

Photo: Mark Walton.



# My spiritual essence

Isa Levy

Painting is the vehicle that makes my language possible; I am inspired by moments of joy, sadness, beauty or an intangible yearning. In fact, I am curious to express the riches in my inner world where words do not sit comfortably. I wonder if this could be called my spiritual essence.

I enjoy the process of creativity and the mystery of reaching into this unknown reservoir; bringing a pool of colour into shape and form. The immediate sensuality of paint onto a blank white canvas; spreading and sculpting the paint; the smell, the colours and textures blending, seeping, and bleeding into each other with the rhythm of emotion! Then I follow



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the painting's development like a servant follows its mistress, breathing the painting to life.

I can be inspired from within or an external subject will interest me, and that being so, my subject range is unusually varied and covers abstraction and free expression to portraiture with the restraints of that discipline – detailed shaping of form within the realm of accuracy. Accuracy is not a word that resides well with me and I do not mean it in terms of accurate perspective or dimension but more in terms of accuracy to reach the essence of the other from the essence of what lies as a mystery between the subject and myself.

Each painting is a complete world unto itself; moments captured on canvas and lost into other moments. I am interested in creating a full and whole expression within the painting; this being so, my paintings are rarely part of a series, although in the passing of time I can see how some paintings could be grouped together.

When a painting is complete, I have a new conversation with it and give no real significance to its interpretation, although I am interested in how



Into the new millennium

the viewer sees, feels or interprets the painting for themselves.

The process is the real impact of my interest in the painting. The finished painting I view in an almost detached manner, holding more of a relationship to the painting as time has passed and I have changed from the artist I was in the making of it to the person I am in the viewing of it, maybe some twenty years later. The world of colour plays and dances with singing, ringing resonances and makes no apologies to a drab world. It is a celebration of life. I hope to uplift and excite the viewer or to expose living in the question.

I hope that the sense of searching and finding in each painting gives the paintings a sense of the universal and spiritual quest in finding some momentary balance in life as all is in process of change upon change.

*Isa Louise Levy is a member of North West London Area Meeting.*

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