



Capturing Beauty

text by Karolina Barnes, photography provided by Jessica Zoob

One design element that interior designers love using in their projects is art. It is the ultimate tool to express your personality with. It is the missing piece of the puzzle that pulls the whole interior together. But above all, art should be story-telling, inspiring, uplifting and joyful.

I interviewed one of my favourite British contemporary painters Jessica Zoob about her inspiration, style and colours behind her stunning work.



JOYFULNESS

1. WHEN DID YOU REALISE YOU HAVE PASSION FOR ART?

I have always had a passion for art and after studying at Central School of Art and Nottingham University I worked as a theatre designer for seven years at venues including the Bristol Old Vic, the Royal National Theatre and Greenwich Theatre. It had a huge influence on my work as a contemporary artist. I think I was very lucky to bypass the more confrontational training which fine art students appear to encounter and was simply trained to use my eyes with hours of life drawing. I loved the challenges involved with creating sets and costumes and found it hugely rewarding. However, now to be painting is completely liberating by contrast! The only person I need to please being myself, rather than a whole team as in the past and I have been painting for the last 16 years and will always completely love it!

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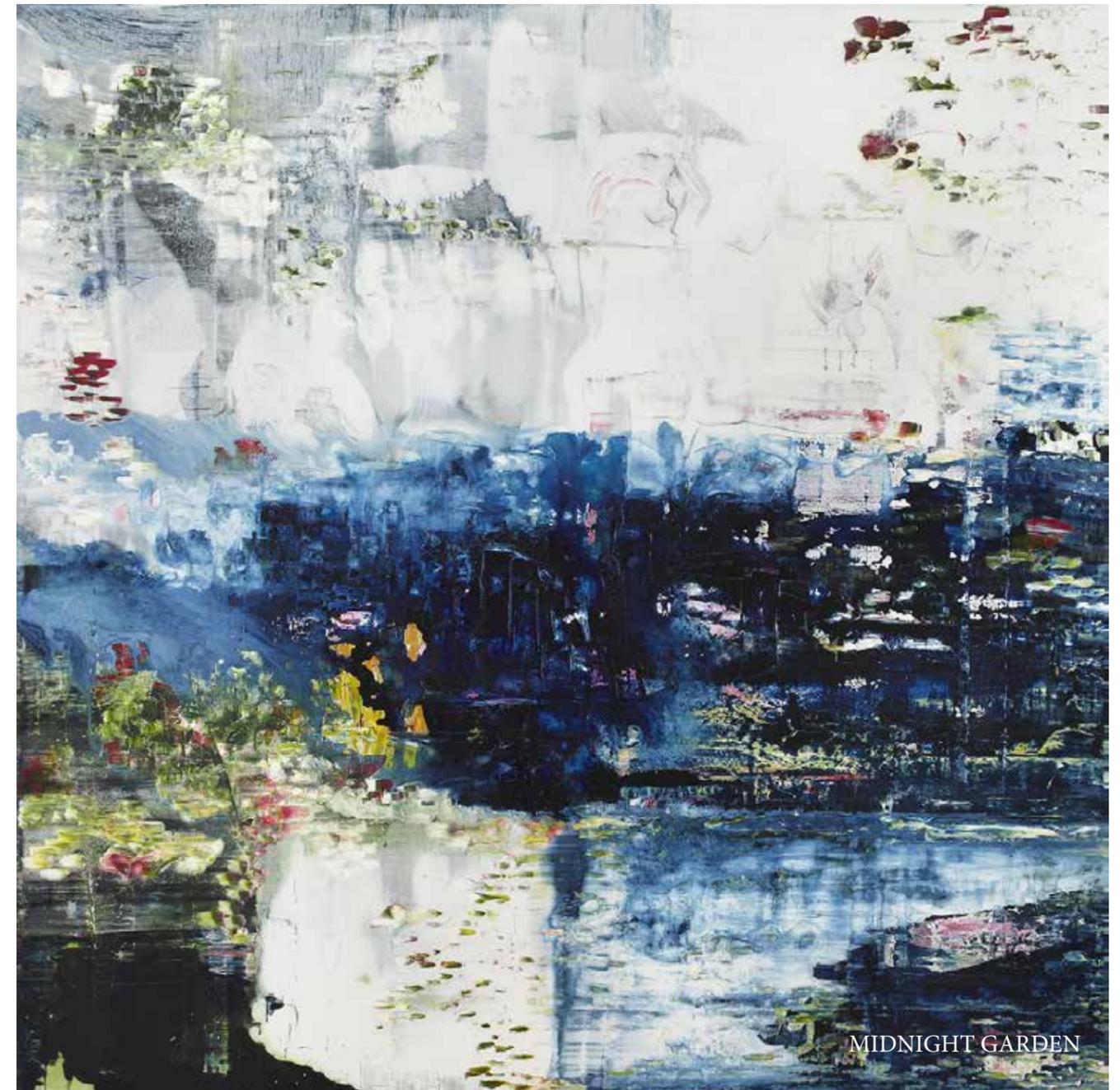
2. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN LIFE AND YOUR WORK?

I would describe my artistic style as contemporary impressionism or evocative landscapes, although it's hard to define in a few words. I do not usually intend the paintings to be figurative but they are often given meaning by the viewer's imagination.

I want people to feel rested when they look at my work – to wander through the paintings seeing something different each time they look at them and explore and find their own magic that is there. I suppose my aim in work and life is to try and lift peoples' spirits. I feel that our lives can be fraught and stressful so I am always trying to create beauty and make people smile!

