

ABSTRACT ARTIST ZOHAR WALLACH CAPTURES NATURE ON CANVAS

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There's no fighting destiny. Zohar Wallach would know. For years she insisted she wasn't an artist but rather just a person who liked to create. After all, Wallach comes from a long line of artists who never pursued their art professionally. Growing up in Israel, her family encouraged her creative outlet but urged her to find a career in a more conventional place.

"My grandfather used to joke that it's good to be artistic, but you need to be rational as well, so I always knew I would have to be practical with my life choices and study an occupation that could support me as well as feed my brain. Art simply wasn't an option," Zohar Wallach says.

Even as she sold her first piece at 15 years old, she didn't consider herself a professional or take it too seriously. She went to university, became a graphologist, a handwriting analysis expert who specialized in recruiting, and created art on the side. It was only once she and her husband, David, moved their three small children to Canada in 1998 that the artist inside her started banging insistently at the door.

As she explored their new surroundings, Wallach was spellbound. The colours and landscapes were dramatic and strong, and they compelled her to create.

"It blew my mind. I was absolutely enchanted by the richness of nature, and it opened something up in me," she says. "I never chose to be an artist, but art definitely won over."

Her early art was in a naive style, created with traditional oils, pastels and acrylic paint. Then almost a dozen years ago, Wallach developed a sensitivity to these materials and her doctor urged her to stop painting in order to heal. While she was frustrated, she couldn't continue with the painful rashes and unbearable sickness. She gave up her art for six months and recovered. But the artist inside wouldn't let her go.

"I really missed it. So, I thought, what can I do to improve it? How can I change? How can I create but use an organic-natural form that will be safe for me as well as for the environment? And then slowly I started developing a new method working with dry pigments and water-based paint, water, sand and house primer, and it's still my practice today," she says.

Her naive style gave way to an abstract expression of what Wallach saw around her in nature, and the new mixed media allowed her to create spectacular canvases. She starts with little more than a colour palette and lets the rest evolve, layer by layer. She combines her pigments and other materials and begins layering them onto the surface with her hands. The pigment colours are rich and beautiful, infusing depth in her paintings. Just before each layer of substance dries, she distresses it and peels deposits away only to reapply another layer and another pigment. For an average of two months, Wallach works with her pieces to uncover the natural elements that slowly form within the layers.

"I never know how it's going to turn out. As soon as the layers start to form, after several weeks, only then can I start seeing the structure unfolding. It tells me where to go and guides me," she says.



just like that Zohar Wallach became a renowned international professional artist, and she hasn't looked back.

The attention is well deserved. Each unique piece engages viewers, drawing them into the details and sense of movement within the nature-inspired canvases. Her work can be found in galleries and



Her original pieces have guided her to produce award-winning art, most recently ATIM's Top 60 Masters of Contemporary Art Award in 2018, presented at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, and the Award of Excellence from Artavita, Santa Barbara, in 2017, 2018 and 2019. While the accolades are gratifying, Wallach is more concerned with producing art than chasing recognition.

"I'm not a typical artist," she says. "I don't care so much about awards. I care about my work, and I work because I enjoy it. I always prefer my art to shine and become the centrepiece."

Her art shines so brightly that her first Instagram post showcasing her new abstract technique got the immediate attention of a New York art agent, and

museums in New York, Italy, Singapore, South Korea and Monaco and whether it's a pop-up exhibition in Calgary, the art expo in San Diego or a show in Florence, Wallach is excited to showcase her talent worldwide. Her artwork is also featured in corporate boardrooms and lobbies as well as proudly displayed in great rooms and dens of private collections.

Zohar Wallach's immersive artwork embodies an energy and richness, a reverence for nature and elemental forces, that mirrors the artist herself. Her spirit is infused in the pigments and paints on every original piece and she passes along her passion for art and nature with every painting she sells. Large or small works, commissioned or spontaneously created, Zohar Wallach's beautiful abstract pieces are increasingly becoming the pride of any collection.

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