

# Ephemeral space



SABAYA met Demi McLeod and experienced her paintings in the Palace Lounge of the Gulf Hotel. You cannot look at the beautiful paintings and not be moved in one way or another! There were three genres on display. Each painting is unique, and the genres are entirely different from each other, but completely part of the creator. Each one telling their own story, but, when talking to Demi one realises they reveal her sole. The latest addition to her repertoire is the abstract works, which she deemed a direct influence of Bahrain. When Sabaya asked her about this, she responded:

"Each one of these paintings has a land mark of Bahrain as the foundation. In 'Clienteles Nocturne' the roots of the tree of life stand proud. The vibrant colour pallet used is also set in Bahrain. One of the things that excite me is the technical aspect of the wonderful mediums that can be used to build up a painting. You can create so many affects, textures, and layers just by the way they are applied.

The more you push the materials, work them together the more knowledgeable, and adventures you get. To do this effectively you have to be aware of what is going to remain stable on the canvas over time and be archival.

There are always a group of paintings 'on the go' in the studio at the same time. Some layers or treatments take 1 or 2 weeks to set before they can be worked over. Some paintings with pure silver or gold I allow to tarnish. This can take a month or two before the tones I want are reached. By having a number of works under way I'm not tempted to rush them as patience is not a strong point."

When asked about the second genre she immediately took us to a beautiful painting of an elephant, 'The Power of Pink'. This relates to her childhood as well as her whole life. Although born in Zimbabwe and lived there, she started Boarding School age six in the United Kingdom. Demi has moved so much that there is not really a particular country she could call home. She and her

family lived in Zimbabwe, Malawi, England, Luxembourg, South Africa, Australia, and now Bahrain. These paintings portray animals to highlight her love for wild creatures and they are all suspended, captured just a moment, in life.

The third genre is the prettiest Cupids. Cupids with longing eyes, subtle smiles, and you feel like you could give them a hug. As her children have grown up and left the house this reveals her love and longing for them.

She studied fine art and interior design at the Reagent Academy in London. This laid a sound foundation and Leonardo da Vinci is her hero. He was the first great man of art and science as one affiliation.

Demi does not only paint, she is also a sporty person. She does a lot of sailing, diving, playing tennis and golf and loves her Harley Davidson 1100 sports custom motor bike. She is completely happy where she is at this moment in her life and she wants to encourage every woman to make the most of every opportunity.

