



ABSTRACTION

Only after breaking away from her city roots could Cape Town artist Georgia Lane move forward with her painting

You studied art at school, so why did you only pursue painting later in life? I came to painting the long way around, when I was doing it for myself. I studied graphic design after leaving Herschel Girls' School and then progressed to food styling. When my family moved to the Greek island of Skopelos in 2007, I started to paint again by joining a weekly art group run by American artist, Tom Dempsey. He encouraged us to interpret how we felt, rather than reproducing what we saw. It was challenging letting go and painting on cardboard with acrylic house paints, but it made it easier to just throw away paintings if you weren't happy with the results.

Where does your inspiration come from? I paint from memory and it's a meditative experience where I lose myself in the process to explore themes of life in cities and villages. Coming back to Cape Town, I felt the strong impact of the city's sounds, textures and vibrancy that you become inured to when you're surrounded by it all the time.

Tell us about your artistic process. When we returned to Cape Town, I painted small portraits, but as my confidence grew, so did the canvasses. The largest are 2 x 2m diptychs. For larger pieces I prefer this format as it's easier for me to work



with. I use acrylics and a variety of mixed media, working on several canvasses at once. To reference what we expose and conceal, I use numerous layers of transparent and opaque paint. The challenge is knowing when to stop.

When and where do you work? My studio is on the third floor of our Newlands home. I divide my time between painting and being the financial director of my husband Anthony's design and branding company.

Who else has influenced your painting? Fine art specialist Johans Borman encouraged me to find a signature style. He respects what I'm trying to do as an artist and also knows the local markets very well. Rose Korber, who represented me when I started out, was also incredibly supportive and sold my work to many international collectors.

Do you work on commission? I've only undertaken one commission and found it challenging trying to paint something that someone else had imagined. They owned one of my paintings already and wanted a companion work. I knew their style and colour palette and it pushed me out of my comfort zone, which was a good experience. ■■

SOURCE Johans Borman Fine Art Gallery johansborman.co.za
Rose Korber Art rosekorberart.com