

Interview with the Artist- Elizabeth Vercoe

Q. What is the most indispensable item in my studio?

A. My marking tools. Hairdryer, my iPod dock and mirror.

Q. What kind of creative routines or rituals do you have?

A. I go to my studio every day. Just being there in my space and preparing materials, getting ready, thinking.

Q. Is there an element of art you enjoy working with most? Why?

A. I love to paint freely and spontaneously, enjoying the elements of surprise. Wonderful things happen when I don't try. To achieve this I work quickly allowing the piece to speak through me. But you have to be brave. Thus said it doesn't always work, so I use these pieces as a jumping off point for a new piece scraping back into them. Although I do paint detailed work, I am never happy with these pieces. The moment and spirit get lost as does the element of play which is so important in my art practice. It's such a joyful thing painting in the moment.



Q. How do you overcome creative block?

A. If I'm stuck, I go back to drawing randomly. I keep journals just for this. It stops me from overthinking and before I know it I'm ready to paint. Sometimes I prepare materials like various papers I use. I listen to loud music and dance. Going in the garden for a good weed helps too.

Q. Does nature inspire your work? How?

A. Definitely! I'm an avid gardener and naturalist. I take daily walks to listen and observe. The lines that make composition interesting, shapes and colour. It's all there. The music in the forest, I try to use this in my painting.

Q. What artist(s) are you most influenced by?

A. There are so many wonderful artists which inspire me. Here are a few. Barbara Rae- her abstract work and use of collage is amazing. Joan Eardley Her use of colour and line, the busyness and relaxed approach to painting. Perhaps my favourite artist, her incredible sensitivity to her subject. Richard Diebenkorn- His thin glazes revealing the layers underneath and strong use of line and colour. Paul Klee and his exploration of mixed media. Miquel Barcelo his freedom!

Q. Do you have any favourite works that you would never part with? Why?

A. Yes some of my early work. They represent a moment in time for me and when I look at them it takes me back to that place. I can see the light sounds and smells, like a happy remembering tool.