



KATE MERRIGAN

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MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Painting, Portraits, Life Studies



Sunflowers and Pots 1998
30 x 40" Oil on canvas

TRAINING / AREAS OF STUDY / QUALIFICATIONS

1974-1999 Studied in Art Classes and Workshops
Degree in Modern Languages

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1998 Private 'Solo' Exhibition, 12 St. Mary's Road
1998 Solo Exhibition at Molesey Library

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1999 Molesey Art Society Spring Exhibition
Ongoing Exhibitions in local galleries and retail outlets.

Although I have not been through the conventional world of Art School, I have received extensive top-quality tuition over the years, and more importantly have worked hard to realise my own natural talent. My style is constantly developing but its defining quality is its vigour and boldness. My aim now is to bring my work to the notice of a larger circle of people, and to find more opportunities to exhibit and sell.

My preferred medium is oil paint, because it is the best medium for expressing my own reactions to the world around me. It enables a broad and powerful, and very 'directional' brush-stroke, which can capture the underlying energy of the subject. Although I am very dedicated to painting the human figure and face, I am finding that a similar energy and power can be discovered in more inanimate objects. This may be, of course, an energy and power which originate in part from myself and my own vision of things, but I think it is there in everything, and one of the joys of painting is to bring it out and put it on canvas, so that in turn one is sharing one's perception with others. I believe it is the combination of line and colour which can best portray that energy for me. I find that now the living world is merely the departure point for something much more personal, and would therefore not be surprised if my work became more abstract in the future. But the thrill of it partly is not knowing what will happen next.

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Sunflowers and Pots and *Sunflowers* are two paintings which strictly speaking should be hung side by side, because they were painted in tandem. They show a close up and more distant view of the same subject, quite ordinary in itself. But the way I have painted them has endowed them with the sort of life-force and energy which I described in statement 1. The flowers appear as presences which are aggressively alive, and seem caught up in an eternal, energetic dance. There is something almost sinister about them, because of the power that emanates from them they are neither gentle nor conventional. The pots too are depicted with bold sweeps of colour, smaller areas form abstract compositions in themselves. With the colours I have tried to capture the sort of brilliance and intensity that almost goes beyond colour. As I look at these two paintings, I feel them as an almost overwhelming presence and am still faintly amazed that this degree of power and energy was the result of my own interreaction with the subject I had set up.



Sunflowers

1998

30 x 40"

Oil on canvas