

Your first memory of painting...

I must have been 7 or 8 years old and carefully copied Batman and Superman pictures from a comic using poster paints.

How did you decide to become a painter...

I don't think there was ever a point when I decided to be a painter. I have always had a drawing or painting project and it gradually gets to a point when that is what you do more than anything else.

Did an artist particularly inspire you?

Oh yes. As a teenager I was inspired by the Impressionists. Monet, Renoir, Corot, Cézanne, Van Gogh and all the great artists.

Do you need to understand to love a painting?

I don't think anyone can truly understand a painting except the artist. If I paint a blue circle everyone can understand it's a blue circle – but no-one except me can really understand why I painted it and exactly what was going on to shape and influence that circle.

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

Yes. I think some of the great works by Matisse fall into that category. But of course the style evolves into other directions over time.

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

I would never want to disparage another artist, but I was never crazy about Tracy Emin's bed!

What is essential for your creation?

Space, order and the radio! Generally news or sport.

What is your relationship to recognition?

Every artist craves recognition and I am no different. Social media is important, but I love to see people enjoying my physical art rather than viewing it on a tiny screen.

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

I would be a teacher – or try to do something with music.

Your artistic dream...

My dream would be for just one of paintings to become a recognised great, perhaps many years in the future - like a Miro or a Rothko. Sadly, I don't think this will happen but the thought inspires me – and knowing that my canvases will still be around long after I am gone.