

THE AVENUES: The Shopping Centre was built in the 1970s and is the main retail centre in Newton Mearns. It is a busy community hub with many regular visitors who seem actively interested in engagement with new ideas.

INSPIRATION: A shopping centre can be a thoughtful place, bringing people together to shop, chat and eat out. It's a shared space where one's world is focused, a perfect place to have a gallery and engage with an audience for artworks and ideas.

LAUNCHING: Sat 10 - 4pm, 15 Nov 2025. **VESSELS Conservations about Materials , Nicola Atkinson**

GETTING TO BEAUTIFUL MATERIALS GALLERY IN THE AVENUES G77 6AA : Bus 38, Train Patterton Station & Walking, Bike A77 or Car M77.

OPENING HOURS: Open every Saturday 10 - 4pm. The public can also request to make a visit by appointment. The gallery window is set up so the public will be able to view artwork when it is closed.

IDEA: Beautiful Materials Gallery's mission is to be a public facing art space, located in a shop space at The Avenues, Newton Mearns. We aim to reach out to new audiences and provide a clear dialogue and conversation with them about the artists and artworks.

WHO: Beautiful Materials is founded by artist Nicola Atkinson who is an internationally acclaimed artist and curator, she is known for recent public artwork in Linlithgow. In her artistic life, she has created one hundred and forty five public art projects, temporary and permanent in villages, towns, cities and museums around the world.

Nicola's interests defy boundaries through socially engaged artworks. They range from designing challenging, inclusive artworks in shopping centres in Santa Monica Place, to being a curator in the artist-run Gallery Bulkhead, to creating recent public artwork in a bus shelter at Linlithgow Cross.

Atkinson's recent solo exhibition, Vessels, was a striking exhibition that extended from the walls of the gallery to a model of Linlithgow Burgh Halls Gallery. It included the transformation of a high street bus shelter and the placing of art in people's homes. The exhibition asks the question, 'How do we look at art and its materials and what are its boundaries?'

COMMUNICATION: Accessible communication is key to the success of most art ventures. We will have artist tours and talks about every exhibition. Beautiful Materials Gallery will provide information on all artworks; exhibition concept, the artist, statement and their contact details. On the following: Beautiful Materials, instagram and web site, an A2 poster on the gallery window and A6 postcards for the public to take away. Also throughout the Avenues Shopping Centre, including the public notice board and distributing the postcards to the 44 shops. As well as with the Outer Spaces and their instagram.

INSTALLATION & MATERIALS: Beautiful Materials & the artists will be responsible for install and uninstall of each exhibition.

FUNDING: Beautiful Materials Gallery, in the Avenues Shopping Centre space is provided by Outer Spaces, a contemporary visual arts organisation for free. There is no funding for exhibitions. Supported by donations by the public & the artists.

OUTCOME: Beautiful Materials aims to support the advancement of the arts through the Avenues Shopping Centre gallery space. It will increase public exposure to, appreciation of, and involvement in the arts. It will provide opportunities of participation for people who might otherwise be excluded.



VESSELS CONSERVATIONS ABOUT MATERIALS NICOLA ATKINSON

15 NOVEMBER - 6 DECEMBER 2025

**OPEN EVERY SATURDAY 10 - 4PM & BY APPOINTMENT
THE AVENUES SHOPPING CENTRE G77 6AA**

Come and meet Nicola Atkinson, artist and curator. She exhibits never before seen the 45 small scale paintings that inform her recent successful solo show in Linlithgow Burghs Halls built in 1670. In the window exhibition space, her two meter Vessel artwork velvet and georgette hangs gently. Another feature in the gallery is the miniature model of the fabulous Linlithgow Burghs Halls , where 31 wee velvet vessels paintings can be viewed here. It was created by Nicola as part of her show there; she became interested in how we see things everyday. It seems that we are now able to view the whole world in miniature on our phones, why not art.

'The centrality of the vessel in this exhibition also reflects Atkinson's interest in the discipline and history of ceramics. And just as most ceramic forms have been glazed and fired before arriving at their final, permanent shape, so Atkinson's printed images have undergone a process of material transformation that goes beyond simple manipulation at her own hand. Beginning as small-scale paintings on re purposed wood panels—which themselves began as discarded loom components—they have been enlarged and reproduced onto unstretched sheets of fabric to create a group of hanging banners. Despite the peculiarities of this concluding format, however, the gestural quality and translucent coloration of the original renderings prevents the works from appearing rigidly heraldic—they're too individual and too irregular for that. Instead, they feel closer to ornamental tapestries, or even to the accidental compositions that appear on ground sheets in the course of interior decoration.' Excerpts from essay by Michael Wilson

'I started thinking about how one perceives abstract work, and I thought it'd be really interesting to do something that would have the same intensity as abstract work, but have some object or thing that you could place within that. So when you're looking at it, you see something, and then you'll have the next level where you'll be able to kind of see the paint or the colour and stuff like that. So something that would hold that abstract idea or content. And I came up with the vessel in relation to my own background of ceramics. I liked, in a kind of ticklish way, the idea that this is an object which holds things like liquid, but actually it's a painting, but it does have this function. But it doesn't have a function, but it does have a function because it's a painting.' Excerpts from Nicola Atkinson interview

Internationally acclaimed, multi-disciplinary artist Nicola specialises in artworks that focus on place-making, social cohesion and community engagement and has worked on 145 artworks on permanent display in museums around the world.