

NOELLA LOPEZ
G A L L E R Y





MARIANNE CARA IN CONVERSATION

WITH NOELLA LOPEZ

Marianne's oil paintings are just gorgeous. The brush strokes are bold and fluid, the colour palette is rich and the choices Cara makes are very personal, close to her heart. She prefers working with small size artworks, they convey

well the stories she likes to confide in. At a guess and knowing where she is at with her practice, I imagine that any representations of the landscapes and her family stories will be different in the future, maybe not even expressed in the oil paint medium. Her practice is evolving and these artworks are a snapshot of that moment in time.

Cara's Italian background has a strong influence on her painting, she paints portraits and landscapes that delicately blend Calabrian village scenes with backyard Australiana drawing together different aspects of both heritages. She is inspired by the stories past and present of her Italian family and collects a combination of old family and childhood photographs often integrating them into her artworks.

Your passion for art started in your childhood inspired by your uncle's generosity and knowledge about Renaissance artists. How has your passion for art and practice evolved over your career as an artist?

I have been making art ever since I was a child - it has always been my passion, my first basic instinct. I started to take it truly seriously when I enrolled in a BFA at The National Art School. I was amongst great emerging artists and teachers who fostered my pursuits and gave me all the material I needed. It was an immensely inspirational time. I started to explore family history and traditions and became interested in the people and stories behind the black and white family portraits.

After three years of art making, I really began to visualise the body of work I wanted to create. It looked so good in my mind, that it drove me further and deeper. I incorporated autobiographical elements into my paintings. A simple black and white photograph as narrative collaged onto the canvas and then painted over and around to create special stories about life in Australia and my parents' homeland in Italy. The continuing layers created in the paintings encapsulate the emotional journeys revealing inner layers of personal identity.

My interest in landscape painting was borne from my own journey to Italy. Working on the land has been an important aspect of my family's previous life in Calabria; a tradition that they carried through to life in Australia and the suburbs. So returning to Italy as an artist, I have now emerged as an abstract expressionist landscape

painter. I think my work will always keep evolving and I have currently found a unique voice in painting many beautiful portraits in both the landscapes of Italy and Australia.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION, [CLICK HERE](#)



MARIANNE CARA

'Connections 6'

Oil Painting - Connections Series - Oil Painting on Canvas - 25cm x 20cm x 3.5cm - **A\$650**

"The 'Connections' oil painting series began as a result of my deep interest into my family history. These paintings combine elements including old Italian family and childhood photographs to explore themes involving the family, childhood, memory and identity. The figures appear vague and faceless in abstract settings as I choose not to place them in any one human context; as these figures could belong to any family! I generally work in oils, a medium I love to use for its materiality – the act of applying paint to canvas continues to excite me as well as the process of creating a

composition and telling a story."

Marianne Cara 2014

See More Gorgeous Artworks by Marianne, [CLICK HERE](#)



'Umbria 3' by Marianne Cara

Oil Painting – Umbria Series – Oil Painting on

Canvas Unstretched – 42.5cm x 33.5cm–

A\$550

"The Umbria oil painting series were started as a result of a residency program I enjoyed at The International School of Painting, Drawing and Sculpture in Montecastello di Vibio, Umbria. Montecastello rests on a hilltop, overlooking the lush Tiber River valley. I was inspired by the vast yet intimate panoramas of breathtaking landscapes patterned with vineyards, olive groves and sunflower fields, and etched with rows of cypresses and umbrella pines."

Marianne Cara 2014

Discover More of the Umbria Series

Artworks, [CLICK HERE](#)



MARIANNE IN HER STUDIO AND IN ITALY

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Connections Series – just **CLICK** on
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