

- Your first memory of painting?

My sister and I painting on windows with our hands, in our childhood home in Germany.

- How did you decide to become a painter?

I was studying film and literature at university when I discovered my love for making collages. This eventually led to painting, and making art for a living.

- Did an artist particularly inspire you?

Willem de Kooning, Helen Frankenthaler, Matisse (especially his cutouts), Tal R, and many more (mostly from the the mid-twentieth century).

- Do you need to understand to love a painting?

No. Often not understanding a painting, and having your own interpretation or relationship with it, is best. Other times understanding the context can be valuable.

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

Henri Matisse's "Memory of Oceania"

- The famous work that you don't like...

"The Persistence of Memory" by Salvador Dalí. It makes me uneasy, and I'm not a huge fan Dalí in general. Funny that both one of my favorite and least favorite paintings deal with memory.

- What is essential for your creation?

I need to feel inspired while creating. When I feel like I *have* to make art rather than *wanting* to, the result is often disappointing. This happened in the past when people commissioned artworks that didn't suit my style or mood. Now choose my projects more wisely.

- What is your relationship to recognition?

I like having a recognisable style. It's nice when people who know my art recognise it somewhere and send me photos. It feels like I've created a visual language/universe of sorts, and when people recognise and appreciate that, it's rewarding. As for me being recognised as a person, I'd rather let my art speak for itself, which is why I rarely post pictures of myself.

- If tomorrow you could no longer be a painter, what would you do?

I had an office job as a writer before I became a full-time artist, so I'd probably go back to that. I enjoy writing and wanted to become a screenwriter before the art thing took off. Skateboarding and music are two other creative outlets of mine.

- Your artistic dream...

I'd be lying if I said I wouldn't want my work hanging in museums one day.