

LEANNE PEARCE

Portraits with Purpose



Real people. Honest stories.

Portraits that can make a positive impact for your organisation, customers or service users.

A commissioned collection can celebrate the people at the heart of your work, encourage conversations, mark an important moment or become a lasting presence in the places you serve.

I create original oil portraits that bring people's experiences into focus. Through Portraits with Purpose, I collaborate with charities, healthcare services, universities and community organisations to tell stories that deserve to be seen.

Every project begins with a conversation. Together, we can explore whose stories you want to share, what you hope the work will achieve and how the portraits might reach your audience.

Have a story or community you would like to celebrate? I would love to hear your ideas.

Portraiture with People at its Heart



I make portraits to bring people closer to one another.

My approach begins with listening. I work closely with the people portrayed and the organisations involved to create realistic oil portraits that honour individual experiences without reducing anyone to a label.

The finished work can take many forms: a collection for an exhibition, portraits displayed in a healthcare or community setting, artwork to commemorate an initiative, or imagery shared through publications and campaigns.

Depending on the project and the permissions agreed, fine-art prints may also help bring the work to a wider audience. We can discuss suitable formats, presentation and ways to share the finished portraits at the outset.

A project can begin with one portrait or develop into a wider collection.

Case Study

Beyond the Label

Client: Emmaus & Northumbria University



A person is always more than their circumstances.

This collection brings forward the experiences of people connected with Emmaus who have faced homelessness or insecure housing. Rather than presenting statistics or assumptions, the portraits invite viewers to meet individuals.

Created to encourage understanding and challenge stigma, the paintings offer a starting point for conversations about dignity, belonging and lived experience. Plans for the collection include exhibitions in public spaces around the UK and at Northumbria University.

For organisations working with underrepresented communities, a portrait project can create space for people to be seen on their own terms.

Could portraiture help your organisation tell stories that are too often overlooked?

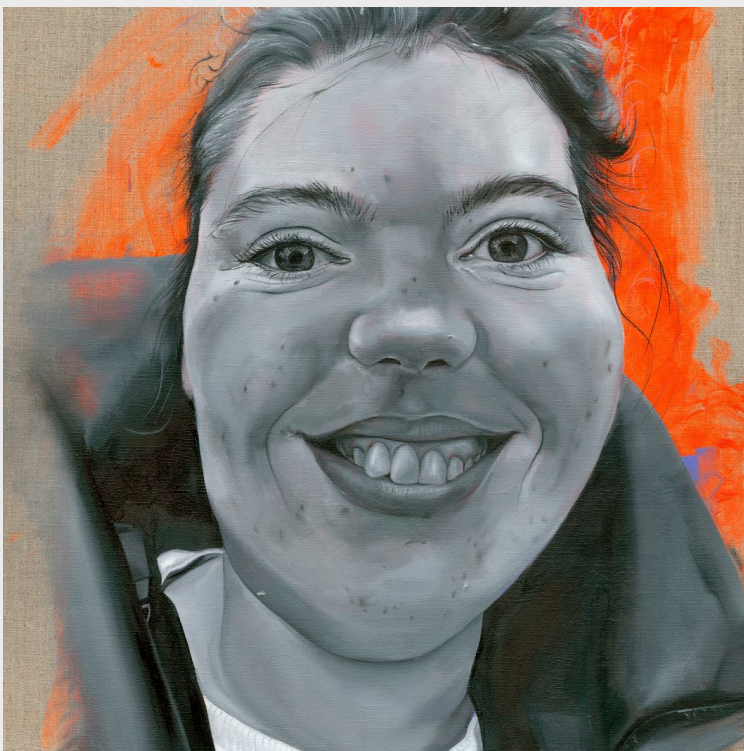
How this Project Supports Organisational Objectives:

- Challenging stigma
- Awareness raising
- Public engagement
- Inclusion and representation
- Community engagement

Case Study

Continuing Bonds

Client: St Oswald's Hospice



Love does not end when a life does.

Created in close collaboration with families and loved ones, Continuing Bonds brought together portraits of 12 people who had died or were approaching the end of life. Each painting honours a person, their relationships and the place they continue to hold in others' lives.

