

4 Artists from the

and their Stories

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*and Their Stories*

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MUSEUM of ART

## Introduction

Every artist goes through their own set of challenges to achieve success. It is more than evident in the case of the 4 artists interviewed for this catalog. Coming from various backgrounds, they have each successfully made their mark in the world of art. Although they all shared their stories to let people know about their art, I decided to focus on a key element that they all exhibited: their strength to overcome challenges as artists.

Sonia Bublaitis grew up with a love for art by watching her artist mother paint and create beautiful works. She tried to become a secretary because she was too afraid to share her art with the world, but her true passion for art refused to let her quit on her dreams. She diligently pursued her craft and today is recognized worldwide for her beautiful mixed media abstract art pieces. Bublaitis knows that although contemporary artists have an advantage over their predecessors for showing their work to a larger audience, they also have a lot of competition. But she encourages artists to keep working, sharing, and growing in their craft.

Ruth Davis brings a fresh and modern perspective on Impressionism with her beautiful botanical paintings. But this did not come easy. Growing up around her artist grandfather and expert gardener grandmother, Davis cultivated a love for nature and art. Tragedy struck when her grandparents passed away. But instead of letting the grief of their loss overwhelm her, she turned it around and dedicated her life and works as an artist to their memory. Today, she creates her beautiful nature inspired art which not only gives people joy but inspires them to overcome grief by building something positive out of their loss.

How many artists can relate to a lack of funds as a challenge? Linda Winter can definitely attest to that as being a major challenge for her. That and having room to create her art or being taken seriously as an artist because she is self-taught. Yet, Winter faced these challenges head on and still pursued her true passion for art. She could have tried, and did for a duration, being a psychologist and lived comfortably, but she pushed herself to become an artist despite the odds. Her hard work paid off and today she finds satisfaction in her life as a professional artist.

What do you do when you have an impressive background in the world of art, but you are overlooked by galleries because your art doesn't quite fit the mold? Well, if you are Deenagh Miller, you open up your own exhibition and watch yourself blossom! Miller's work is a blend of humanity and spiritualism. It is an exploration of the human psyche and above all the human heart. She has worked as a professional artist for many years, overcoming the challenges of being ignored by the art community and by remaining true to her artistic self.

From the works of self-taught artists to those who attended art school, abstract artists to those exploring the human psyche, this catalog explores the heart and mind of the artists. Each artist inspires others not only with their work but also with their example on how to face challenges. In the end, how the artists feel about themselves, life, and challenges is all reflected in their art.

Angelina Kaul

# Sonia Bublaitis

“Be happy. Spread happiness and try to be as good a person as you can be...surrounded with like-minded people.”



British abstract artist Sonia Bublaitis lives by her motto of spreading cheer throughout the world. She creates her art with rich and vibrant colors that immediately draw the attention of anyone fortunate enough to view her beautiful creations. Her charm and friendly nature, along with her fabulous art, has captured many hearts around the globe.

Born in William Shakespeare’s town of Stratford upon Avon, Bublaitis grew up in Warwick, UK. As a young child, she was influenced by her talented mother, a land and seascape artist. She would spend hours sitting by her mother watching the artist paint. This helped cement a passion for art in the young budding artist’s heart. She also had the opportunity to spend time at Warwick Castle which opened up the world of architecture and the beautiful state of nature to her, furthering her desire to learn more about the world of art.

Although ambitious to become a teacher or secretary when she grew up, Bublaitis continued working on her desire to pursue art. Her commitment paid off when she won the people’s choice award at an exhibition at the Leamington Studio Artists Gallery. Feeling encouraged after receiving the award and selling her first painting, Bublaitis decided to give art serious consideration as a profession.

Bublaitis’ process is quite simple, she paints from the heart. If inspiration strikes, anytime is a good time to paint. She loves experimenting with mixed media and aims to connect with her audience through her work. As a result, when she paints, she is in tune with her emotional and spiritual self. This enables Bublaitis to create unique and engaging art works which she hopes will bring people hope and joy.

Working from her home studio overlooking a beautiful and lush English garden, Bublaitis creates her art with passion, zest, and soul. Her work has been received favorably by a faithful following on her social media accounts. In 2012, she was chosen as 1 of twenty-one artists to watch on Twitter. She has exhibited her works at the prestigious Castle Gallery in Stratford upon Avon and galleries in Warwick and Leamington Spa.

