

## **ANNA MAC / FRANCOIS BONNEL**

### **Your first memory of painting?**

When I was a young child, I entered a competition to paint what your house looked like.

### **How did you decide to become a painter?**

It took me until 2016, I really didn't have much confidence to go for it until then. I always thought I could never be an artist as it was too unstable. As you get older the more you realise you must just go for what you love to do. Or you will spend a lot of time stuck doing what you definitely don't want to do.

### **Did an artist particularly inspire you?**

Henri Matisse, 'Cut outs' exhibition at the Tate Modern, London in 2014.

### **Do you need to understand to love a painting?**

Absolutely not. Perhaps why I love non-representational and abstract art so much.

### **Is there a work for which you said to yourself "This is exactly what I wanted to do"?**

I think any work where I feel those stirrings of emotion that we can't even put into words. I want people to feel like that when they look at my work.

### **The famous work that you don't like?**

Any of Damien Hirst's animal works.

### **What is essential for your creation?**

Solitude.

### **What is your relationship to recognition?**

I paint for myself but it's obviously a bonus to get recognition and realistically we need recognition to make a living from art.

### **If tomorrow you could no longer paint, what would you do?**

Cry, a lot. I have no idea what else I can do and would love as much as I do painting.

### **Your artistic dream?**

To be able to continue painting and make a living from it. I am so aware that circumstances can change very easily, I worry sometimes that this may all end.