



A PAINTER'S PURSUIT

In the studio with Charlotte artist Adele Yonchak.

words SUNNY HUBLER / *photos* JAMEY PRICE



ARTIST ADELE MOORE YONCHAK IS A MASTER AT TAKING A simple scene and rendering it in a totally unique way. Drawn to abstracted landscapes, Adele is a painter formally trained in oil who now primarily works with the layering textures and colors of acrylic. Adele's training comes from Hollins University and coursework at Lorenzo de' Medici Art Institute in Florence, Italy.

"I've always been creative but I had an art teacher in high school who had an infectious energy and really encouraged me to pursue it... While my formal training is in oil painting, when I came back to art as an adult I decided to try acrylic because I was working out of my dining room and had young children. I couldn't leave wet paint lying around, so it was a happy accident that I realized acrylic really suited my creative process. I tend to work quickly and layer as I go and the fast drying qualities of acrylic paint allow me to find that depth and texture I now love."

Adele answered a few more of our questions about her work and what inspires her paintings.

HOW OFTEN ARE YOU IN THE STUDIO?

I am a full-time artist as well as a full-time mother... if that's possible. Some days I do one role better than the other, but I am so grateful I am able to work from home doing something I love and make a career out of it. My children are more independent than when I was starting out, but life is still busy. I typically get in the studio three or



four mornings a week and then do admin work (emails, marketing, photographing, wiring, shipping) throughout the day.

WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR INSPIRATION FOR NEW IDEAS?

Sometimes my inspiration comes from specific places while other times it's truly about color and movement. I sometimes look back at photos of places I love for inspiration, but most of the time I just start without an agenda. I hate to waste paint, so I often scrape extra paint from one piece onto another blank canvas and those random marks can inspire the movement of the next piece.

WHO OR WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO CREATE?

My biggest motivation is definitely my family, but I also have an amazing network of artist friends that motivate me daily. I am so lucky to have a large network of professional artists and a group of seven in particular that serve as my sounding board for ideas and support, with us constantly lifting each other up. Being an artist can be a competitive and lonely career so that friendship has been such a blessing. My biggest influences from art history are Nicolas de Staël and Gabriele Münter.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT PURSUING ART AS A LIFE PATH? WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING?

It's such a joy to be able to create art for a living. When I graduated college I went into marketing and product development, never



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planning on becoming an artist. I am so glad it came back to me though, and I found a way to turn something I love into fulfilling work. Not every job is going to be one you love but it's so important to have a creative outlet, and I know how lucky I am for that outlet to have turned into a career. Like everything else, there are parts of being a professional artist that feel like a 'job,' but I could never get sick of the creating aspect. I would say the hardest part is definitely balance and time management. But that is just the age and stage of my family, and I know that will continue to change as they grow.

HOW HAS YOUR CAREER TRANSFORMED YOU INTO WHO YOU ARE NOW?

Being a professional artist has definitely transformed me over the years. It has given me an escape when needed and a place to find joy—it's more interesting to see how my work has changed. It's always been landscapes to some degree but my style has evolved so much since I first began and it's so exciting to know that it will always be evolving.

You can currently find Adele's work at the following galleries: Anne Neilson Fine Art (her longest running relationship) in Charlotte, Anne Irwin Fine Art of Atlanta, GA, and Simon Breitbard Fine Art in San Francisco, CA. You can also find her work, and details on how to commission work, on her website.

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