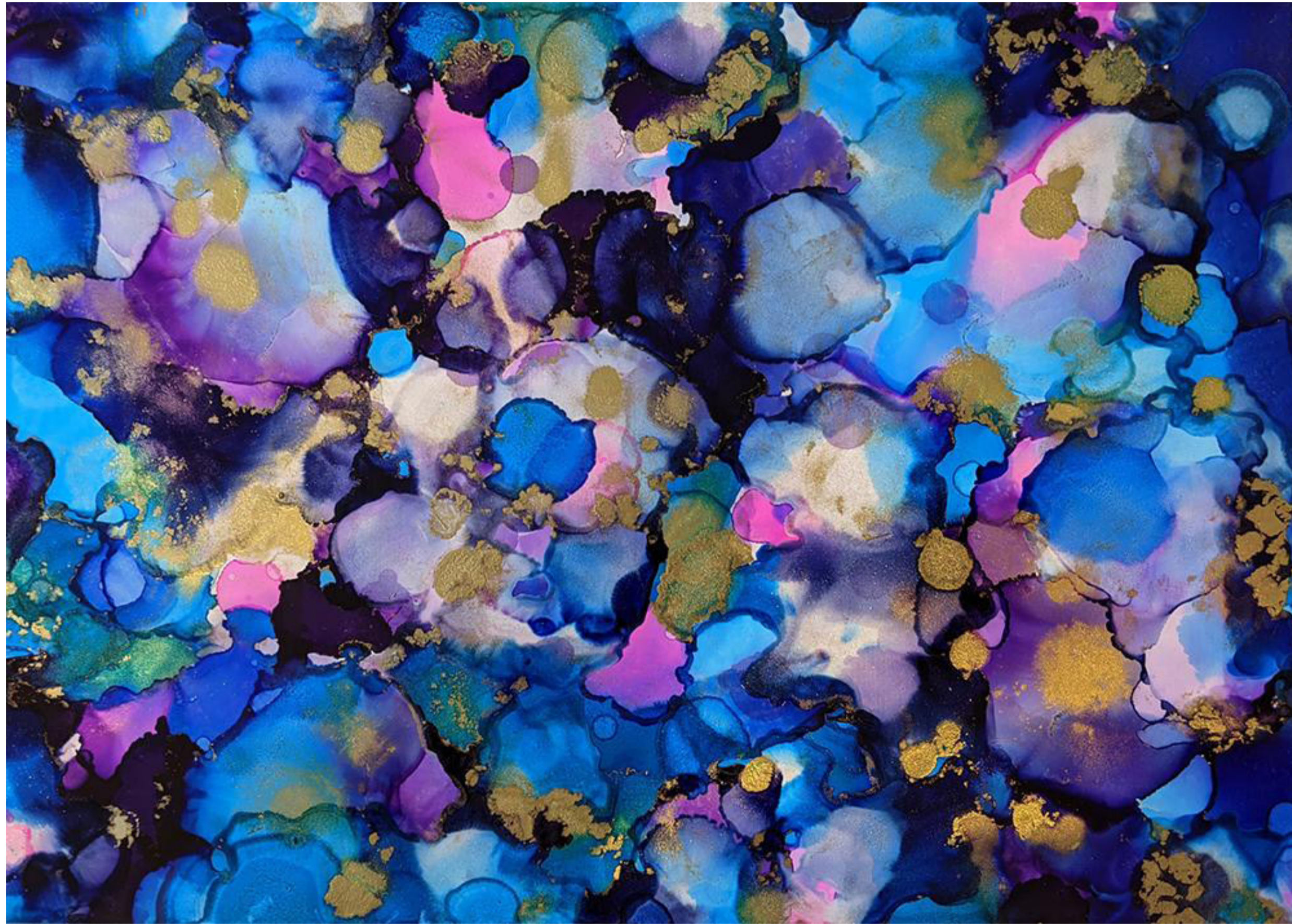
Bublaitis believes that the internet has allowed a vast range of contemporary artists to reach their audience. But with this there is a lot of competition too. She encourages artists to believe in themselves, reach for the stars, and enjoy the journey.



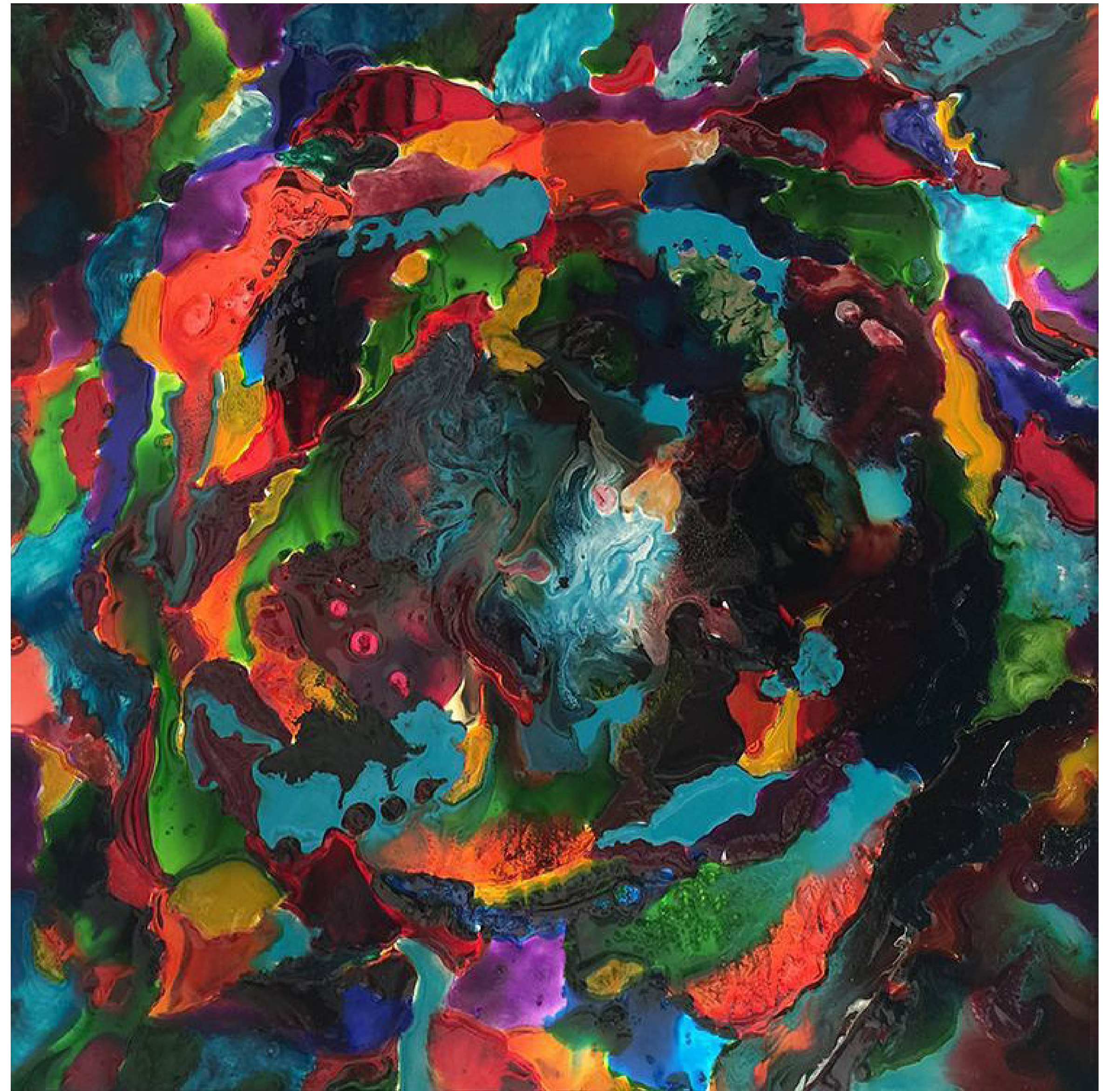
*Romantic Dreams* | 2021  
32x25cm | alcohol inks on nara paper



