

SEEDS OF LIGHT

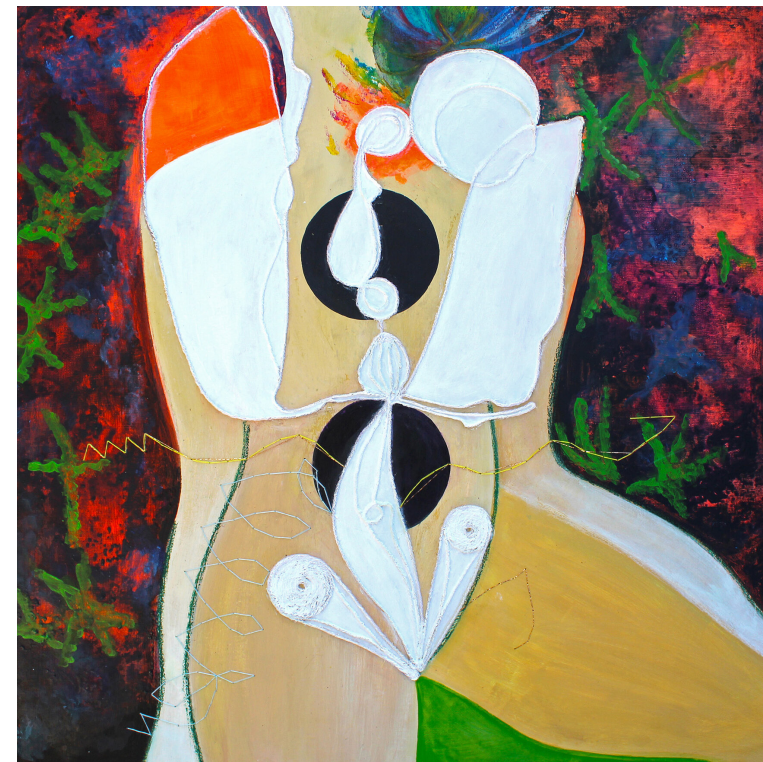
Jada Brookes explored artist Tiffanie Delune's first solo exhibition 'Seeds of Light' with Ed Cross Fine Art curated by Katherine Finerty which was shown virtually online during the coronavirus pandemic.



006 Tiffanie Delune - Foreign Familiarity



010 Tiffanie Delune - Peeling Off



002 Tiffanie Delune - Alone Isn't Lonely



015 Tiffanie Delune - The Unknown

TIFFANIE DELUNE

There are many reasons why an artist paints: it could be to express or release the emotions or experiences they have gone through, as a way to get a message out to the masses, an appreciation for nature or something of interest, or simply a pastime that has turned into a passionate and professional career. Vincent Van Gogh revealed he only felt alive when he was painting while Henry Ward Beecher said, "Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures."

Tiffanie Delune is one such artist who has used her past experiences to express her art. Born in 1988 in Paris, France, of Belgian and Congolese descent, her artistry was reset when she embarked on a journey to explore and heal her painful family history through painting. Her work combines a brilliant command of design and colour with a fearless commitment to exploring her personal history and celebrating sexuality, monogamy, femininity, motherhood, rebirth, agency, and freedom.

"Delving into the idea of stolen innocence, I sought meanings by reconnecting the emotions of my inner child through the eyes of the well-travelled woman that I had become," she said, explaining the inspiration behind her work. "I sublimate traumatic childhood memories, my postcolo-



