

## National Review of Live Art – Holly Warburton

It is synchronicity that I begin writing this piece at the Prado, Madrid, for it is the painting of Las Meninas by Velázquez that inspired the multi screen projection I showed at NRLA twenty two years ago. As I immerse myself within the painting I am still captured by its brilliance, Velázquez portrays himself working at a large canvas, he looks outwards, beyond the pictorial space to where a viewer of the painting would stand. A mirror hangs in the background and reflects the upper bodies of the king and queen. The couple appear to be placed outside the picture space in the same position I am standing in. This was the seed of inspiration for my installation “The Reflected Portrait” and I reflect upon the circles of journeys that have brought me back to this place in front of the painting.

I have a strong memory of the night I showed at NRLA at The Zap Club in Brighton. I drove from London in my black ford cortina loaded with Kodak carousel projectors. The car behaved in its usual way and broke down twice, each time I was able to repair it with my silver fork that I kept in the dashboard. My blue hair attracted the attention of the police but I arrived in time to set up my multiscreen slide projection to show extracts from two installations,” The Reflected Portrait “ and “ Roses of Dead Essences”.

After a successful show I was glad to lie on the beach in the cool night air, when I was approached by someone who invited me to show my work in Berlin, this in turn lead to a commission to create an image of Turandot for the Royal Opera House.

From then I continued to create images for Theatre and Opera and exhibit in UK and abroad, particularly in Japan. Commercial commissions enabled me to fund my exhibitions of installations, painting and photography.

At the NRLA, Midland group Nottingham I showed the multi screen projection Roses of Dead Essences. A few years later I reworked part of this piece ...I was invited by a fragrance house to choose a scent to visualise into an advertising campaign.

After leaving the commercial world behind my photographic work became inspired by my travels in China and India exhibiting in UK, France and Japan .I returned to working in multi screen projection when I was invited by The National Gallery London to produce an installation with children based upon ‘Marriage a la Mode’ by Hogarth. This project combined with my passion to travel around Asia and South America lead me to creating art with refugee children. My most recent multi-screen projection involved working with aerialists and musicians and was presented in Paris, inspired by the Nordic Edda sagas and The Ring Cycle. I am continuing to work in London and the French countryside on collaborative projects with dancers and live artists creating multi media installations with painting, video and sound.