*The Alchemist* | 2017  
photograph



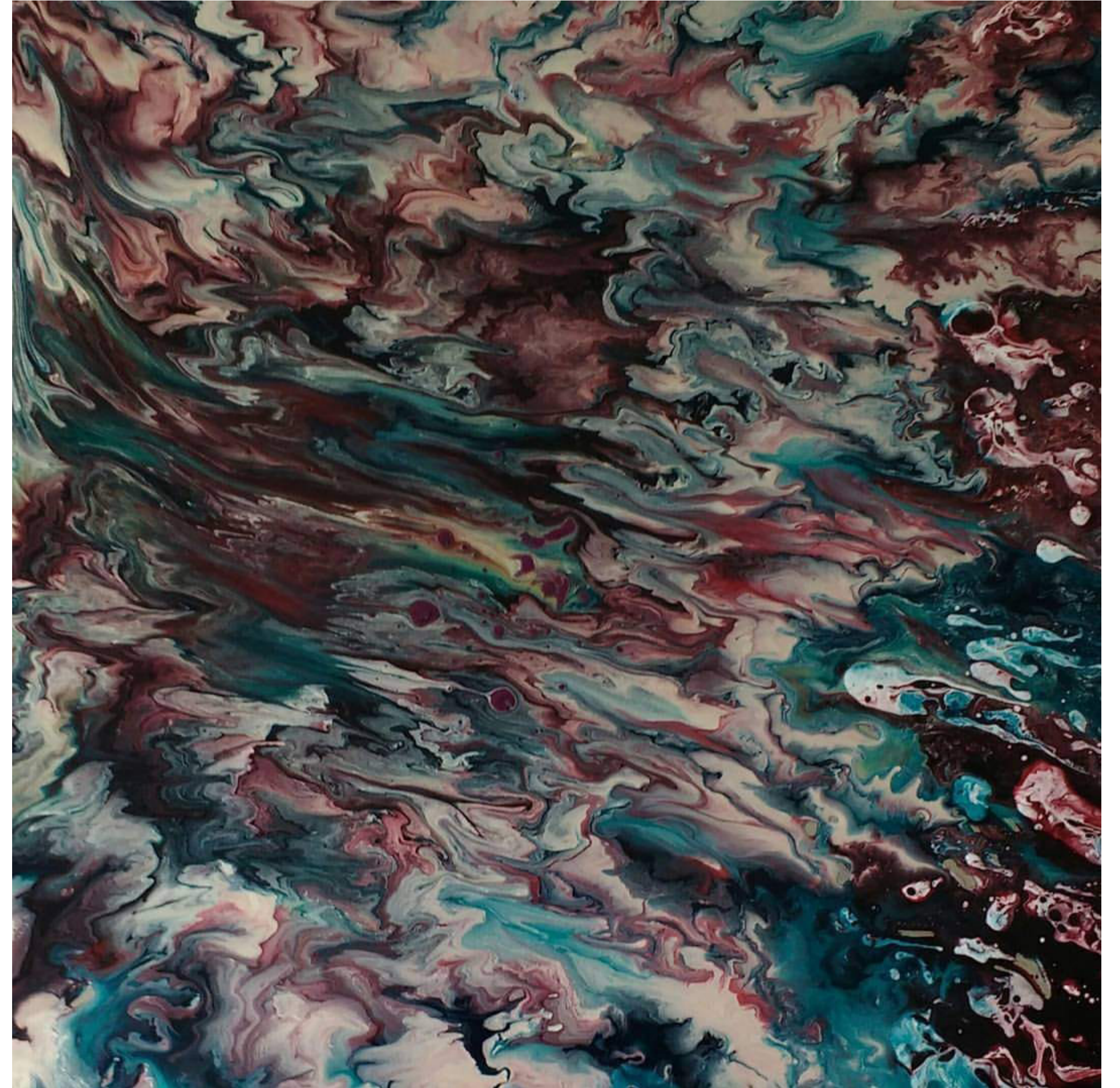
*Euphoria* | 2022  
32x25cm | alcohol inks on nara paper



