

In their own words: Five women artists on their work in *The National*

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by Diena Georgetti



Diena Georgetti, *Community of the People* / white, 2023, acrylic on canvas, custom frame, 103.50 x 213.50 x 3.50 cm. Photograph: The Commercial

Community of the People refers to the contributors and artists composed within the paintings. I often import other art to represent my expression, and these six paintings [one included above] include examples of many genders and styles within art and design. There is a kind of evolutionary DNA within the history of art. We can find our ancestors within that, and we can be directed, comforted and challenged by them.

The origins of colour come from the cosmic beginning of time; there was only dark and light, and colour later formed on the planet as material. So, I started with the black and white paintings, as these were the first colours denoted by language. There's something in the spirituality of colour and the symbolism we attach to it, and how that elevates us; it gives us some understanding apart from the materiality of life.

These paintings primarily use abstract vision, as it is more open to interpretation. However, figuration is included as landscape and portrait, as a widening of content and context. These are more painterly [than previous works]. I haven't included any hard edges. I've also used different tools, not paint brushes, but cardboard, toothbrushes, vegetables to achieve that gesture. I really wanted something more than an articulation of painting; I wanted an impression or illusion. They're like a backdrop to life; bigger than a person, you almost can't take them in at once.