

Marie-Louise Oudkerk

At a young age I came into contact with art, because my mother painted and ran a gallery in Bennekom, the place where I was born. Since my eighth year I went with my mother to studio visits with many different artists. I thought that was a fantastic world, working in a studio, in your uppie, in your own world and creating new things. So when I was eighteen, and in love with a French sculptor, I told my parents that I wanted to go to France to do the art academy there. My father - who was a surgeon himself- thought I should learn a "trade-off" to be able to keep my pants on myself later on. The Frenchman was de-bonjour-d back to France and Marietje entered the care. With the cello under the arm to Utrecht. Nicely finished the nursing, and then the OK training. Married 4 children, and always keep drawing.

When the children were all at school, besides my work, I took many different painter's and drawing lessons from various teachers and disciplines. In 2000, after a divorce, I decided to completely focus on painting, and set up my own company. I manage to make my business flourish next to the family. It has already been some time ago, and I can proudly say that my company is doing well, and so are the paintings. In addition to my own free painting, I paint a lot on commission. I work with companies, give workshops and regularly paint assignments for reproductions that are distributed throughout the world. Like e.g. the black / white canvases of big cities. I stand at art fairs and work with 8 galleries throughout the Netherlands. Participate in art projects with other artists.

My work is my passion and I do nothing more than that, it has become a necessity of life, a condition. Overcoming that immense white screen, and then going on an endless search for the solutions that are never obvious. It is a beautiful and long story that never ends, and can go in all directions, a confrontation with yourself, the time and the silence of solitude, which is indispensable for a final creation. Making something new is something amazing. This process of creating gives me everything I need to continue.

My work is difficult to describe, it are mostly large canvases, abstract. My recurring themes are language - time - and music. I mainly paint with acrylic paint, but because of the lacquer layer over the paintings it sometimes looks like oil paint. My canvases are geometric, with planes and lines. The colors are earthy; brown, gray, beige, black and white with texts and handwritten fantasies. The painting is only ready for me when it is completely in harmony, it just has to be right, in terms of composition and color, and that is often quite a job. Abstract painting is a form of very personal choices that are not obvious and must always be unique. Figurative, on the other hand, requires a lot of craftsmanship and skill with embedded data. So figurative and / or abstract is a personal choice of the artist, not to mention the spectator.