

# frankie

vintage frocks • sand dunes • bold birds



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# the painted ladies

brooklyn painter jocelyn hobbie wants you to make your own mind up about her mysterious subjects.

**What do you do?** I'm a painter based in New York. I work in oil paint.

**Who are the women that appear in these paintings on paper?**

Sometimes the women in my paintings are based on someone I know, but more often than not, they are invented using various references. I think of them as more archetypal representations of women, rather than a focus on the particulars of a specific person.

**Your artworks are filled with vibrantly patterned fabrics and backgrounds. Could we find similar patterns in your own wardrobe and home?** Actually, the way I dress and even my home are fairly minimal – except for my studio, which is covered in my oil sketches for pattern ideas and swatches of colours.

**You've been painting hyperrealist female figures for decades.**

**What draws you to the human form?** I don't think of my women as hyperreal. They aren't meant to be a depiction of some ideal of flawlessness. It's just the way I paint – I like the surface of the painting to be very polished and rich. And I love saturated colour, so that smoothness and vibrancy shows up in the women as well as in the flowers or patterns. I think of the figure as the architecture or starting point of the painting. I suppose my choice to depict women has to do with identity, and I like the human connection.

**How has your artistic style evolved over the years?** Right after art school I moved to New York City where I had several lousy day jobs and was living in a tiny apartment. I loved medieval art and taught myself how to use egg tempera (a paint made from pigment and egg yolk). I was doing miniature, autobiographical tempera paintings. But after a while I developed bad headaches from the way I was working. Eventually I changed to oil paint,

which allowed me to work at a larger scale, and I began focusing on women as my subject.

I did a lot of paintings of women crying in bed. I was going through a bad time. While I still paint women, the paintings have evolved. I felt that I wanted to look at beautiful things – things that are a pleasure, because that makes me feel better. I'd love to create things that give that feeling.

**What are the women in this series thinking about?** I definitely don't want to prescribe what the women are thinking about – that's up to the viewer to decide. And I'm curious about what others bring to a painting – what someone else's interpretation is.

**When do you feel the most creative?** I paint every day, even if I'm not feeling inspired. I find that sometimes the best way to push through an artist block is to just keep doing something – just experimenting. Sometimes I have to ruin a painting or sand areas down to discover the solution.

**Did you always want to be an artist, or did you dream of being something totally different as a kid?**

I grew up in a creative environment and was always drawing, painting and sewing. As a kid I'd make toys and dolls and clothes for myself. Once I made a pair of shoes.

**Where can we see more of your work?** On Instagram at @jocelynhobbie or my website at [jocelynhobbie.com](http://jocelynhobbie.com). I'm represented by Fredericks & Freiser Gallery in New York City at [fredericksfreisergallery.com](http://fredericksfreisergallery.com) and I have a show coming up in March 2024 at the Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, California. ✨







