

ABOUT – VALERIE JA VANDERMOTTEN ARTIST PAINTER

Valerie J.A. Vandermotten is an international artist painter inspired by the healing power of nature and memories of places.

Born in Brussels in 1973, the artist grew up in Evere.

At an early age, she has been exposed to fine arts and crafts. She received a traditional education with museums visits, ballet classes and classical music. Art books on Renoir and Van Gogh, to name a few of them, were on the shelves of the living room.

With this sensorial awakening, it was at the Northern seaside in Wenduine, where Valerie spent family vacation for many years, that her journey into art mindfulness took its roots. Like a ritual, she used to go to the beach, crossing a small wood, stopping by a park on her way and greeting deer and a peacock that happily lived there. She stayed for hours in the dunes, looking at the sea, listening to the sound of the waves and admiring incredible colorful sunsets.

Despite her keenness towards art and creative activities, the artist's youth was rather focused on her studies at college aiming to get her to safe future career. After becoming a mother at age 19, she got graduated as Executive Secretary and began working in the medical research industry.

In 2005, the artist decided to return to the artistic aspirations of her childhood when fibromyalgia appeared in her life. She slowed down her career and took classes in creative writing, painting and drawing. She soon realized that painting was her definite call and from a part-time activity it became a full-time occupation. The artist attended Belgian Art Schools (Ecole d'Art d'Uccle et Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Wavre) where an exercise on the stroke pushed her to explore abstract compositions.

In 2011, the artist moved to Northern California where she pursued her artistic journey. Influenced by the local nature, her love for colors grew over there as well as an evolution towards semi-abstract landscapes. In 2017, she completed a Post-Baccalaureate in Visual Arts at UC Berkeley Extension San Francisco Campus. The same year, Valerie JA Vandermotten has been among the finalists of the Bay Area Masters competition 2017 organized by the Peninsula Museum of Art (Burlingame, CA, USA).

In 2018, the artist moved back to her home country where she lives and works, varying the degree of abstraction of her vision on nature. In search for serenity, she started to focus on the seascape subject as a mental refuge as a reaction to her chronic disease.

Since 2020, the artist is an MFA candidate in painting at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

She is currently an artist-in-residency at Kunstraum LLC, in Brooklyn, NY, until December 20th 2022.

Valerie JA Vandermotten is an emerging and awarded artist with +20 group exhibitions and 3 solo shows.

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