

Susan Leyland was born in 1952 Whiston, Lancashire but lived near Cambridge for many years. At the age of four she was given her first pony by her Grandfather a veterinarian and horse breeder. At school Susan discovered her aptitude for art and her work was hung in The London Royal Academy of Arts children's exhibitions. Her school years were spent at boarding school. On leaving school she found work at the Cambridge University Institute of Criminology.

In 1973 Susan visited Italy where she has lived ever since. The beautiful Renaissance city of Florence with its museums, art and history captured her heart. On arrival she followed an Italian language course at the British Institute as well as drawing classes at the Florence Academy of Fine Arts. For seven years Susan worked in the Italian fashion industry and from 1981 she taught English but continued to draw and paint.

From 1987- 2000 Leyland began to make her first sculptures with the help of Florentine artisans learning from their skills and traditions. During this time she was also working as a riding instructor. In 1999 Leyland held an exhibition at the important Tornabuoni Gallery, Florence, then a second in Saratoga Springs, NY. In 2000 she decided to dedicate her time to horse sculpture, creating in 2004 "Horse Block Sculpture" where the contemporary and the classical merge.

Leyland has taken part and held solo exhibitions in different countries and cities: UK, USA, Italy, France, Sweden and Germany with collectors world-wide.