

JESSICA WATSON-THORP

Fine Artist

Country of Origin

Australia

Artist Description

Jessica Watson-Thorp uses acrylic paint and ink combined with her passion for creativity to capture her personal experiences into memorable artworks. She is inspired equally by the physical landscape around her and her own memory and consciousness. Watson-Thorp invites her viewers to be part of the creative process by rendering her works as semi-abstract and leaving space for the imagination to grow.

Her work is evocative and ranges from colourful acrylics, which tackle themes of womanhood, regeneration and birth, often inspired by her own experiences as a mother, to more delicate ink on paper. These pieces access a spiritual dimension and are inspired by the natural and man-made environment around her. Watson-Thorp puts emphasis on tactile and textured brushstrokes to convey the rhythms of life and attempts to transport her audiences to a place within their own experience.

For Watson-Thorp, painting and making art is a burning desire, a passion and something she says she was “put on this earth to do”. She also believes that art can unite others and encourage empathy. “If we can fill the world with art, with creativity, beauty and thought-provoking content, all the time encouraging lateral thought, then the world will be a brighter place.”

Phone +971 55 446 8017

Email: jessica@jessicawatsonthorp.com

www.jessicawatsonthorp.com

The logo consists of the letters 'JWT' in a stylized, hand-drawn red font. The letters are interconnected, with the 'J' and 'W' sharing a vertical stroke on the left, and the 'T' having a horizontal top bar that connects to the 'W'.

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ARTIST STATEMENT

I am primarily a painter and work with bold brush and knife strokes, cutting and stamping into layers of wet paint before it sets to create semi-abstract works. On top of this I overlay more colour, and play around with levels of translucency and opacity. I have a love affair with paint and find the way it moves and feels enticing. When I am exhausted by the physical demands of painting, I turn to the more delicate medium of ink. Here I observe calmer moments and conceive subtle mono prints on fine, hand-made paper.

I am passionate about capturing personal experiences and the dramatic physical environment of the Middle East. I find the shapes, colours, seascapes and architecture of

the region to be deeply beautiful and compelling.

I've always felt a need and a drive to create. I spent some of my youth in Africa, and found the raw vibrant colours and rhythms of life utterly awe-inspiring. I am also inspired

by Matisse and am fascinated by his flair for colour. I am an artist, I am a woman, and I'm inspired by life.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Born in a small farming town in southern Australia, Jessica Watson-Thorp spent her childhood surrounded by a monochromatic palette of a wide blue sky to the horizon and pale yellow fields of grain. Her grandmother, who was an artist, taught her how to observe the world around her as well as how to work with oil paint and watercolours from the age of five. She received her education in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and moved to the Middle East in 2003 where she settled in Bahrain. She describes the Gulf region as deeply compelling and beautiful. After a brief stint in Abu Dhabi, she moved to Dubai in 2012 where she continues to be inspired by her surroundings and has taken part in several group and solo exhibitions.

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COLLECTIONS

Butterflies

This evocative series began with a vision. Whilst using hypnotherapy to prepare for the birth of her second child, Watson-Thorp saw a beautiful butterfly, which she was inspired to paint as a symbol of life. These butterflies, painted in bold colours and with heavy brush and knife strokes have a strong presence and intensity, borne from the artist's intensely personal experience of giving birth and the cycle of life.

Love Letters

The repetition of the heart symbol throughout the Love Letters series speaks of passion, connection, universal heartache and the longing that comes with separation from kindred souls. In these acrylic-on-canvas pieces, Watson-Thorp uses lines that speak to her from decades of long-lost family correspondence and her own personal collection of letters. From the burning embers of these archives this fiery series was born.

Brushstrokes are interrupted with splashes and drips of paint and colourful bursts are surrounded by fragmented sentences. Her palette for this series is exclusively blood red, ultramarine blue, deep indigo and white referencing old airmail envelopes in what she says is a "tribute to the written word". These strong colours evoke the power of feeling that the paintings create.

Dragonflies

These ink mono-prints are rendered on handmade paper infused with algae, banana leaf, flowers, tea or bagasse – a substance that comes from sugar cane. The delicate nature of the paper and materials are symbolic of the fragility of these winged creatures and portray the ethereal essence of this series.

Watson-Thorp is interested in themes of spiritual transformation, the power of the body to regenerate and our potential for growth and change at any stage of life. The animal kingdom can provide us clues as to the process of transformation and the dragonfly with its wide and majestic wings, provides an ongoing symbol of this in Watson-Thorp's practice.