



PRESS RELEASE

July 2019

Printing a new life in Yorkshire - from corporate career to linocut artist

York-based linocut artist Michelle Hughes, made the leap of faith to create 'The Good Life'. After a career designing for Disney, Asda's George Home range and Principles, Michelle Hughes now designs prints inspired by British landscapes, landmarks and nature. She's known for her unique blends of organic colours and simple yet stylised silhouettes, particularly of local Yorkshire views. Popular prints include the Yorkshire Dales, Robin Hood's Bay and scenes from the North York Moors.

Michelle's journey to becoming a professional artist is as sinuous as a wave in one of her coastal pictures. She relished crafting and making things as a child. Beginning by sewing soft toys on her granny's Singer sewing machine, Michelle progressed to making all her own clothes. She then studied fashion design before starting her retail career at 20. But as her work became more strategic and digital she felt she was losing the physical connection of working with her hands.

Yorkshire provides endless inspiration for her printmaking. Cycling and walking trips, alone and with friends enable her to discover new places to print. To capture the essence of a place, Michelle likes to experience the landscape for herself, rather than relying on photos from Google. She uses social media to reveal the many steps and inspiration involved in each of her creations.

"It was a huge leap of faith to leave my corporate design career behind," explains Michelle. "Quality of life is important, so I decided to follow my heart and build a lifestyle career for myself. Now my work brings together everything I enjoy most, from making things with my hands to photography and crafting and being outdoors in nature. It's not just making a living but a different way of living."

Michelle converted her garage to create a garden studio, which overlooks Holgate Windmill. Here she runs small linocut workshops and gives demonstrations, inspiring people to try a new craft.

"I first tried a small linocut at a craft fair," explains Michelle. "As soon as I started making marks with a linocut tool, I was hooked. I now love how it enables me to distil the landscape down into simple lines. There's a spontaneity to working with linocut. The quality of line I get from working with hand tools is so different to digital graphics. Variations in pressure, speed and angle all affect the design."

Buy Michelle's original linocut prints through her online shop or learn how to make linocut prints yourself through her workshops and online courses. www.michellehughes.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Contact Details

E: michellehughesdesign@outlook.com

T: 07808 472 379

W: michellehughes.co.uk

Social media: Facebook and Instagram

[@michellehughesdesign](https://www.facebook.com/michellehughesdesign) and Twitter [@designyork](https://twitter.com/designyork)

- Examples of additional images michellehughesdesign.com/press
- Michelle is 48, lives in York and has worked as a professional linocut artist for 3 years and a designer for over 25 years. She started her own business in June 2016.
- Michelle exhibits her work at York Open Studios, her open studio events, galleries and the York Printmakers Print Fair.
- Read about her creative journey at michellehughesdesign.com/about

Linocut prints | Workshops | Online courses

michellehughes.co.uk

[michellehughesdesign](https://www.instagram.com/michellehughesdesign) [michellehughesdesign](https://www.facebook.com/michellehughesdesign) [michellehughesdesign](https://www.pinterest.com/michellehughesdesign) [Design_York](https://www.linkedin.com/company/design_york) [07808 472379](https://www.tumblr.com/michellehughesdesign) michellehughesdesign@outlook.com