



**JANNA
WATSON**
**INSIDE:
I BURST
TO FLAMES**
APRIL 11 - MAY 5 2013

COUTUREGALLERI
CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE



OCEAN REFLECTS LIFE, 2013, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 152.5 X 122 CM

INSIDE: I BURST TO FLAMES

A YOUNG PAINTER ON FIRE is one way to describe Janna Watson. She graduated from Ontario's College of Art and Design in Toronto only five years ago, yet her solo exhibition at Couture Galleri is already her tenth, in addition to the numerous group exhibitions in which she has taken part. Her paintings scream color as they celebrate life in all its complicated and raw emotions. From explosions of overwhelming joy to the flickering cinders of our darker emotional tendencies, she paints life from the inside out.

Inspired by the rawness of Cy Twombly and the spirituality of Kandinsky and Rothko, Watson's abstract pictorial language is influenced by these great painters, but is clearly still her own. As thoughtful and lyrical as her painting titles suggest, she describes her work as the external objects created from deep ruminations into her own inner light. The colors we find in her paintings are the result of the alchemy which happens between artist and creation, "inner light" and "the darkness of paint." As Watson works she transmutes paint and pigment into something precious and even spiritual.

Her passion in color and form is linked to the way her paintings express an intense



IN BETWEEN EVERYTHING, 2012, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 76 X 127 CM

emotion which she compares to "an electrical surge you feel in your spinal chord or heart." Though her paintings may appear loud and extroverted, they are actually about interior spaces, thoughts and feelings. Starting from a very private, internal experience,

Watson is able to abstractly translate what she feels into a visual format that impacts her viewers and relates to their most private feelings and emotions as well.

TEXT BY NICOLE SMITH

COVER: PASSION MIGHT FALL DOWN THE STAIRS, 2012, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 91.5 X 91.5 CM



HEARING TOO MUCH, 2012, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 61 X 61 CM



OVEREXCITED AND SENSITIVE, 2012, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 91.5 X 122 CM



BREATH OF SPRING, 2013, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 152.5 X 152.5 CM



FLIPPING COINS, 2013, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 122 X 122 CM



LOVE OF ARIES, 2013, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 122 X 122 CM



MOVING THROUGH A VORTEX, 2012, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 91.5 X 91.5 CM



THE WAY VENUS SOUNDS, 2013, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 152.5 X 122 CM

JANNA WATSON

Born 1983 in Flesherton, Ontario. Lives and works in Toronto.

EDUCATION

2008 BFA Drawing and Painting (Honors), Ontario's College of Art and Design (Toronto, ON)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 Levitation, Bau-Xi Gallery (Toronto, ON)
Inside: I Burst to Flames, Couture Galleri (Stockholm, Sweden)
- 2012 Magic is Also Involved, Bau-Xi Gallery (Vancouver, BC)
When Poets Hallucinate, Bau-Xi Gallery (Toronto, ON)
Come up to My Room, installation at annual Gladstone Hotel event (Toronto, ON)
- 2011 Rooms with No Floors, Bau-Xi Gallery (Vancouver, BC)
Put a Straight Jacket On A Fire, window installation, Gallery 1313 (Toronto, ON)
- 2010 Light is not Heavy, Bau-Xi Gallery (Toronto, ON)
Overexcited Sensitivity, Bau-Xi Gallery (Vancouver, BC)
- 2009 The Objects Have Lost Their Colour, Median Contemporary, (Toronto, ON)

- 2008 Wet Tambourine, Fute Design (Toronto, ON)
- 2007 Nervous Laughter, Soho Gallery (Toronto, ON)
- 2006 Janna Watson, River Salon (Toronto, ON)

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Miami Scope, Miami Basel (Miami, FL)
- 2011 The Memory Project, Okanagan Heritage Museum (Kelowna, BC)
- 2009 Queen West Art Crawl, Trinity Bellwoods (Toronto, ON)
Art Expo 2009, Toronto Convention Center (Toronto, ON)
Spring Exhibition, Hamilton Art Gallery (Hamilton, ON)
- 2008 Winter Exhibition, Hamilton Art Gallery (Hamilton, ON)
Queen West Art Crawl, Trinity Bellwoods (Toronto, ON)
Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillips Square (Toronto, ON)
Our Space is Vast, Transit Space, Installation (Toronto, ON)
- 2007 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillip Square (Toronto, ON)
Who Dunnit, OCAD (Toronto, ON)
- 2006 Art Fest, The Huron (Collingwood, ON)

COLLECTIONS

Cenovus Energy Inc. (Calgary, AB)
CIBC
GZ International
IIROC - Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada
Oni One (Toronto, ON)
Relative Space Window Installation - (Toronto, Ontario)
The Ritz Carlton (Toronto, Ontario)
Soho Metropolitan Hotel—Permanent Painting Collection - (Toronto, Ontario)
TD Bank Financial Group
TELUS

MEDIA

- 2011 "Check in and Check out the art", Toronto Star article about Ritz Carleton artwork, March 2011
Featured by designer Kelly Deck on CityLine TV program, February
- 2009 NOW magazine Artist Feature, August 2009
New York Art's Magazine—Tips and Picks January/February issue - (New York, USA)



DASHING BUTTONS, 2012, MIXED MEDIA ON PANEL WITH RESIN, 91.5 X 122 CM

COUTUREGALLERI
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