3. HOW IMPORTANT IS COLOUR IN YOUR ART WORK?

Colour is hugely important in my work, it's what brings a piece to life. Most of my recent works in my Happiness and Playtime collections are full of wild, glorious colour. Using luscious, thick oil paints in all the colours of the rainbow has been joyous and so exciting. Our lives are a series of stories and colour can change the way they are told. With my recent colour palette I aim to take you on a journey and remind you of brighter days and faraway trips with an oasis of wild, luscious colour and vibrancy.



4. WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR INSPIRATION / HAVE YOU GOT MENTORS / OTHER ARTISTS YOU LOOK UP TO?

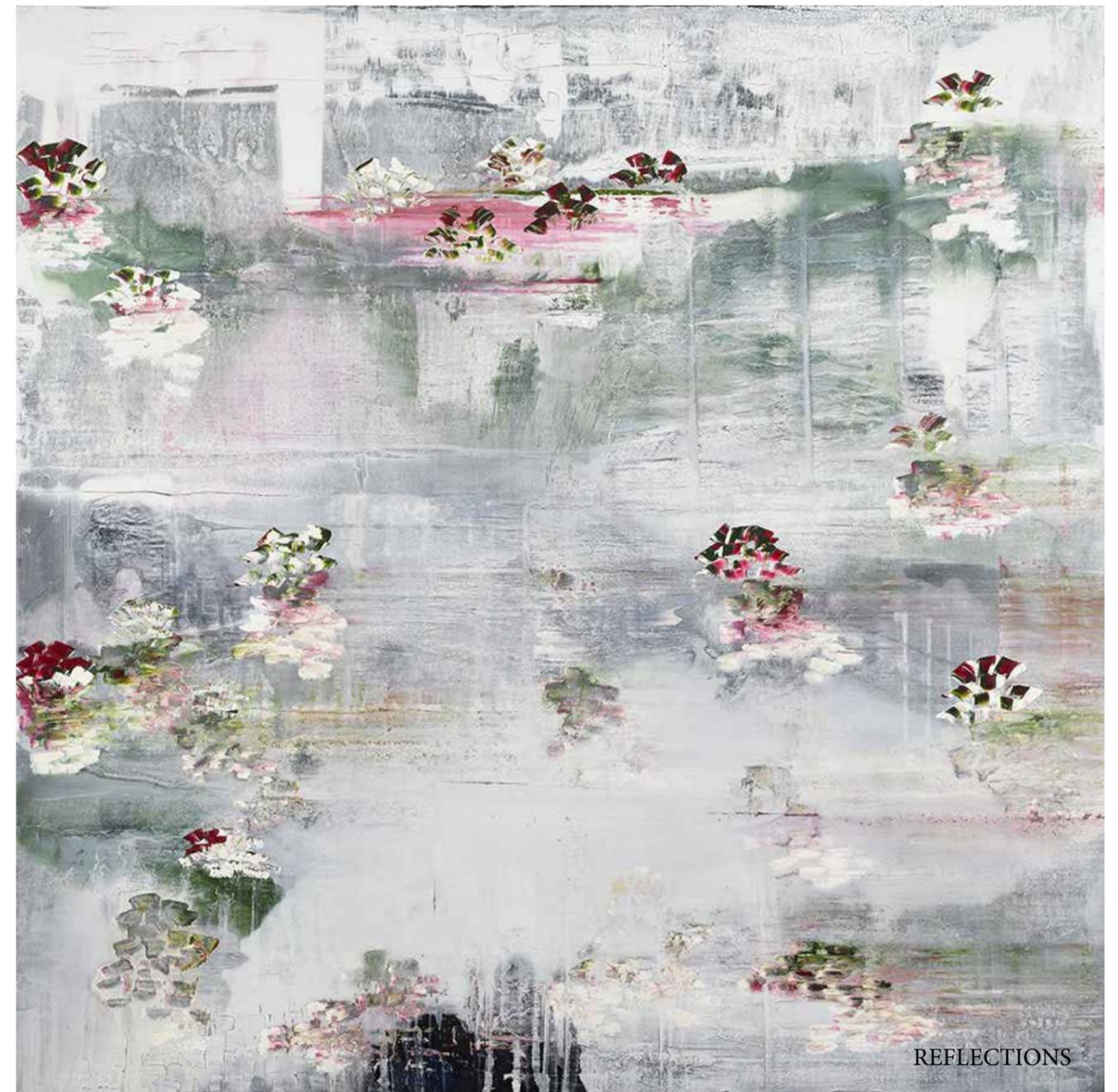
I am influenced and inspired by everything around me and everywhere I go, often in the most unexpected places; a crumbling old wall in an alleyway, peeling posters, an old fishing boat washed up on the shore, aeroplane smoke trails in the sky. I admire many artists particularly Paul Klee and Banksy but I have always tried to follow my own path, be guided by my own intuition and not to worry about outside influences.

5. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY/ TIPS ON/ TO START BEING CREATIVE WITH ART AND HOW CAN WE EXPRESS OURSELVES THROUGH PAINTING?

My advice is be true to yourself, keep your integrity and create what you love not what you think might be commercial.

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Below: Jessica collaborated with Romo Black Edition and translated her emotionally charged paintings onto fabrics, wallcoverings and cushions.



Jessica will be opening her studio during the weekend **3- 4 September 2016** you will be able to view and buy her oil paintings and see the space where her works are created.

Banff Farm
Upper Clayhill
East Sussex BN8 5RR
Free Entry, Easy Parking

Collectors are welcome to view by private appointment from August 29th.

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