004 Tiffanie Delune - Do The Work



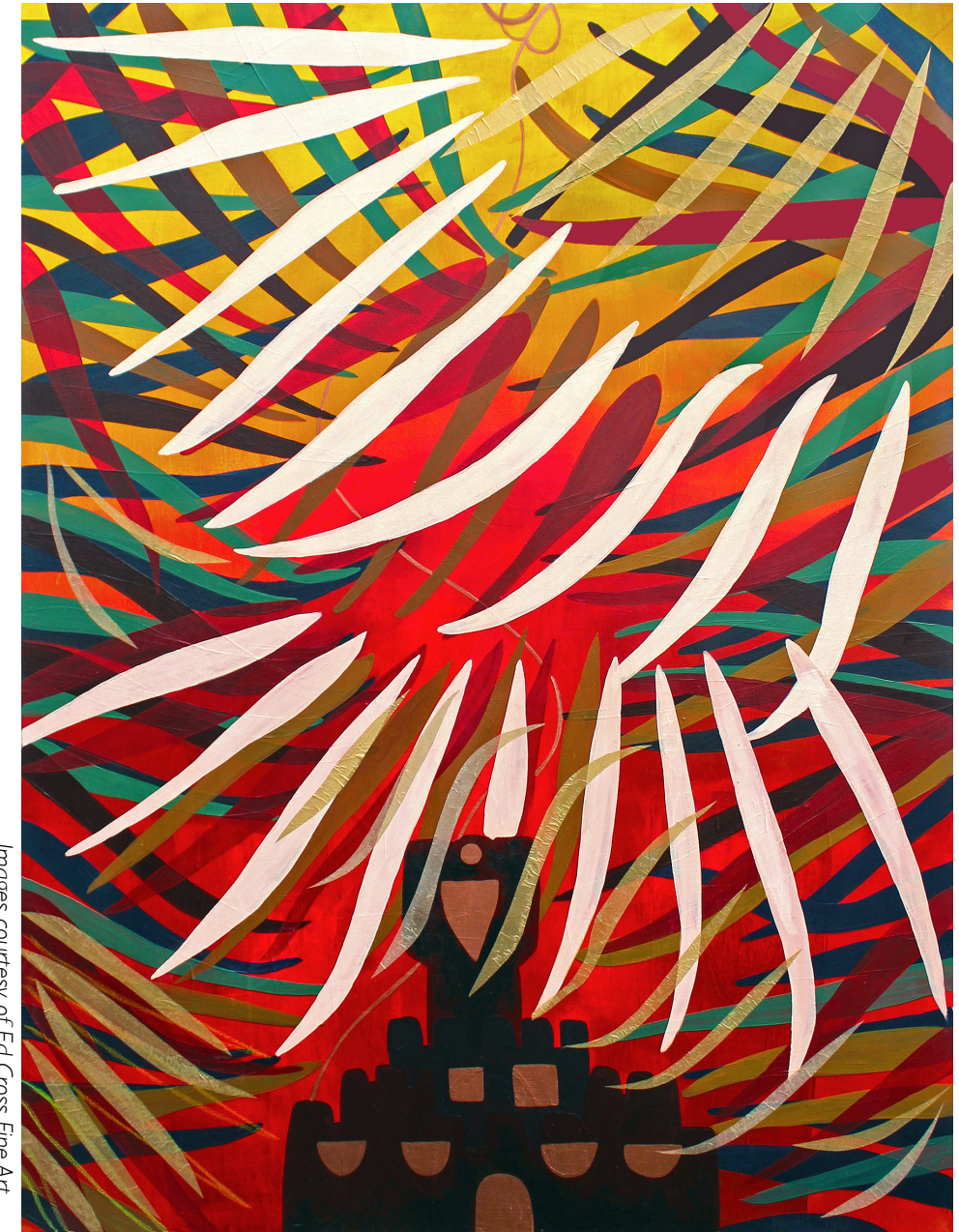
003 Tiffanie Delune - Dancing With The Universe

nial mixed-race background and the epiphanies of adulthood by personifying them as magical creatures in colourful exotic flora, playing with angles, flatness, and depths."

The artist is inspired by the cutouts of Matisse and African textiles and works with a host of materials including acrylic, oils, pastels, charcoal, graphite, pencils, papers, and fabrics such as wool, nets, and women's tights, as well as shells, and leaves which are translated onto stretched large or individual rolls of canvas, and smaller pieces of paper. "Sharp lines taken from the Belgian family background in architecture as well as fantasies about the Motherland represent a constant duality in my work."

Tiffanie has discovered that painting acts as a gargoyle in her spiritual journey, guarding herself against the devils of the mind. "I intend to show the healing power and stillness found in rich colours and bold shapes when focusing on the unexpected beauty of life. In my paintings, nature serves as a symbol of hope and strength while dramatic collage shows personal growth and empowerment. One can find a sense of belonging through the painful process of dissecting family history in order to rebuild its own journey."

Following her debut at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair 2019, Tiffanie's first solo exhibition *Seeds of Light* with Ed Cross Fine Art curated by Katherine Finerty was initially shown at The Gramophone Works in Kensal Green, London from 6 to 25 March 2020. Following government



Images courtesy of Ed Cross Fine Art

guidelines concerning Covid-19, a virtual tour was set up which allowed art enthusiasts to view the artist's work while obeying the government's advice to 'stay home and save lives' in the comfort of their homes.

Seeds of Light is an extraordinary collection of artwork that is described by curator Katherine Finerty as "full of radiant bright colours and evocative abstract shapes, teeming with hidden personal memories, mutable senses of cultural belonging, and spiritually charged visions of hope. Rainbow spectrums summon abstract dreamscapes accompanied by the holistic colour therapy, resonating in a harmony of love and rebirth defining a universal story of womanhood."