*The Light Within* | 2019  
30x30cm | mixed media on mirror



*Blue Waves*  
30x30cm | mixed media on perspex



*Swept Away*  
30x30cm | mixed media on perspex



*Nebula* | 2020  
23x30cm | mixed-media on canvas

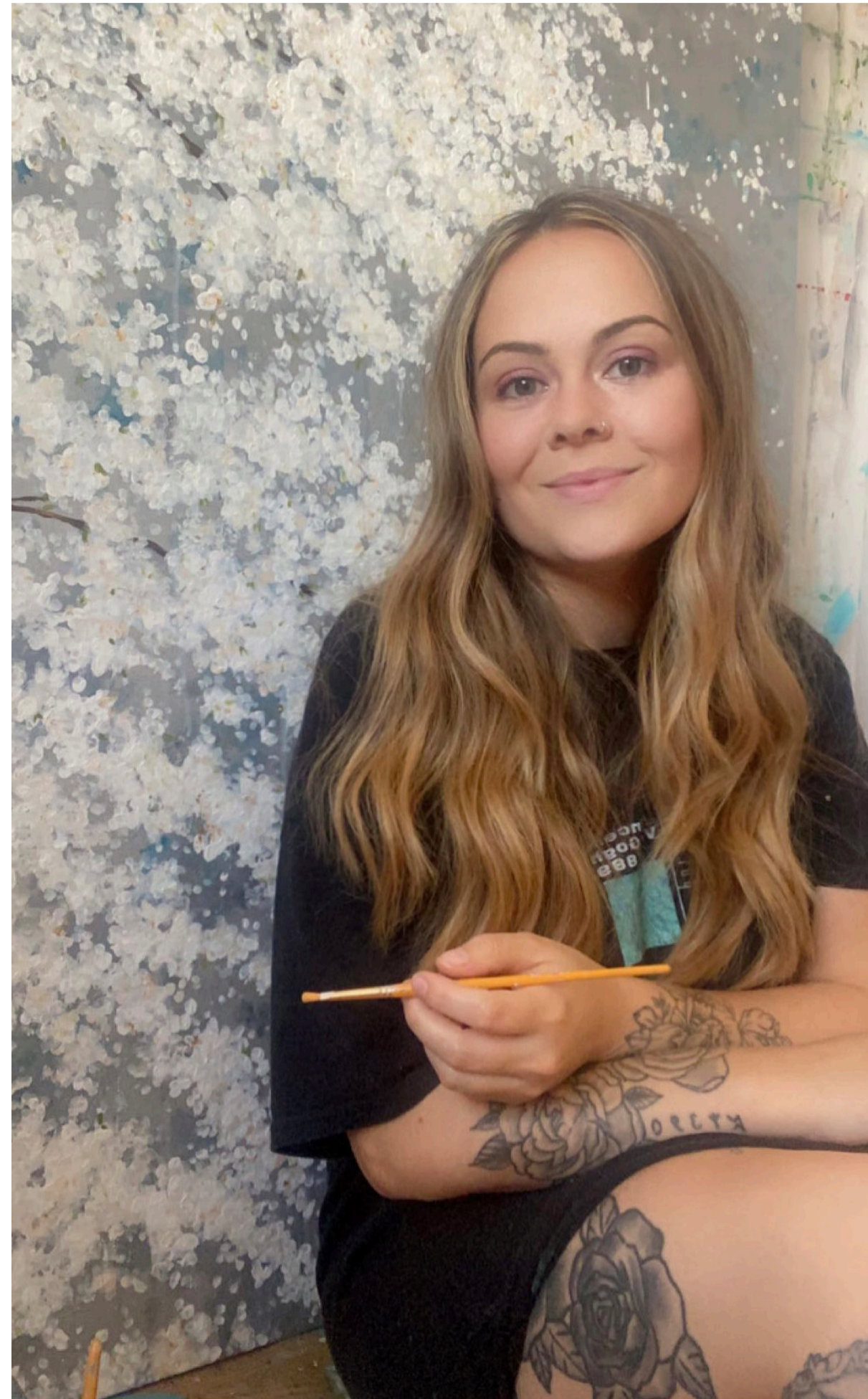


*Blaze of Colour* | 2017  
50x50cm | mixed media on perspex



## Ruth Davis

*“My art is how I show both the beauty and the unexpected madness of the nature in our every day.”*



Anyone who knows anything about the famous author Jane Austen would know a thing or two about Bath, Somerset, UK. It is surrounded by natural beauty, making it an ideal place to live and work in, especially for an artist. Self-taught abstract botanical artist Ruth Davis was born and raised in the very place, and nature is ever present in her art.

Influenced by her grandfather who was also an artist, Davis grew up nurturing her creative soul in her natural surroundings. She began painting and sharing her work with others. Soon, she had made a sale and she knew painting was something she would pursue as a career. As her confidence grew, Davis continued to practice with acrylics, her favorite medium. An avid admirer of Impressionism, the works of Monet were an absolute draw and influenced her work. After her grandparents died, Davis realized that art was more than just fun, it was a therapeutic outlet for her to get over grief and remember the happier days of her life.

Davis describes her art as something deep and personal to her. It is a memorial to her grandparents. She recalls her grandmother's beautiful rose garden as she paints the roses from memory onto her canvas. Sometimes she overpaints her canvases blending the old painting with a new layer, giving it a unique and aesthetically pleasing look. Far from trying to achieve a photographic perfection, Davis tries to concentrate on making art that speaks to her heart.

Today, Davis has sold paintings all over the world. Her art is available through her website and on Instagram. Her works have been showcased in the Gordon Craig, Gallery M&Art agent's international digital art magazine, and the Broadway Studio Gallery. Davis has also had her works published in the House and Garden magazine's April Art Edit and in all 12 of the Life magazine's May Art Edit. Having found success as an artist, she continues to encourage others to keep practicing their techniques, to be patient, and to stay focused on their craft.



