

ELLA GURU

Lives in Arsenal, London, with husband Sexton Ming. Started the Stuckist web site.

- 24.5.66** Born, Ohio, USA
- 1982-84** Fort Hayes Career Center – commercial art course
- 1984-86** Columbus College of Art & Design. Left because of “all the conceptual crap”
- 1986-87** Goth years – Ohio, London, New York
- 1988-89** Ohio State University, BA (Fine Arts). Allowed to paint. Visual Arts Award
- 1990-91** Lived in Florida and London. Travel to India and Africa
- 1991-92** Islington: waitress, Mexican Restaurant and Islamic lifestyle in Algerian household
- 1993** Number one in Indie charts as member of Voodoo Queens pop band
- 1996** Rode bicycle to Lithuania. Met Sexton Ming in London when she borrowed his lipstick
- 1997-** Website designer. Started painting intensely again
- 1999** Founder member of the Stuckists
- 2001** Married fellow Stuckist Sexton Ming on Dorset cliff top in drag
- 2002-3** Commissions for Von Stockhausen family. Went to Cuba

Plays in The Deptford Beach Babes. Amsterdam Gay News ‘Painter of the Year’. Used to frequent fetish clubs and spank men whom she describes as “Tory politicians”. Had lunch with Quentin Crisp in New York: he thought she was weird.

The Queen’s Speech “It started off on Christmas Day in a friend’s house in Pennsylvania. We have worked together over many years dressing people up and staging scenes for photographs. It was her idea in this case. When I got back to London, I did a painting based on this photograph (of Sexton), adding objects that were not originally there – they don’t have absinthe in America. I did some studies of Sexton from life also. I’ve always liked wigs. You get obsessed with a shape and you like it – I don’t know why.

“A painting can take between two days and two years. I start one by going out and getting pissed with my friends. Then the ideas will come from photos I take. They are often very bad, dark, fuzzy photos, so I have to use my imagination and real life studies later. I start from line drawing always. I like the subject to look three-dimensional. I admire Old Masters, but I don’t necessarily try to paint that way. When I went to Art College we did three years of painting nude models from life. I learned a lot from doing that. I care very much about ability and technique, and I’m always working to improve it, but I also admire work which is untrained but inventive.”

Web site www.ellaguru.org.uk