



KATE OWEN

ARTIST STATEMENT

The walk to my studio is an important part of my daily practice, the space and freedom it provides helps me leave expectations behind and focus on painting only for self expression.

My work finds resolution most often in abstract florals, colourful forms and lines that assemble to suggest unruly bouquets. I recognise these as interpretations of elements I see around me, most often at home especially on my walks. Prickly pear growing up along the roadside, weeds and brambles entwined in the fence line, a little pop of colour from a wildflower, these things make up my vocabulary of paint.

I begin my process instinctively with little or no expectancy over the outcome. My first marks on the canvas performed in fast-drying acrylics, are vigorously expansive and free as I allow the paint to direct me down the route it desires to go.

The backdrop of the work is typically comprised of sweeping gestural marks and both the appearance and colour of such set up the works temper. As I paint I scribble on paper in both paint and pencil as a means to freely explore colour and form. Markings are then made on the canvas alternating between layers of transparent and solid paints in a process where one mark informs the next. I incorporate portions of my earlier scribbles into some pieces as collage, providing supplementary dimension and surface texture and to capture a certain rawness. Scribbling with oil sticks is a highlight of the process for me and provides an addictive exhilaration. Painting in this manner allows me to express my internal landscape and a visual culture that is vivid and joyful with the intent to enchant the viewer and inspire optimism.

BIOGRAPHY

I grew up on a property near Moree NSW but high tailed it to Sydney straight out of school to follow my passion to study and work in fashion. From there my career is a checkerboard of various jobs revolving around creating, From design to retail in both fashion and homewares to special occasion cakes and commercial baking. Along this path I moved to the North Star area and married my farmer hubby, Michael in 2000 and was blessed with two beautiful boys. I dabbled here and there with paint as the boys grew up but threw myself into it full time when they were both at boarding school in 2017.

I started out painting in the storage acco a few hours a day for about a year to develop a practice. After starting to sell work I created a dedicated purpose built-studio, a sanctuary of peace and positivity in which to create. This allowed me to dedicate more time to my practice.

During this time I sold work through Art Lovers Australia, Nutmeg Home in Goondiwindi and a few other retail gift stores and pop up shops. To journal my progress I started my instagram account in late 2017 concentrating on putting my best foot forward on my social accounts. This led to Greenhouse Interiors reaching out in 2019 to invite me to be part of their team of artists which was thrilling and a major advancement for my art career. I have been lucky to have the opportunity to exhibit solo a number of times with the support of wonderful agents and many collectors who find joy in my work.



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