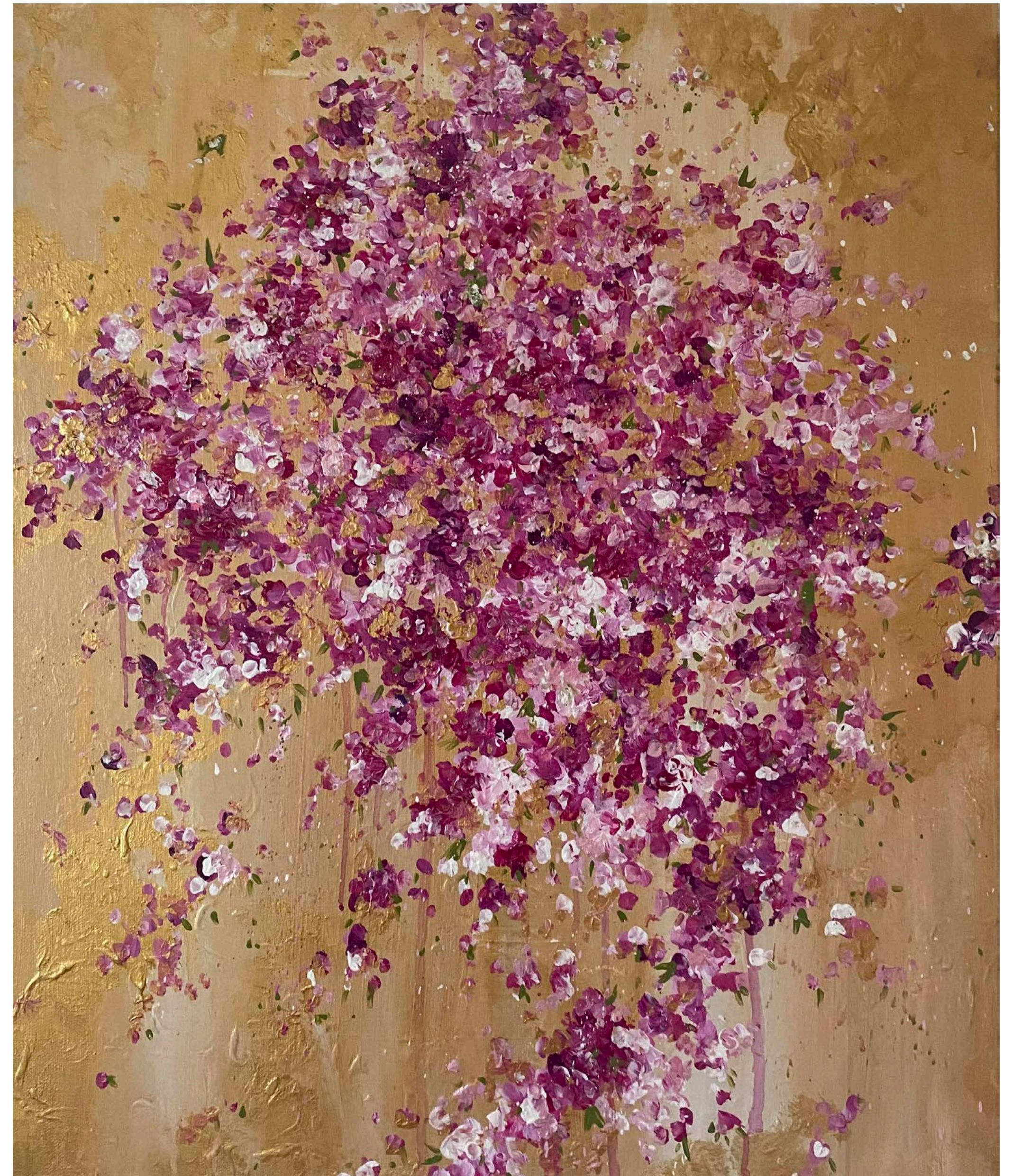
Only Roses | 2022  
61x61cm | acrylic on canvas with gold leaf



After the Lily Pond | 2022  
61x61cm | acrylic on canvas



*Winter Florals* | 2020  
50x70cm | acrylic on canvas



*Falling Blossom* | 2021  
50x70cm | acrylic on canvas



*Wildflowers* | 2021  
100x100cm | acrylic on canvas



*34 Rose Arch* | 2020  
100x100cm | acrylic on canvas



*Valentine Peonies* | 2020  
61x61cm | acrylic on canvas



*An English Spring* | 2021  
60x90cm | acrylic on canvas

# Deenagh Miller

*“You only truly learn from mistakes.”*



Artist Deenagh Miller’s art is awe inspiring for its subject matter, style, and technique. Viewing her works will take you through a journey from the great Renaissance to the period of Impressionism, and beyond. At the very least, it will definitely give you pause to think about the meaning of life.

Born in South End on Sea in the UK in 1952, Miller spent a few years in Israel with her family, later moving to London and then Cornwall. But her memories of Israel always remained with her as well as the natural wonders of the Cornwall region, both reflected in her art. By the time she was 6, she had already realized that she would grow up and become an artist.

