



Danielle Hewlett



'People inspire me and the everyday life experiences that shape us.'

Danielle Hewlett
(1981 -)



Danielle Hewlett is a South African professional contemporary artist who lives and works in Johannesburg. She studied Art at the National School of Art in Johannesburg.

Danielle's pieces highlight the intimate nature of portraiture and the strata of interpretation and imagination that can be laid upon the subject's representation by the artist.

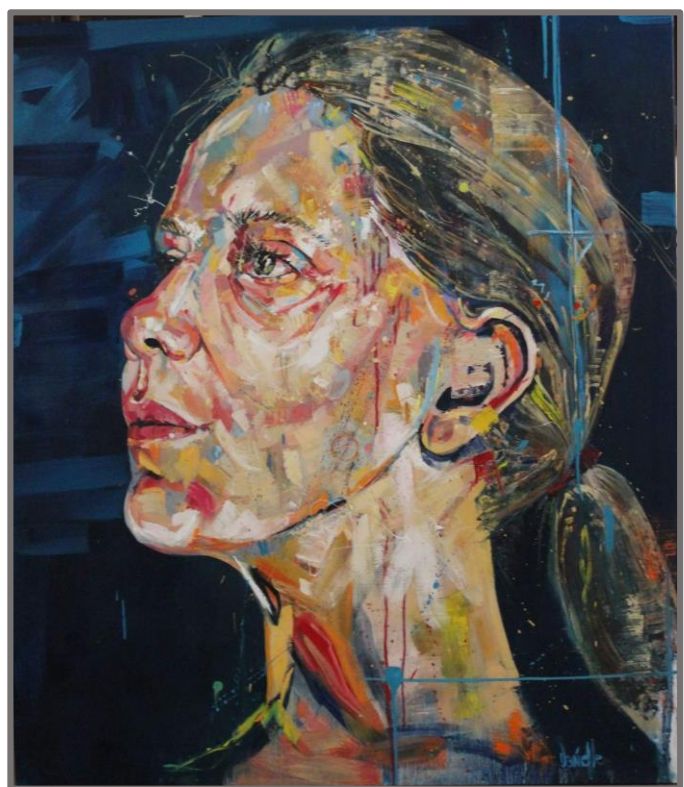
For thousands of years, artists have been tasked with the portrayal of others who wished to have their likenesses preserved, and before 1900 portraits were expected to deliver accurate resemblances of their sitters.

But as time has moved on, the tradition of Western portrait painting has changed to allow artists to add their own aesthetic ideas to their subjects, resulting in a far more complex image.

Danielle explores this idea on canvas, mostly in head and shoulder's style portraits. Working from subjects invited to her studio for photographic sessions, Hewlett had applied her own stories and ideas to their faces, adding shards of colour into the compositions. This personalisation was further complicated by the intimate nature of the sitting, where the subject would tell her their stories, which would in turn influence her work.

Each painting has come to represent a specific character in Hewlett's life story. It is therefore an emotional, self-exploratory body of work; a looking back for the artist and a working-through of interactions and relationships. She tells an intimate story in each piece, and manipulates the image with the part of the mind where history and imagination meet.

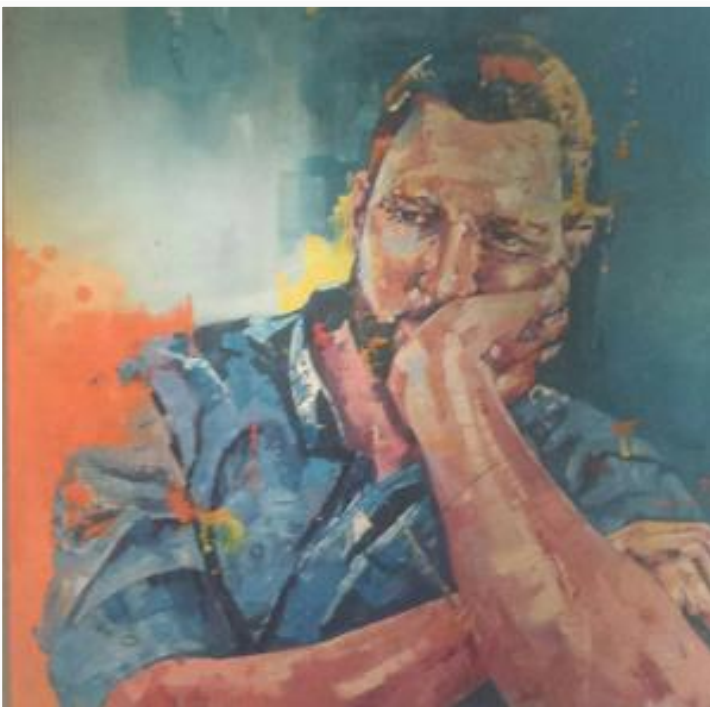
Danielle is not interested in the accurate representation of someone's likeness but is more concerned with a re-imagination of their vibrancy and energy.



Danielle was surrounded by art from a very early age and views art as a fundamental aspect to who she is as a person. She studied art privately from the age of 7, later attending The National School of the Arts where she matriculated in 1998. She then went on to study at The Surrey Institute of Art & Design. When Danielle returned to South Africa, she began teaching art privately and later took on a position teaching at the Kings School. In 2011, she took on the challenge to develop herself as a painter.

Danielle considers herself a story teller and admits to an attraction to faces that immediately grab her attention and the attention of the viewer. She avoids subjects whose emotions are easily definable.

She is not interested in the accurate representation of someone's likeness but is more concerned with a re-imagination of their vibrance and energy. She bids the viewer to look beyond the subject, and invites understanding beyond the limits of the painted form, while drawing attention to the tangible and seductive properties of paint.



Meeting the Artist at the In Toto gallery, Johannesburg.

Close Ups

