

Interview Alayne Spafford

Your first memory of painting:

My first real memory of anything artistic was when I was quite young and colouring a "doodle art". I remember being absolutely amazed at the combination of a certain color of pink and green. I was so excited I showed everyone in the house my discovery.

How did you decide to become a painter:

I had always been creative and artistic my whole life so I did a BFA in printmaking and drawing, though oddly I never painted during my degree. After that I studied textiles and did costumes for Cirque du Soleil for a number of years. I started painting because at Cirque we used paintbrushes to create a lot of the effects on the costumes and I decided to translate some of that on to canvas.

Did an artist particularly inspire you:

There are many artists I am and have been inspired by. I love Joan Snyder, Squeak Carnwath, Robert Rauschenberg, Cy Twombly among others

Do you need to understand to love a painting:

I would say no, absolutely not.

Is there a work for which you said to yourself this is exactly what I want to do:

No, I don't really think about art that way. For me it was just what I always knew I was best at and what I always wanted to do

The famous work that you don't like:

Can't say I'm the biggest fan of the Jackson Pollock splatter paintings.....

What is essential for your creation:

Music, coffee and time alone

What is your relationship to recognition:

I want to be able to step back at the end of my career and be proud of the work I have done and the choices I have made in taking each step. Recognition is great but it's not why I do what I do.

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

I'd find another creative outlet for sure. interior design, textiles, landscape design, amateur archeology, jewellery making..... I have a lot of interests

Your artistic dream:

Honestly I'm pretty happy where I'm at right now. Things are good :)