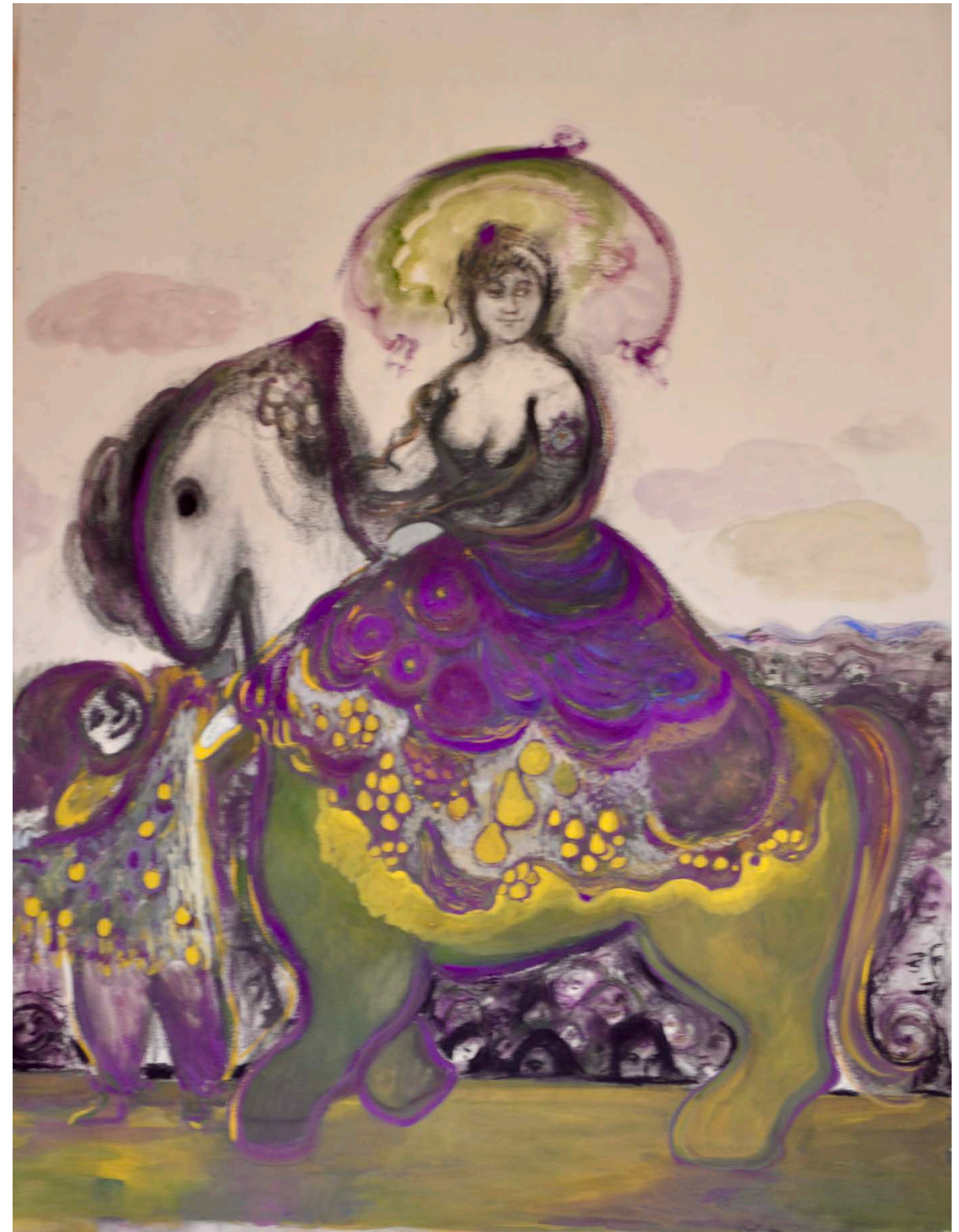
Miller attended the University of Bristol and gained her credentials there with an honors degree in History and History of Art. Later, she added shorthand, typing, and a Graphic Design & Illustration diploma to her credentials. Through it all she spent time teaching courses in art, art history, and working at an art gallery to supplement her income. As she continued to grow as a professional artist, Miller realized that art galleries were having a difficult time classifying her art, so, she began working independently from them and showcased her works through studio exhibitions, private exhibitions, church halls, bars, cafes, restaurants, art fairs, charity events, and auctions. She also designed greeting cards, brochures, and menus for local businesses. Her art was influenced greatly by the period of the Renaissance, Impressionism, and more. Artists such as Goya, Giotto, Piero della Francesca, Hieronymus Bosch, Manet, Monet, William Blake, Titian, and Veronese amongst others all found a way in her works.

