

“Abstract Artist, Kathryn MacNaughton Encourages Curiosity”
Felicity Carter / Jul 28, 2019



Artwork by Kathryn Macnaughton: KATHRYN MACNAUGHTON

Kathryn MacNaughton is all about encouraging curiosity with her abstract work. And she's inspired by a range of mediums from collage to cutouts, vintage palettes to digital illustration which is evident in her large-scale pieces.

Full of texture and movement this Canadian artist wants the viewer to get up close and have a look, or observe from afar to take in the whole scene. Look, see and absorb. She'll take you on a journey of interpretation, and the last stop is positivity.

A graduate of OCAD, Macnaughton has exhibited in both Canada and further afield since 2010. Recent collaborations include Kit and Ace, Collective Arts Brewery, and The Gardiner Museum as well as a show at the Joshua Liner Gallery, New York.

Felicity Carter: What is your first memory of art?

Kathryn MacNaughton: A painted wooden sculpture I made out of scraps of wood. I think I was 6? It was very Betty Woodman-esque.

FC: Tell us about your background and how you became an artist...

KM: Born and raised in Toronto, Canada. Art was the only thing I was good at when I was a kid. I went to the Ontario College of Art and Design. I majored in illustration, thinking that becoming a commercial artist was a more realistic career path rather than becoming a painter. I always painted on the side and started having my own shows at artist-run galleries. That led to getting representation and I completely quit freelancing to focus on the painting.



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FC: Who had had the biggest impact on your career?

KM: My father. He's a designer and has a passion for art. He really pushed and challenged me on my work.

FC: How would you sum up your aesthetic?

KM: Abstract expression. Very bold graphic shapes combined with loose expressive brush strokes and washes.

FC: What do you look to communicate through your work?

KM: To encourage curiosity. There's a lot happening in the work and it should be observed from afar as well as dissected up close. I also think my work is quite positive. I'm glad it makes people feel good.

FC: Has your style evolved?

KM: Yes. I'm constantly experimenting and testing new materials. There is a great deal of evolution in my work.

FC: What's coming up for the rest of the year?

KM: At the moment I'm in Portugal doing a residency at Pada Studios. I'm here until November working on a new project. I'm also in a group show at Magma gallery in Italy in September.