

Nesbitt

Dorothy
1895 - 1971

Her Life

Dorothy Nesbitt was born on 25th January 1895 in Musselburgh, Midlothian . She was not baptised until 10th August 1898 in Dunbar, East Lothian. A certificate of baptism seems to have been issued by a church in St Petersburg, Russia.

Her father was John Robinson Nesbitt, marble merchant and later manufacturer. He was born c.1860 in Aberdeen and died in 1947 in Barnstaple, Devon. Her mother was Katherine Haldane Stobie Nobbs, who was born in St Petersburg, Russia, c.1864 (a British subject). She died in 1945 in New York, USA. Dorothy's parents married in 1890 in Berkshire, England.

1901 census : Dorothy was age 6 and was living with her parents in Eastbourne, Sussex. Her father was a manufacturer and her mother made 'decorations'.

1911 census : the family lived in Morningside, Edinburgh. Dorothy, age 16, was with her parents and 3 older brothers - Francis G., John K. and Sidney M. Nesbitt.

Dorothy trained at Edinburgh School of Art and was one of the artists included in the 'Edinburgh Group'. Her friend Dorothy Johnstone painted a nude picture of her at art college, named 'Black & Yellow' (*ex Art.uk Aberdeen Art Gallery*).

In 1921 (per Electoral Register), she was living with her mother Katherine H. Nesbitt at Thirlstane Road. In March 1921 Dorothy married William Miles Johnstone, an artist, in Edinburgh (see his separate entry). Dorothy was an art teacher. She had been an assistant at the Edinburgh College of Art where she trained, and also taught at St Trinian's School, Edinburgh and Oxenfoord Castle School, Pathhead.

On her marriage, as was the law at the time, she had to give up teaching but she continued to paint.

The family, Bill, Dorothy and their 3 children Tony, Cecile and Pat, lived in Edinburgh for about 20 years, although they took holidays in Kirkcudbright, before they purchased 15 Castle Street Kirkcudbright in 1940 where they lived in a flat above a shop named 'The Crafts'.

In 1961 they bought a chalet at Carrick Shore - Cornerways.

Dorothy took an interest in the running of Kirkcudbright and was a Town Councillor. She was part of a group who campaigned to save the Old Harbour Cottage from demolition. It opened in the mid-1950s as an art gallery.

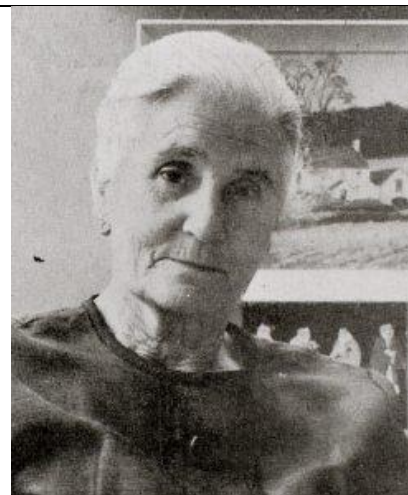
She died in 16th December 1971 in Edinburgh and was cremated there. Bill died in 1974.

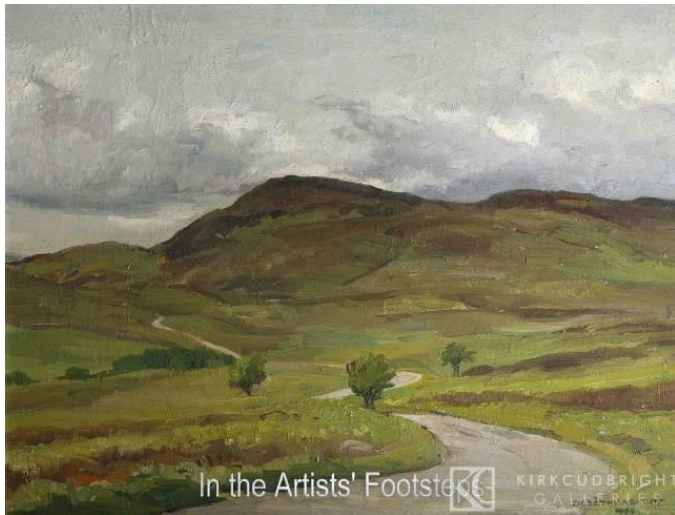
She painted a number of paintings around Carrick and Sandgreen and in the hills above Gatehouse.

Her Work

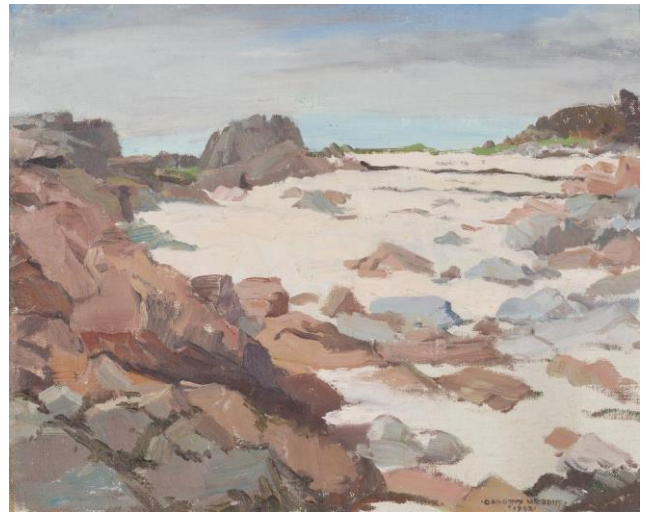
The links below lead to websites which contain paintings by or stories about this artist. When you have viewed the contents, remember to use your browser's "back" button to return to this page.

[In the Artists Footsteps](#)





The Moor Road to Laurieston



The Shell Beach, Sandgreen