When working on her art, Miller prefers to work in the morning but oftentimes finds herself working late into the night. She begins with an idea whether it is to paint people, places, fantasy, satire, or still life. She spends lots of time practicing and copying her drawings, often erasing off mistakes until she gets the results down to her satisfaction. She believes that you only truly learn from mistakes. Miller uses different mediums to work with including: watercolors, pen and ink, pencil, oil paints, charcoal, chalk pastels, and gouache. She doesn’t have a particular order of doing things, but works with wherever her imagination leads her at the moment. She loves oils and pastels, but is now enjoying using a dip pen with Indian ink.

Miller believes art is important to society because it reflects the society in which it is created. Her art shows this important thinking as it is always thoughtful, provocative, and beautiful. And her work clearly resonates with many people. Miller’s art can be found with private collectors, at various auctions, and fundraisers for charities. It is also available for sale on her website, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Although Miller feels the artworld is extremely competitive, she advises budding artist to have faith in themselves and others and to continue practicing their art.



Lunar Landscape | 2004  
80 x 36 cm | oil on canvas



The Rider | 1994  
100x120cm | charcoal, ink, gouache, watercolour, pastel on paper



Under Water Goddess | 2001  
80x70cm | pen, ink, pencil on paper

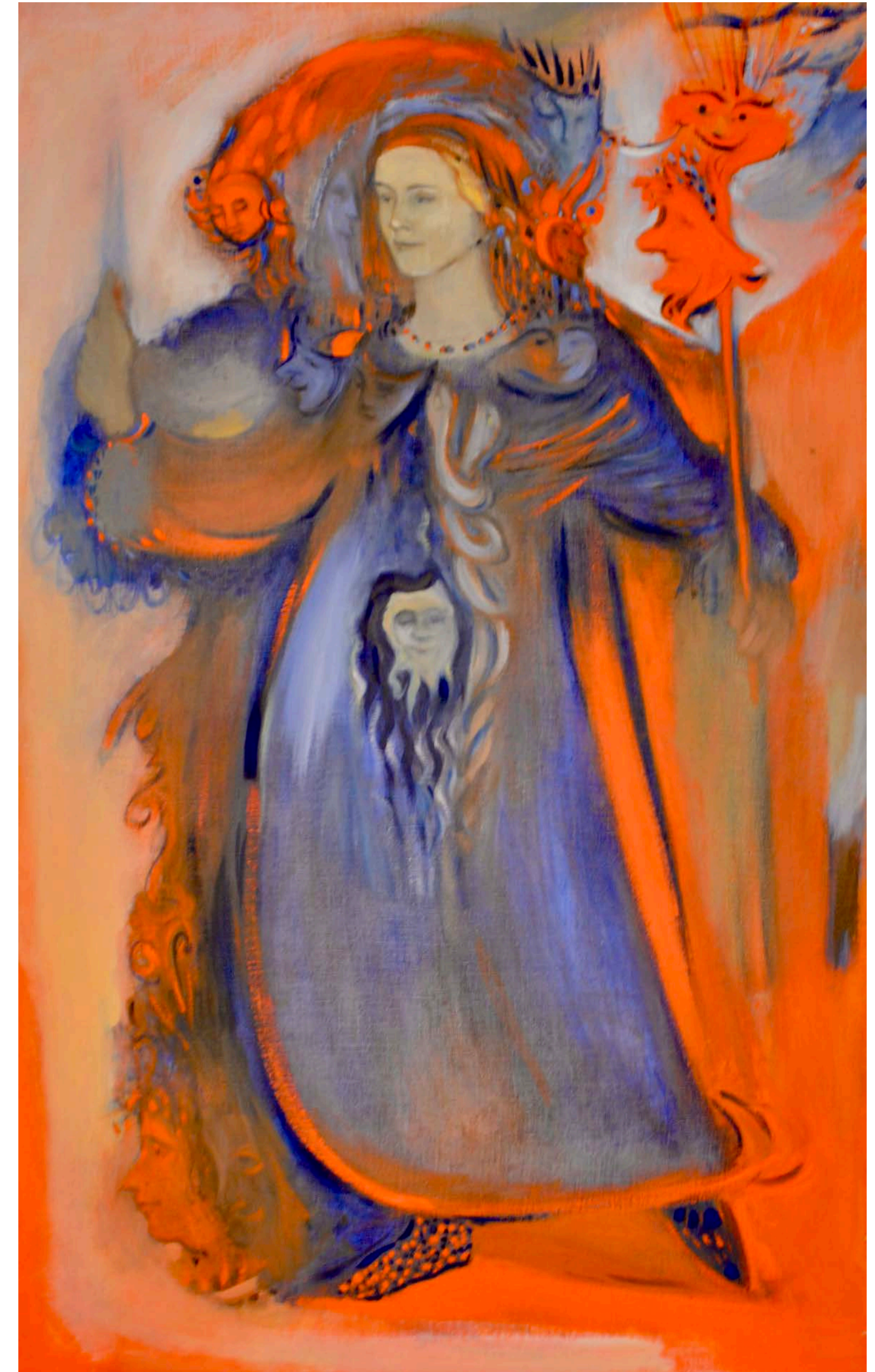


Landed on the Moon | 2015  
60x40cm | pen & ink on paper





*Burlesque Fantasy* | 2011  
114x85cm | oil on canvas



Bringer of light | 1998  
90x36 cm | oil on canvas



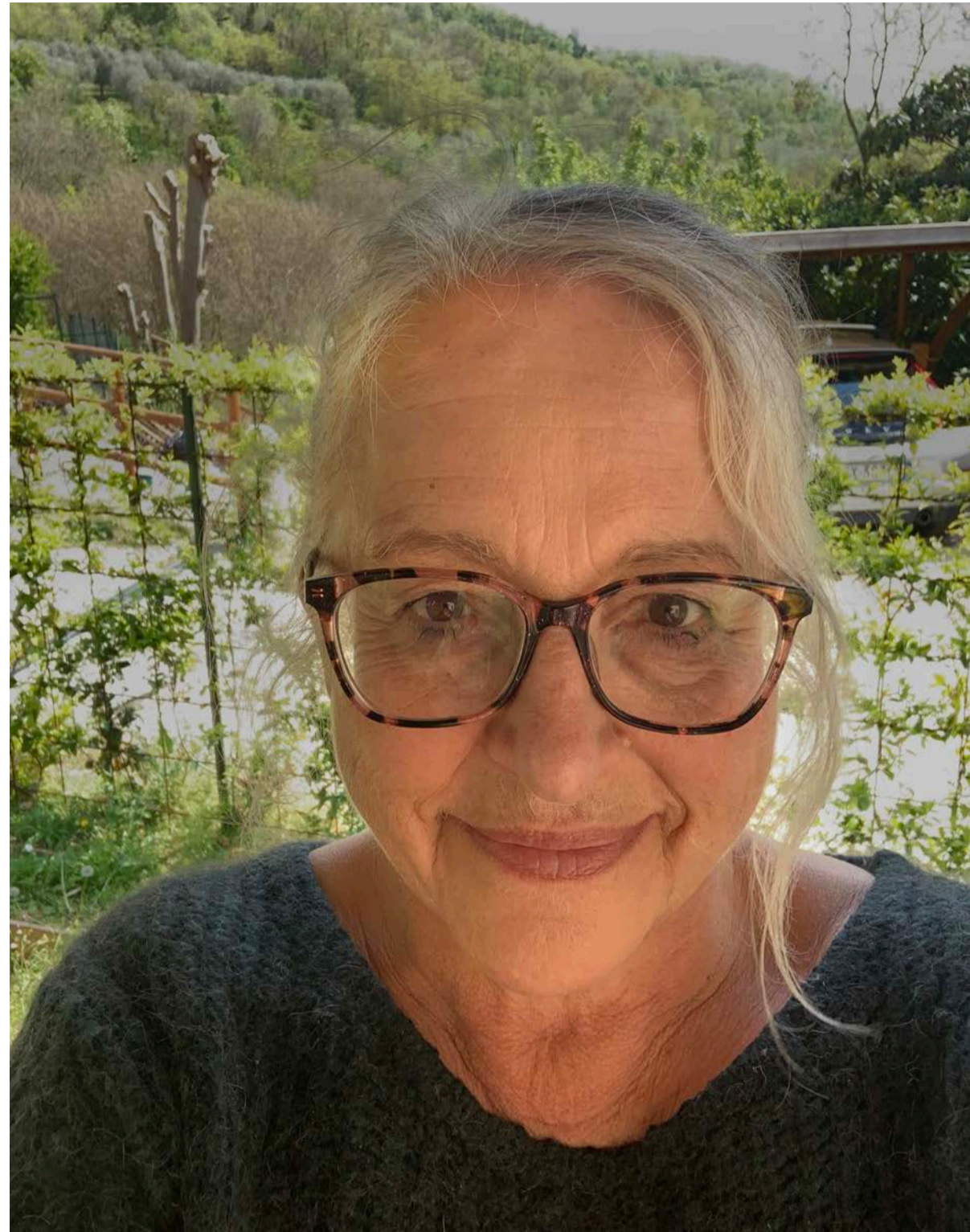
*Fairy Flotilla* | 2000  
60x50cm | oil on Belgian linen canvas



*Modern Madonna* | 2000  
82.6 cm | oil on Belgian linen canvas

# Linda Winter

*“We only have today, the rest is an illusion.”*



Self-taught artist Linda Winter makes pictures with love. Her beautiful paintings of the Italian countryside and its villas definitely show a love for her home. Inspired by the works of Chagal, Picasso, and Sisley, Winter creates works that tell a story of their own.

