



ballet dancer



flamenco danceress



godness



picture woman in blue



woman sitting

T A I T E I L I J A E S I T T E L Y

Helena Kuulkers

I am Dutch, but I call myself Cosmopolitan. I am having experience of people from many different parts of the world. I lived in many countries, due to my work and family. For example in Amsterdam, New York City for 6 years and London 4 years etc. I live here in Helsinki since 1993 (approximately). I attended art classes in London and many classes here in Helsinki, with an excellent art teacher.

My work is primarily the result of my need to paint; it is both a challenge and an outlet. Due to my long hours and lots of travel at my previous job, I could not paint as much as I wanted, but since 5 years I am spending most of my time painting. My art has not been at many exhibitions yet, but now that I joined the Espoo Art association, I will try to get more involved. I hope you will enjoy looking at some of my paintings and sculptures in the near future.

Inspiration for me can pop up at any time, but often when I am peaceful at home. I am not confined to one subject area, preferring to vary my projects and media. Though oil is my favourite medium, I like to extend to charcoal and sometimes combine oil with chalk. My canvases are white primed and each work is a series of underpaintings, layered one on one, until the final image has built up. I put my paintings away for weeks or months, before I look at them again. I continue until I am confident there is nothing left to add.

I do try to convince the viewer of how I interpret my subjects. I don't like to use the word 'Reality', this is always subject to interpretation. The realist painter conveys his or her own reality. My work is often an emotional reaction. I try to seek truth. I am fascinated by African masks and art. It inspires me a lot, especially when making sculptures. Many modern painters such as Matisse, Picasso and Cezanne were influenced by this art. I realise, it does influence some of my paintings.

My favourite painters are Monet, Matisse, Cezanne and of course Renoir! I am impressed by the way Renoir uses the saturated colours,

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