The collection was exhibited at Newcastle Civic Centre during Dying Matters Week in May 2024 and at Newcastle Cathedral in November 2024. The originals have also been gifted to each family.

The project shows how sensitive, carefully developed portraiture can support remembrance, reflection and public conversation.

For a remembrance or legacy project, we can discuss an approach that respects everyone involved.

How this Project Supports Organisational Objectives:

- Public engagement
- Awareness raising
- Legacy and remembrance
- Charity promotion
- Community engagement

Case Study

Portraits of Early Parenthood

Client: Gateshead • Blackburn with Darwen • Portsmouth



Support matters—and so do the people behind every family's story.

Working with Family Hubs, I have painted families whose stories reflect the many realities of early parenthood: tenderness, joy, exhaustion, uncertainty and resilience.

The portraits have engaged audiences across maternity and early years services, been displayed at a breastfeeding Gold Standard celebration in Blackburn with Darwen, and been shared to highlight local support in Portsmouth.

For a service or organisation, commissioned portraits can recognise families and staff, celebrate achievements and make support feel more personal and visible.

A collection can be developed around a service, milestone, campaign or community.

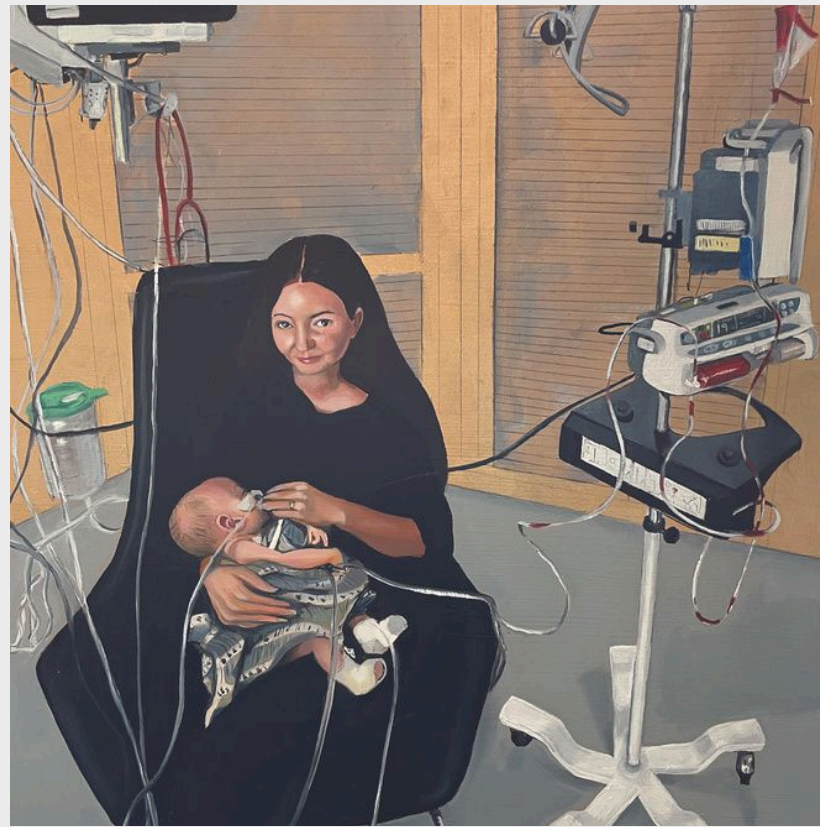
How this Project Supports Organisational Objectives:

- **Service promotion**
- **Community engagement**
- **Humanising care**
- **Inclusion and representation**
- **Recognition and celebration**

Case Study

Portraits of love, strength and resilience

Client: Dr Lyndsey Hookway and Thought Rebellion



There is no single way to experience feeding, caring for and loving a baby.

Created in connection with the book *Breastfeeding the Brave*, this collection of eight portraits reflects the experiences of babies, families and those supporting them through serious challenges.

The paintings look beyond idealised images of early parenthood, acknowledging determination, vulnerability and love. The artwork has also been exhibited across the UK.

Portraiture can give a publication, research initiative or awareness campaign a distinctive human dimension — with individual stories at its centre.

I welcome conversations about portraits for books, campaigns and collaborative projects.

