

## I was born a visual artist

*Jennifer Dickson – Clip 1*

I was born a visual artist. I never took a decision. When I was two and a half I was crippled with polio and so I was taught at home. I was home schooled until I was about eight years old by my mother. She found the most effective way of bribing me to learn was to give me the pencils, paint, pens crayons and so on, so I started exploring visual art I think intuitively as a very young child. My father, who saw that it would be a good idea for me to stop painting all over the walls of the house and do it on something more socially acceptable, took me down to the local catholic convent where there was a wonderful Irish nun called Sister Magdelene, and so even when I wasn't going to regular school I was having art lessons with her in the convent most afternoons. I was taught, before I was eight years old, the eighteenth century approach to water colour painting so water colour was my first love. It will probably end up being my last love as well.

