

About the Show

Elements and Personalities

A Collection of Realistic Still Lifes and Portraits by Hermione Paints

For the last few years, I've been adding to a bucket list of painting techniques and styles I've wanted to try. That's why it was exciting to be invited to show at Mulberry Art Studio, because it gave me a reason to work through that long list. I wasn't sure how all of these random ideas would relate to one another for a show, but I did know that with each painting, I was revealing a story that was meaningful to me. The glint in a daughter's eye, the reflection on a favorite bottle of rosé, the shine on a classic car—I love drawing out these minute details to give life to a subject and its story.

After completing the 17 still lifes shown here, I noticed commonalities among them—the objects fell into categories of metal, glass, food or nature. So, I'm calling the first part of this show, "Elements."

There was something pleasant and entertaining about doing these still lifes, especially since I was painting during the stress of quarantine. The objects are colorful, exciting and lively. The challenging aspects were painting large, because you're constantly stepping back for perspective and making adjustments. And acrylics dry quickly and can be hard to blend, especially in areas of solid color.

The second part to this show is what I'm calling the "Personalities" portrait series. I took on a study of six people I know, and my goal was to capture the essence of the person, highlighting their unique features that make you want to look and know more. With portraits, you may be drawn in to a subject when they are looking directly at you, but when their eye gaze is down or away, you can freely observe them without them looking back. It's said that words can lie, but a face cannot. So, what do you see? Does their story match up with their painting? I wanted to challenge myself with different ages, expressions, characteristics, skin tones and textures. Although acrylics inherently aren't as ideal for portrait painting as oils, it was on my list to try and I enjoyed the process.

Painting 23 canvases in 10 months was a fun way to pass the time during an uncertain year. Thank you for coming to see them in person, the experience is much better than seeing them online or on social media. I hope you enjoy the show as much as I enjoyed preparing for it.

