

THE ARTIST

Anne-Marie Zanetti is a self-styled Australian artist whose photorealist paintings featuring rich luminous colours, dramatic use of sunlight and intricate details are held in galleries and private collections here and internationally.

Starting her art practice later in life – she was in her early 40s – Anne-Marie's work is inspired by delving into personal experience, namely the stunning range of human emotions.

The mid-career artist is most inspired when she is truly vulnerable and present to both the external and internal worlds. From the drama of a smashed watermelon to the intensity of her portraits, Anne-Marie's oil pieces embody intrigue and passion. They are eye catching, rhythmical, flowing, bold and strong.

Anne-Marie is devoted to a singular purpose. To illuminate the preciousness of objects and moments in time that may otherwise seem insignificant or ordinary...to invite viewers to enter a meditative place by feeling a sense of intimacy, wonder and awe...and to crack wide open the world's beauty for all to see.

The soulful quality of Anne-Marie's work stems primarily from a traumatic experience early on that was to profoundly change her life. At 17, she fell pregnant and, under hushed circumstances, flew to the other side of Australia to give birth and adopt out her daughter.

With hindsight and the benefit of many years of self exploration and therapy, Anne-Marie now considers her life to be incredibly blessed. She has a great relationship with her daughter and family, and is married to a loving man with whom she has two more wonderful children.

The process of dealing with her grief, loss and the multitude of other emotions, however, is for her never-ending and constantly shape-shifting, akin to 'walking the tight line'. One of the ways in which Anne-Marie reclaims those essential parts of herself is through her art practice.

Each painting is a sensitive expression of another layer peeled back, another truth exposed, another light shone on a situation no matter how unbearable. The unfathomable depth of relinquishing her first daughter, and that of motherhood in general (including the ineffable joys), now informs her canvas. There, it is therapeutically transformed.

As far as she can remember, the Brisbane-based resident has always enjoyed using her hands. Actually, it was a compulsion. From drawing and painting to cross-stitching and sewing, and even building with timber or clay, Anne-Marie's most cherished childhood memories were when she was free to create.

But life happened. She fell into an eclectic array of day jobs for the better part of two decades while continuing to be creative as a hobby. An opportunity to focus fully on art came in 2003 when her youngest child began school and Anne-Marie's husband encouraged her to follow her heart. So she returned to one of her early loves – painting.

In the early days, she donated most of her paintings to local fundraisers, entered competitions and accepted commissions. Today, Anne-Marie is represented in galleries in Brisbane, New York and Miami. She has won numerous awards and her paintings have been collected internationally. While she has participated in many group exhibitions, Anne-Marie will hold her first solo exhibition 'Fructuous' at Brisbane's Lethbridge Gallery this August.