Thora Clyne was based for many years in Edinburgh with a studio at Killimster Schoolhouse in Caithness, her birthplace in 1937. She was invited to hold her first solo show of oils and watercolours at the Loomshop, Lower Largo, 1971 and this was followed by her first in Edinburgh in 1975 at the newly formed Open Eye Gallery directed by Maartje McQueen. Her exhibitions of paintings of the north along with drawings of her cats range from “A Northern Summer” at the Henderson Gallery, 1980, to “Cats Predominate” at the Torrance Gallery, 1982 and 1985 and a solo show at the N.B. Gallery, Loch Lomond, the following year.

Graduating from Edinburgh University in Honours Fine Art in 1960, she was awarded an Andrew Grant Scholarship of a year’s further study in a studio at the College of Art and a Travel Award to Italy in the summer of 1961, with an exhibition of the work created to be shown on the Balcony wall of the School of Drawing and Painting, Edinburgh College of Art, the following February. A watercolour and ink painting of the Grand Canal, Venice was retained for the College Collection and an ink drawing of Assisi was later accepted into The Annual Summer Exhibition of The Royal Scottish Academy. Her first post as Principal Assistant at Aberdeen Art Gallery was followed by a lectureship in Drawing and Painting at Edinburgh College of Art which lasted until 1993. In 1963, she had studied etching at the Summer School of The University of Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.

During the ’80s she moved with her cats and composer husband to Tillywhally Cottage in Kinross-shire where her studio eventually became integrated with life at home while continuing to commute to Edinburgh. She was invited by Scadart to teach two summer schools in painting to a group of artists, chosen for their promise, at Stirling University and Crieff Hydro along with the artist John McNairn. She became a founder member of Perthshire Open Studios exhibiting annually in her studio for ten years. Her landscape surroundings inspire to the present day.

Travel and the inspiration it gives, is fundamental to Thora’s series of works. Sailing on the Coventry canal and also visiting re-homed cats on their barge in Amsterdam; following up mendicant cats in Paris and staying for a month's sabbatical in the Maramures in Northern Romania to observe the shepherds’ festival of Transhumance are all commemorated in drawings and paintings. Continuing life with the cats, she exhibited in “Cats and other Animals” at Hanover Fine Arts in Dundas Street, Edinburgh and at the Edinburgh Art Fair.

Together with her husband, Gareth Clemson, Thora created two series of collaborations in painting and music:- one illustrating life with their twin siamese cats Ta-Yu and Pisa and one entitled “The Singing Cat” in which short quotations from a book entitled “Nine Lives” are depicted in manuscript and watercolour with accompanying pieces which have been performed at recitals. Most of those paintings have found their way into private collections, while the score for the songs is with the Scottish Music Centre, Glasgow.

Exhibitions in Caithness were interspersed with showing in the Annual Society of Caithness Artists. Lyth Arts Centre and Lybster Gallery both presented her work and that of her brothers, Henry and Dan Clyne.

When Thora was no longer teaching she studied lithography at Edinburgh Printmakers for six years and subsequently went on to create woodcuts, linocuts and etchings at Dunfermline Printmakers Workshop where she continues to attend to the present day, experimenting with collograph combined with monoprinting.

Invited during the sixties to professional membership of the Scottish Society of Women Artists, she won both the Anne Redpath Award and the Special Prize. Her drawing of the Caithness landscape, purchased for Paintings for Scottish Schools and now in the City Art Centre, Edinburgh was included in their exhibition “Terrain”, 2012. “Morven”, her watercolour created at Killimster and from the collection of the Sir William Gillies Bequest, was included in “Highland Views and Visions” at the Royal Scottish Academy, 2007. Her tempera painting of a fellow artist Suzanne
Mitchell-Henry with whom she had a joint exhibition at the Grouse and Claret Gallery, Kinross, during the first Perthshire Open Studios, “Sketching in the Square” and featuring Suzanne sketching a tree in the square at Vaison-La-Romaine, Provence, was chosen for exhibition at the Dovecot Gallery in January 2016. Founded in memory of W. Gordon Smith, the art critic and poet playwright, the exhibition featured fifty Scottish painters living and working either at home or abroad within the previous year.

Through her interest in painting gardens, Thora created lithographs, two of which are illustrated in two Handbooks “Stone Lithography” and “Plate Lithography”, both written by Paul Croft for Thames & Hudson. The theme continues and recently she demonstrated the use of acrylic paint to Kinross Art Club in her work “Sutton Hall Garden”. Her paintings of cats and other subjects have found their way into private and public collections in the U.K. and abroad.

Now a member of Dunfermline Printmakers Workshop since 2009, she and twelve colleagues have taken part in a cultural exchange with Japanese papermakers entitled Washi-Umi-O-Koete.

Recent printmaking exhibitions:-

Impact 8, Dunfermline Printmakers, International Print Conference, Dundee, 2013
St Andrews Museum, Dunfermline Printmakers. 2014
Frames Gallery, Perth, Dunfermline Printmakers. 2015
The Perthshire Creates Designers & Makers Exhibition, Perth Art Gallery, Scotland, October, 2017

A full CV is under “about the artist” on the website:- www.catpawtraits.co.uk