With each piece telling a story such as the colourful *Dancing With The Universe*, your eyes cannot help but roam over the different correlations of colours and shapes which seem to take us on a mystical journey through Tiffanie's imagination. The materials used and the ideas derived by the artist are as the curator says, "At once delicate yet resilient, deeply personal yet collectively reflective." Included in the solo exhibition was the self-portrait *The Bees* as well as new works: *Childhood Memories* and *Spirituality*.

Childhood Memories was a specially commissioned piece for the Alexandra Cohen Hospital for Women and Newborns in New York, in which the series expanded upon the artist's focus from the past two years on exploring themes of stolen innocent and displaced domesticity. Through this, she finds "beauty and belonging grounded within a complicated family history and collective memory, animating the ashes of a childhood gone by as both a liminal space and tactile surface to forever rise from."

Another painting, *I Come From Far* is a strong abstract of rich colours that resembles an African theme. The leaf-like strokes of white, red, green, and navy blue strands across the canvas dom-

inate the very dark-looking castle found at the bottom of the painting. There is a sense of fiery emotion as if the background of red behind and over the castle is burning with a furnace of fire while the upper yellow background provides a kind of relief and positive element of light.

One of my favourite paintings is *We've Always Been Kings and Queens* which shows an amazingly large ace of hearts playing card with abstract shapes representing the monarch subject with medieval headdresses. The bright yellow background brings a ray of sunshine while the blue flowers are perfectly drawn. Another one is *Protect My Eyes From Your Fears* which, to me, looks like an underwater scenery where the claws painted in red and maroon are shielding the eyes or plants from danger.

The Childless Mother is quite interesting as it shows a woman in a cape with a faded face, yet there is a slight trace of her features. Perhaps the artist is trying to tell us that the woman is there, yet not present. To me, she appears to be a maid with her mostly black uniform but it is not entirely clear. Nonetheless, it is a very interesting collage of shapes, colours, and the mystical background in pastels and dark red, expertly blended in, with blotches of black and a green curve.

Turning gravity on its head and reversing its philosophy, *What Must Come Down Must Come Up* is a collage of leaves, a household glove, hair net, wool, with metallic embellishment and pen on paper on an acrylic and oil pastel painting. It is quite an interesting piece of work with asymmetrical shapes in maroon and red, and a pink-purple pastel mix of colours against a dark background with specks of light blue, green, and yellow. It also has a chain of white symmetrical locks that brightens up the painting.

With Tiffanie's paintings going back the last three years, her other amazing creative pieces include her 2018 work: *The Art of Camouflage*, *My Mother: A Cannibal Flower*, *Love Circle*, and

Lobsters and Desires. In 2019, she produced several paintings including *Two Outcasts*, *The Way We Speak Body Language*, *The Unwanted Diamond*, *The Unknown*, *The Sun Doesn't Burn*, *The Special Ones*, *The Stolen Christmas Tree*, *Take Me Higher*, *Soulmates*, and *She Used To Live In 9 Square Metres Near The Eiffel Tower*.

For 2020, she has produced *Dancing With The Universe*, *I Come From Far*, *The Bees*, *The Magician*, *We've Always Been Kings and Queens*, *We Make Seeds Grow Into Hearts*, *Gambling Fever*, and *Spirituality*.

Over the last three years, Tiffanie has participated in group shows such as *Portraits of Animals* at H Factor in Lagos, Nigeria in 2018, *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* at Somerset House in London and *Contemporary African Art* at Piasa in Paris, France in 2019.

This year, she took part in *Art On A Postcard* for International

Women's Day at All Bright Mayfair in London. Her solo shows have included *Coloriosity* at 16/16 in Lagos, Nigeria (of which she was an artist-in-residence) in 2018; *Metamorphosis* at Someth1ng Gallery in London in 2019; and recently, *Seeds of Light* at The Gramophone Works in London.

The artist has also been covered in several online publications including *Tiffanie Delune's Coloriosity* on Medium and *A Furnished London Flat Pops With Lots of Colourful Art* on Design*Sponge in 2018; *Featured Minds of Issue 11: Tiffanie Delune* on Majestic Disorder and *The Life Experiences and Artistic Evolution of Tiffanie Delune* on Polo Lifestyles; and this year, *Art On A Postcard: Supporting International Women's Day* on BBC Radio London, and *Tiffanie Delune: Seeds of Light* on Contemporary And.

Tiffanie Delune works and lives in London.

www.edcrossfineart.com/artists/32-tiffanie-delune/works