Patti Lean is an artist, aspiring writer and tutor based in Dumfries and Galloway.

**Short artist’s statement**

My interest is in notions of northerliness, both real and imagined, seeking parallels between painting and the fields of eco-criticism and nature-writing. I often work outdoors; walking is part of my practice and the work of Nan Shepherd the starting point for postgraduate research. I spent two residencies in northern Iceland, and have been developing this fieldwork into paintings.

In transposing ideas into paint I want to be surprised; I aim to create a specific feel and flavour to the work, although this is often unknown and pre-verbal so I work towards it. I sometimes mix soil, carbon, mud, raw pigment, blood, wax, ash, honey into medium, echoing elements of the terrain and its alchemy, working also from sound recordings, performances, sketches, films, photographs and objects. A recent essay for a collection *Extending Ecocriticism*, will be published later this year. I am currently taking part in an exhibition *Living Landscape*, touring until 2018. I will be doing a residency in a remote part of Finland in September to work on a new project about peripheral vision when walking.