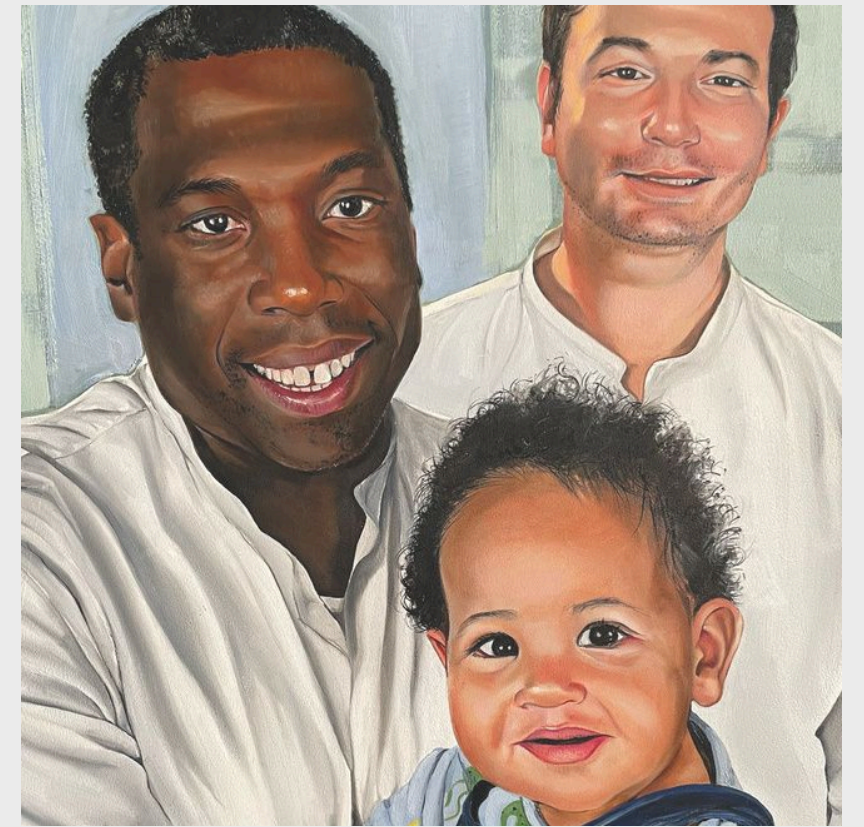
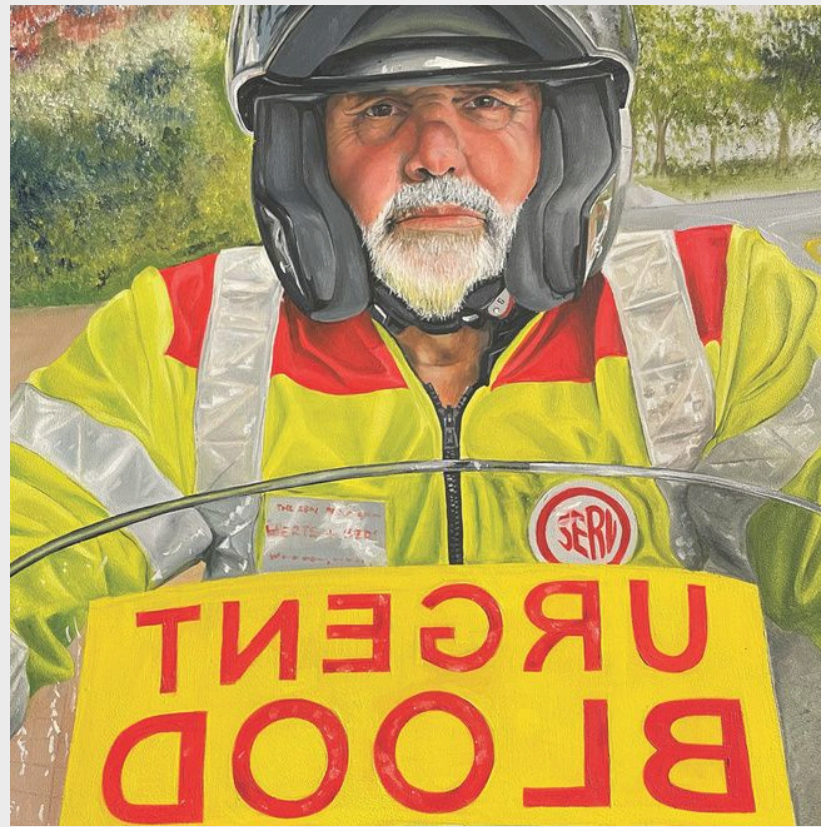
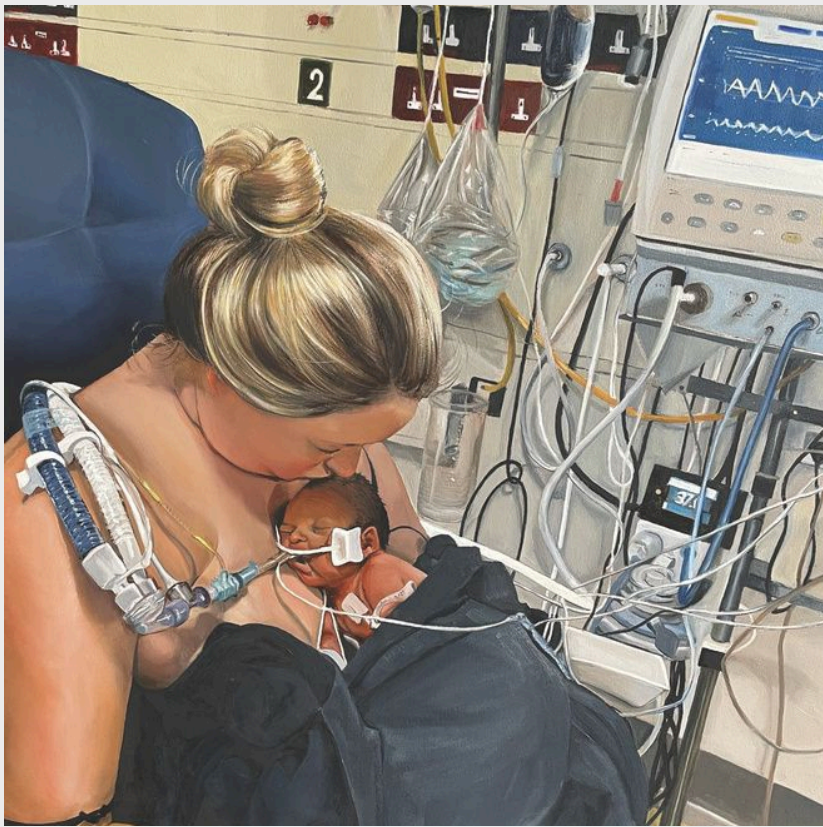
How this Project Supports Organisational Objectives:

- Awareness raising
- Education and advocacy
- Research communication
- Humanising care
- Challenging stigma

Case Study

Connecting Hearts

Client: Swansea University & The Human Milk Foundation



Care travels through a network of people.

Connecting Hearts comprises ten oil portraits recognising the people around donor human milk: donors, recipients, families, blood bikers and other supporters.

Shown at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and shared in connection with Swansea University and the Human Milk Foundation, the collection makes visible the relationships and generosity behind an important service.

A commissioned series can help an organisation recognise its community, bring research or care to life, and create artwork with a lasting role beyond a single event.

What people and connections would you like your organisation to celebrate?

How this Project Supports Organisational Objectives:

- Value-chain storytelling
- Stakeholder engagement
- Awareness raising
- Recognition and celebration
- Charity promotion

Let's Create Something Meaningful



Commissioning a Portraits with Purpose project

Every commission is different. We begin by discussing your idea, the people involved, the purpose of the work and where the finished portraits might be seen. From there, we can explore the number of paintings, photography and sittings, timescales, budget, exhibition plans and any suitable print editions.

Original paintings can form a lasting collection for an organisation. Where appropriate, we can also discuss fine-art prints and other ways for the work to be shared or acquired, subject to the permissions and arrangements for each project.

You do not need a fully formed brief. An initial conversation is simply an opportunity to explore what might be possible.

To discuss a commission, exhibition or artwork enquiry:

contact@leannepearce.co.uk

leannepearce.co.uk

Instagram @leanne_pearce_artist

Leanne is based in North East England and works throughout the UK. She also welcomes opportunities for international commissions.