

- JANET KNIGHT -

I am a professionally trained artist and graduate from Ballarat University. I have been painting professionally for over 25 years and teaching in my Melbourne based studio for over 18 years.

I have found that freedom of artistic expression carries with it tremendous responsibilities. Quite often it also exposes highly personal and deep touch points of emotions. I feel it, even though I am highly analytical and critical of my work. If I have done my work proud, my students feel it, my audience on social media feel it. Exhibition visitors feel it and lastly viewers of my episodes broadcast on Australia Televisions Colour in Your Life, now broadcast internationally, they feel it as well. It is that knowledge that leaves me honored and very, very humbled and drives me to inspire others.

During this time I have become known as “the quintessential painter of the Australian landscape”. Awards for my work consistently place at the highest level of distinction. For me they are a labour of love, and often when I am out in the field, painting en plein, or taking photographic references to be painted back in my studio, I am simply awestruck, disbelieving the beauty unfolded before me and the opportunities to put my signature touch of mystical realism to these wonderful secrets hidden in our natural landscape. One art society group member referred to my small painting of Erskine Falls in the Otway Ranges as “the perfect encapsulation of a treasured gift from nature”. It brought me to tears as I knew I had portrayed my love of Australia’s unbridled beauty and done so with deep respect for its history.

My multiple appearances on *Colour in Your Life* have brought me wide acclaim. After my first episode focusing on landscapes I was dubbed “an Ambassador for Australia through her artworks”. To me the backlands of our country are my home. This is where I connect. This is where people see my heart and it is my heart which guides my brush. This *IS* my Australia!

In a subsequent appearance on *Colour in Your Life* brought on many new viewers to the show and many new followers in social media. Focusing on tasteful sensual Figurative works, this series allowed me to expand artistic expression to entirely new level, earning international acclaim for their representational approach, exquisite attention to details and finely tuned execution and finish. Often painted using a limited palette, some sense a distinctive art deco quality to the work, though personally I have an affinity for the use of bright crimson on a sash or in detailing of lacy fabrics. Viewers often find fancy with the folds in fabric. These are truly distinctive works and have proven highly favored amongst collectors.

The Ballerina’s were first introduced to me through a fellow artist in the US. Through him and his expert knowledge I began to understand the sheer beauty and athleticism within these waif like performers. They are very unique, strong figured personalities to paint. Though they may look quite fragile they are full of expression and tough as nails. My ability to capture these athletic performers in movement, pivotal moments, emphasizing their finely sculpted frame while capturing their beauty has earned me critical acclaim within the professional Ballet community here and abroad. They have become a favorite subject to paint in my studio, a highly collected series, and one which I hope to one day help fund this amazing expression of performance art in Melbourne.

Please enjoy your visit through my collection ~ Janet

Art is Life - Life is Love..