

The creation of beautiful things

The world is full of exquisite natural innovations, Demi Mcleod concentrates on her own artistic adventures, encouraging others along the way.
ERIN PACOMA



Belonging to one of the oldest families living in Zimbabwe, Demi's ascendants have resided there for the past four generations. At the age of six, she was enrolled in a convent boarding school in the United Kingdom, which led her to live two completely different lives at the same time. She continued her higher education in the UK at the Regent Academy of Art. "That was where I had my formal training, however, it didn't stop there. I have always had a tutor; Fareed Abuqias (a well-loved and well-known Omani artist) is my tutor in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

While many of us who have resided in Bahrain for most of our lives have missed out on nature and all its glory, Demi had the privilege of spending her childhood on a farm. "I wouldn't have had it any other way. Being able to bask in the wonder of nature and everything it is has to offer has given me inspiration from a young age."

This was how Demi got interested in the creative world of art. "Back when I was a child, unlike other children, we made our own toys. This developed my creative side and was probably what started my ever-growing passion for art. Until this very day,

I have never really outgrown that routine as I make my own paints and finishes."

Contributing to what inspires her are the places that she's visited throughout her life. Apart from Australia where she lived for about 19 years, she has never resided in a place for more than a couple of years. She came to Bahrain two and a half years ago because of her husband's job and from

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the very beginning, enjoyed her stay on the island. "It is by far the most unique and unusual place I've ever been to and I'm so glad I came. It's the first time I have ever been to the Middle East and is definitely one of my favourite places."

Having opened and managed a very successful art business in western Australia

wherein she showcased different artists' works in various restaurants, Demi felt the need to exercise a similar practice here in Bahrain. Therefore, she opened the Art Lounge located at the Country Mall. Sporting a similar theme, those interested in trying their hands at art can visit the Art Lounge and create paintings, or decorate vases and woodwork.

While managing the Art Lounge, she thought that it was about time that she had a solo exhibition. "The great thing about being in Bahrain is it has provided me with a wonderful chance to be fully involved with my art and has placed me in the right direction to fulfilling one of the dreams I've had for as long as I can remember — to have a solo exhibition."

As a true artist, art proves to be a driving force and an undying passion for Demi. To her, every work of art is like painting whatever is in one's heart on the canvas. "I am very emotional when it comes to appreciating other works of art and even more so, when it comes to creating my own. That's why I don't do scenic paintings. Every piece of my work is like looking into my life. Every painting

reflects a memory from my past. That's why one can notice that I have empty backgrounds. I like the viewer to have full focus on the object or person. This is the impression I want them to go away with." This is something that Demi spends a lot

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of time on; preservation and making a lasting impression. The different colours and techniques used by Demi are those that play with one's mind and encourage people to think about why that particular piece was created in the first place. Demi

also ensures that all her paints and finishes are made to last many years.

When asked about the potential of Bahrain being known as an art capital, Demi was very positive. "It's all about making time. I have only been here for a few years and already see the potential in many artists. Unfortunately though, many Bahraini artists don't get the recognition they deserve. For that very reason, my aim is to open a gallery back in western Australia where I will showcase their works."

So what does Demi do when she's not involved in her work? Well, this wonder of a woman happens to have a knack for cooking as well. And that's not all; she loves to travel, spend quality time with the family and also has a passion for driving her Harley Davidson around Bahrain, (she has three bikes)! It doesn't stop there; she loves sailing and diving and was even a national champion in the Surf Club of Australia!



"Eternity" one of Demi's work

Bahrain is about to soar to new heights with Demi's first ever solo exhibition happening this month. Exhibiting around 26 paintings, you are sure to have an extraordinary experience. "I am so excited and extremely thankful to the Gulf Hotel for all their support. I cordially invite each and every one of you to visit the exhibition and look forward to meeting you all." Trust us, you won't regret it!

Check out our *Around Town* pages for more information on Demi's exhibition. **wtm**

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