

Welcome to Arc Studios News! This newsletter features events and activities of artists, nonprofit professionals and micro business owners that are part of the creative community at Arc Studios & Gallery 1246 Folsom Street San Francisco.



Arc Studios News May 2020

A Conversation with Dan Louth

Arc Studio #205

By Sherri Cornett

Jean Michel Basquiat, Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse, Mark Rothko, Joan Miró, Banksy . . .

When Dan Louth told me that these were the artists who inspired him, I went on a journey of discovery through his oil and acrylic works. Though unique in their own ways, I could see a freedom of style, a feeling of abandon, and a joyful use of colors in his abstractions, all of which could be tied back to this lineage.



As a child, Dan had been an avid art lover and channeled his creativity into making posters for his room. Though his adult path took him into software engineering and fatherhood, he made ample time for visits to museum and galleries in the Bay area. Twelve years ago, he transitioned out of his software company and focused on painting.

Sherri: Was there a turning point that led to this shift in your careers? Do you find a connection between them?

Dan: I ran my own business and I am mostly a self-taught as an artist. When I met Alan Chan in Palo Alto, he helped me learn the skills I needed to bring my artistic visions to life. Art helps me express myself both creatively and in ways that are otherwise difficult (due to my introverted nature). As an engineer I love the idea of making something out of nothing and problem solving - painting works for both. The transition from engineering to art was much easier than one might think. Painting and writing code are both a very creative process. Being an introvert and a creative is what attracted me to engineering and I believe the same is true for art. When I saw the opportunity for me to leave the software business, I jumped at the chance because I knew I could finally pursue another creative field and something I had been drawn to my whole life - art.

SC: Would you tell me more about your attraction to abstract painting?

DL: When I was first learning and experimenting with painting, I worked smaller and with more detail. But, painting abstract paintings has always been my goal. That is the type of artwork I am drawn to. I like art that has a lot of movement and spontaneity.

I mainly paint because I love to do it so much. I am also now starting to get awards, sales, and noticed (as an artist), so that motivates me - mainly because I love the idea of other people enjoying my art. I want people to look at my art and feel they want to keep looking because it is so full of life. I want them to feel the passion I feel when I paint.

SC: How do you get started on a painting?

DL: I usually get a sudden and obvious feeling that I have to paint. I rarely know what I am going to paint, but I might have a very rough idea in mind. When the urge to paint hits me, I disappear into my studio and go nuts. It's an amazing escape into a very creative headspace. I know some people have to find ways to recharge their creativity and artistic drive. Luckily, I am not finding that a challenge!

SC: I am curious about how being an introvert works within the community of artists and studios at Arc.

DL: They are a very creative group. It's hard not to get inspired by the amazing artwork, events, and people. I love the fact that Arc attracts artist and art lovers through its many open studio events and shows. I've started taking artist workshops there and I feel lucky to have access to them.

Links:

<http://danlouth.com/>

<https://www.saatchiart.com/dlouth>

<https://www.zatista.com/artist/dan-louth>

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Works by Dan Louth

