, which I started to paint as a teenager in Hampshire.

