

Catherine Digman (Painter)

Artist's Statement

I am obsessed with painting and would still paint if there were no one else left on Earth to see my work. For me painting is a tactile process, the act of looking deeply at the subject, and translating that into brushstrokes. I work mostly with oil paints and oil pastels, which are dissolved in turpentine, beeswax, and oil. I use gesso and recycled wood, and sometimes canvas. I work with Michael Harding and Old Holland oil paints, because I like the traditional formulas. Every colour has a different character and texture, which is both challenging and exciting for a painter.

In my early twenties, I made drawings which were used by high street fashion brands for textile and tee shirt prints. I enjoyed the idea of people wearing my artwork. Recently I have started selling my fine art pieces, and am interested in the idea of paintings living in a person's home and being part of their everyday life.

I produce a lot of art that is used in community spaces such as school, church, and high street, and I believe that art should be something that everyday people can interact with. My own heritage is working-class Irish, so I feel strongly that art should not be an elite thing.

I have lived in several (bad) apartments and bedsits over the years, so I am very interested in the idea of creating a home, and how art objects can make a space more personal and human.

I work a lot with individuals who are on the Autistic spectrum, and a lot of my work revolves around painting being a calming sensory activity, or a way for people to express complex emotions.

I aim to produce new artwork every day, even if it is just a biro sketch or a doodle in a notebook.