

Rachel Volpone

When did you first consider yourself a professional artist? When I had enough work and courage for a solo show at the Ridgefield Library in 2004.

How long have you been in this studio? 10 years. I used to paint in the kitchen while the kids were eating dinner. I'd put the easel by the table. Then for my birthday I got a sink for my studio!

What is your medium? Acrylic and resin.

What brands do you use? Matisse paints from Australia; they're very thick and intensely colored. I get the resin custom made by a scientist friend. It intensifies the color of the acrylic.

How do you price your work? I price almost always by size.

How do you come up with titles for your paintings? The titles speak to me while I am painting. Sometimes I change my mind and you can tell because on the back of the painting there are a bunch of names all scribbled out. Sometimes it comes to me and it's perfect. I get inspired by poetry and music.

Do you listen to music while you're painting? Yes, I listen to music from my iPad and from CD's, so I don't feel like I'm alone. I listen to classical music, Gotye, South African, opera and books on tape. I recently listened to Life by Keith Richards.

Do you sit or stand when you paint? Stand.

How often do you clean your studio? I put in a lot of effort to clean for studio visits, but besides that I work on top of mess.

Do you work on one painting at a time or go back and forth between a couple? I'll work on 6 to 8 at a time. Once I did 12 at a time.

Is there a specific item or tool that you always have in your studio? A spray bottle, squeegee and pallet knives. I use a lot of tools from the hardware store. And, of course, my studio dog Smitty.

Are there any days you don't feel like painting? Sometimes I won't know what to paint so I will pace around my studio. I'll get jealous when Kim (Hanna) is doing something (we share the studio). We inspire each other.

What inspires you? Books, magazines, photographs, fashion, fabrics, home décor and the internet.

