



Welcome

Hi! I'm Lou, a full-time human juggling a job, a family, and a very persistent creative itch. I paint people and pets, create colourful abstracts, design stuff on screens, and occasionally forget where I put my coffee. This newsletter is my way of sharing a peek behind the paint-splattered curtain.

Expect updates on current projects, future ideas (some wild, some maybe genius?), and ways you can get involved. I'll try to keep it short, sweet, and slightly odd – just like me.

Graphic Design

Being my day job, I don't tend to do a lot of graphics outside of working hours. However, the last 2 weeks I have been learning Figma and am very excited about getting to know this program a lot better. It will not replace Adobe for me, especially for print design but for digital layouts (like this very newsletter!) its great!

Prints

I opened my Etsy store recently - I am hoping to sell digital prints of my abstract artwork and maybe create some colouring pages. Check it out and keep an eye out for the updates to my website!



Kingston Art Blitz

Earlier this year, I entered a portrait in Kingston Art Blitz. The theme this year was "Love Yourself".

My painting was one I have wanted to do for a long time and fit nicely in this theme. I wanted to visually show my journey from running a local 5K race to 10K a the Melbourne Marathon last year. The shapes next to my self portrait are all the shapes of the runs I did to train. Within each shape is what had emerged from my thoughts during these runs - running always makes creative ideas pop up as I have nothing but my thoughts (and music) to distract me.

It was a very well put together competition and show. Well done Kingston Art Blitz!

Learnings...

So did you know that oil paintings take around 6 months to dry? Yup, I totally didn't know that. This was my first oil painting. I really enjoyed it and loved the subject and the movement. However its a very messy medium and I found it easy to get muddy. I do prefer acrylic painting but will definitely try oil again. However, I will make sure I do the paintings 6 months in advance next time...



What's next?

I've made a start on a landscape / portrait and have 4 pet portraits to do over the next month or so. The next newsletter will be packed full of these!

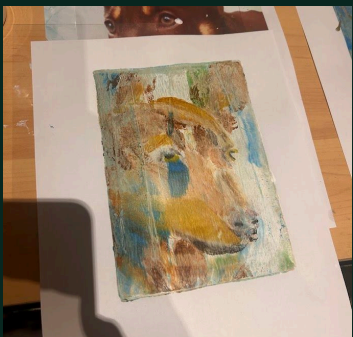
Any ideas of a journal / print you would like me to add to my website? Send me an email designpaintjournal@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing your suggestions!

Work in Progress



Meet Sia. Sia's family wanted a 20 x20cm portrait of her in a wooden box frame.

They requested the background to be pastel colours particularly loved this photo of Sia. My first step of the process is to set up a picture and get an idea of how the background. Sia's family were happy so I got on with the sketching.



STEP 1.
But before I did that, I did a fun trial on a gel pad! For a first attempt, it wasn't too bad. I quite liked the missing sections. I will have another crack at this another time!



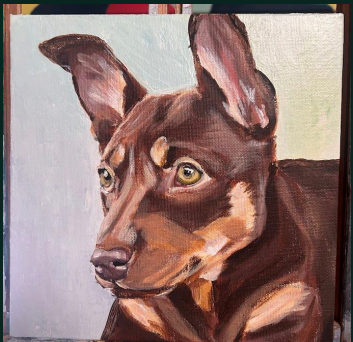
STEP 2.
Using a grid I sketched out the outlines and then underpainted the background. Then applied the pastel background.



STEP 3.
After adding the background, I underpainted over my sketch lines using a brown paint. Then started to fill in the shades and highlights.



STEP 4.
My favourite part is adding the eyes. The shape of the nose didn't look quite right to me so I made a few tweaks before adding the final details.



STEP 5.
Once I was happy with the face shape, I finished all the detail, shades and tones. Added some highlights and lowlights and used a fine pen for some white detail.

FINAL STEP.
Sia's family were happy with the photo I sent of the painting so I signed it, varnished it and then put in the frame. Wrapped up and ready to go home.

