

## *"An Unapologetic Affair"*

"An Unapologetic Affair" is a project that stems from an ongoing series of paintings entitled "Unapologetic – Romantic Notions of a Modern Woman" in which I've outlined the forms of furniture and domestic items and enmeshed them with curvilinear abstract shapes to create an alluring visual narrative. "An Unapologetic Affair" more fully embodies my vision for the inclusion of my home and the mundane routines, rituals and personal interactions as a work of art.

"An Unapologetic Affair" is a reflection of how I make sense of the world around me – it is close to home. Since I married and had my daughter, my attention has turned to my immediate family, to our life together, struggling to make ends meet as a labourer and an artist, and I have found solace in my surroundings. A draw to resonant historical objects comes from a middle-aged preoccupation with thinking about my background and a growing curiosity to learn about history. As I gain understanding, I am applying my interpretation, that of a painter, a wife, and mother, living in a 100-year-old house in the poorest neighborhood of Nanaimo.

For sometime, the renovation and transformation of my home as I hang artworks, collect and arrange antique household objects that then find their way into my paintings has been a natural process. I began to see how my work in the studio was tethered to my daily life and immediate surroundings after several studio visits where guests who knew my paintings commented that they resonate differently in the context of my home.

Over the years I have developed an awareness of the subtle phenomena present in my domain and am now acting on my inclinations to draw, paint, and create using the house as my canvas. Shadows are cast and shift with changing seasons and conditions, the angle of the sun skews shapes, the intensity of light causes range in value. Mysterious shadows appear through the windows at night from moonlight or street lamps. The process of transforming my home into a walk-through painting takes these realities into account as I enhance aspects to make them visible but not overt. The paintings I am making in the studio are influenced by the

interventions I've been undertaking in the house and vice versa. This seamless flow of ideas is rich, and allows for innovation as my mind operates in an alternative mode, processing possibilities and breaking perceived boundaries. The sculptural installations and painterly assertions in my house mirror my working process as a painter revealing the provisional steps I take when constructing a painting and are imbued with the constrained working parameters I have developed within my practice (ie: outlining, drawing with tape, masking, scraping, letting emerging visual characteristics suggest the next move).

These paintings, which are made using methods of non-objective abstraction end up reading as referential / objective artworks. They are highly literal – in fact they have become still life's based on objects within my home. In "vanity" (working title), I have used the outline of a triple faceted mirror and arranged dainty objects painted with care. Some areas are taped off and scraped with multiple coats of metallic viscous gel or stenciled with textiles in glossy layers. They have the look of realism but are painted formally relaying the delicacy of the original object in painterly terms.

To share this project, guests are invited to visit and bring friends and colleagues to experience my art and hospitality. Between July 24th and September 24th, 2017, I invite you to get in touch with me to plan a get together. These intimate gatherings in my home will be informal and relaxed allowing me to bring the performative character of the project to life and to provide an immersive experience. In addition, these visits also offer me the opportunity to share my process and respond thoughtfully to your suggestions and ideas. As I move into this sharing phase of the project, I feel a sense of tension that is both tenuous and powerful, which is an integral part of the art. In light of my feelings of vulnerability, I aspire to express my vision wholeheartedly and without apology.