Born in Isleworth England on May 19 1958, Winter grew up in South west London until the age of 9. Following her father's death, she moved to Somerset with her mother and brothers. It was a difficult time for everyone and Winter, along with her brothers, found an escape in painting. When her brother Christopher began getting too much attention for his drawings, he indirectly influenced Winter to begin her own series of sketches. The sibling rivalry was intense but the love between the two was greater. Through Christopher's encouragement, Winter continued to blossom as an artist.

When she came of age, Winter decided she wanted to become an architect. She later abandoned the idea and chose to pursue a degree in psychology and became certified as a teacher. But none of these interests held her true passion which was always to paint.

Winter's process of creating art is quite simple. Each one of her paintings begin with an idea that goes from her mind to her heart. As she begins to feel connected to her subject, her love to paint it grows, and she begins her sketch. Winter loves to create in the mornings when the light is bright, and she is full of energy and excitement. She enjoys working with watercolors and oils because she finds that the two mediums nurture each other in her works.

Aside from being an artist, Winter is also a budding writer. She enjoys expressing her stories through her art to make her paintings more meaningful. Over the years, her work has developed from a naïve style to resemble works of impressionism. Creating her art is extremely important to Winter. It is the same as breathing, without which she wouldn't be alive.

Despite facing challenges such as minimal space, lack of funding, informal training, and being a woman artist, Winter has managed to carve out a rewarding career for herself. Her current exhibition makes her the first artist to paint a series of watercolor and oil paintings of the Villa Pisani Bolognesi Scalabrin, Vesovana in the Province of Padova in northern Italy. She continues to inspire other artists with her work and dedication to her craft. Her best advice to those seeking a career as an artist is to practice diligently and work as if your life depends on it.



Grand Canal, Venice | 2021  
61x46cm | watercolour, indian ink on arches paper



St Marco Quay, Venice | 2022  
61x46cm | watercolour, indian ink on arches paper



Fiume  
Bacchiglione  
HW.

Fiume Bacchiglione | 2021  
41x55cm | watercolour, indian ink on arches paper



Castle Gates  
Monseice JW.

Castle Gates Monseice | 2021  
40x60cm | watercolour, indian ink on arches paper



Fiume Brenta  
Bassano del Grappa  
J.W.

*Ponte Vecchio, Bassano del Grappa | 2021*  
61x46cm | watercolour, indian ink on arches paper



*Venetian Homes, Reflections | 2021*  
61x46cm | watercolour, indian ink on arches paper



*Villa dei Vescovi Luvigliano | 2021*  
61x46cm | watercolour, indian ink on arches paper



*Winter Sunset over Torreglia | 2022*  
61x46cm | watercolour, indian ink on arches paper

## Sonia Bublaitis

sonia-bublaitis.co.uk

A conversation with Sonia on ThoughtRow Podcast\*

## Ruth Davis

ruthdavisart.com

A conversation with Ruth on ThoughtRow Podcast\*

## Deenagh Miller

deenaghmiller.co.uk

A conversation with Deenagh on ThoughtRow Podcast\*

## Linda Winter

lindawinterartist.it

A conversation with Linda on ThoughtRow Podcast\*

## About the Sasse

The Sasse's accessibility is unlike anything I've seen at other Museums. There is an openness at the Sasse that is both inviting and welcoming to artists and viewers alike. Artists from all over the world have contributed to the museum's exhibitions, both in person and online, with the knowledge that their work will be seen expansively. And the wide variety of the museum's online catalogs/ebooks, all available without charge or membership fees, is impressive and continues to grow. The Sasse was an early leader in making its collections and its exhibitions available online, and it has only been gaining momentum in that effort.

From the visitor's perspective, one consistently senses that The Sasse is a place to learn. Some museums are so weighed down by their institutional self-images, that they create a barrier between themselves and the public they serve. By contrast, such regular and open events as the monthly Art Talks and panel discussions at The Sasse allow people, some of whom may be new to art, to ask questions, to inquire, without feeling self-conscious. And that is the best atmosphere for learning.

Finally, there is a creative charge in the air at The Sasse. That energy is often fueled by such innovative events as The Torso project, and, the See Me project, The art that resulted from such projects was astonishingly varied and intriguing. The Museum has also hosted collaborations between visual artists and artists of the written word. Ekphrastic poetry has been around for years (think, Keats' Ode on a Grecian Urn), but the Sasse's lively openness to such expressions is admirable. Consider, for example, that the panel discussions at many of the monthly Art Talks at The Sasse are led by a poet rather than a visual artist.

These collaborations always provide insights and enrichment to the artistic experience for all.

### Angelina Kaul

Academically trained in research and writing as an historian, I am also a self-taught artist, designer, author, biographer, blogger, public speaker, and entrepreneur. In recent years, I have forged together my love of writing about early American history and art to produce works that are most meaningful to me and hopefully encourage others to study America's past.

I have served as a featured speaker at various engagements on topics related to early American history. I have also authored several books on early America. My art represents portraits and events of people from early America. I am now working on my "The Many Faces of George Washington" series in art, producing a new line of stationery products, researching and writing about the early Republic, and working on a home decor business featuring rustic and bohemian styled products.

Historian, Artist, Writer, Blogger | [www.trehanstreasures.com](http://www.trehanstreasures.com)

**Kate Flannery**  
Attorney/Writer

\*On the Thought Row podcast, we celebrate what people love to do creatively by giving them a voice so you can learn from their creative experience in life. We share with you the conversations we have with talented people from all over the world. We speak to real creatives that come from all walks of life and are the real-life superstars pursuing their creative passions and dreams.

*Tune in wherever you listen to podcasts, to get your weekly dose of motivation, inspiration, & thought-provoking conversation.*



The Sasse Museum of Art is a gathering place to celebrate the inspiring and transformative power of arts and culture and to expand our understanding of ourselves and the world.

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