

The
Sunday **Tribune**
Seeking the Truth



Boris Ballet – Annie Zamero

Published on July 18, 2020 July 18, 2020 in [Spotlight](#) by [Emma Roper-Evans](#)

I am a painter with 2 main series currently ongoing- one is the 'Warrior' paintings of mystical warriors who are engaged in personal and spiritual battles, and are a celebration of the power of the human spirit to overcome obstacles and gain self knowledge. The other very different works are satires of royalty and politicians, each painting set in an art historical context by referencing an Old Master that has a humorous relevance. I have used the lockdown time to finish a very large (2m x 1.5m) painting of Boris Johnson as it is due to be exhibited in a show that may resurface later this year. I have dressed Boris in ballet shoes, a tutu made of a Union Jack, carrying a flag of the same whilst prancing on a Russian tank in a quasi goose step pose. Fortunately, prior to lockdown, I had already taken the necessary photos of a friend posing for me on a tank affectionately known as 'Stompie' on open ground in Bermondsey. Boris sadly was not available for the photo shoot.



Stompie as Boris

I am now working on a warrior painting that has become more of a heavenly spirit in an airborne chariot, so this is a development of the original warrior idea. It is possible the change is a result of inviting a House Whisperer to clear the energy in a room in my home that I have been using as my studio since lockdown. She says she calls upon higher energies and angels to clear any negative energies or entities. The warrior paintings give me courage and are in a sense my allies in my struggle with life, so they are very helpful to have around during a pandemic.



'The Performer' [Boris Johnson] after 'Miss Lala at the Cirque Fernando' by Degas, 1879, charcoal on paper, 150×195 cm.jpg

Initially I found lockdown a difficult experience as I missed all the social contact from having a studio in a complex with other artists, and from all the private views and meet ups with other artists that I was used to. However I have acclimatised myself by learning to expect a different kind of existence and instead seeing more of people who are nearby or who have their own transport and can come and visit me. I have had to spend an undue amount of time working on getting food, provisions and a general reorganisation of my life, so I haven't had loads more time for art work.



Prep sketch head angel warrior

There hasn't been a dramatic change in my tempo since lockdown although the practicalities mentioned above have created a lot of interruptions and taken up more energy than normal. Having less energy has meant my stamina for painting has sometimes been less (now returned to normal) but the level of concentration is as good as ever, thankfully. Making art work is something I always find inwardly rejuvenating, engaging and fulfilling, and so is an essential part of my life regardless of events, but even more so now. I was lucky to have moved my entire studio into a room in my home just before lockdown (the day before) as that has made everything much more bearable. But without that I would have made do with the art materials I have in my home and made smaller scale paintings with gouache instead of oil.

I do think anyone who has work that they love, be it art or anything else, has an advantage in life over those who don't have that. It means we can engage in meaningful practice and leave behind the worries of existence whilst we do the work. Not everyone with a regular salary is facing uncertainty but for those who are I expect things are very tough. But for most of us we have to live with a fair amount of uncertainty all of the time, so it is not new.



In

the

studio



The-Performer-Boris-johnson-after-Miss-Lala-at-the-Cirque-Fernando-by-Degas1879-oil-and-acrylic-on-canvas-1.5×1.95-cm-1.jpg
I think people will need the arts more post lockdown to help them feel better. However with all theatre land still closed and galleries having to impose social distancing, things will not be the same for the foreseeable future. Some larger galleries are allowing one person at a time by appointment only so that would seem to kill off the private view for many. For me the good news is that there must be an end to all this at some point as I researched the life span of a pandemic throughout history, which seems to be 1-3 years – so not forever. It may be up to artists to be creative about where and how they exhibit for the time being, without relying on the traditional gallery space e.g. outdoors but under a large covering to protect from the elements, or empty shops/department stores etc. And there is likely to be more reliance on virtual exhibitions. The arts always have an important role when life is difficult as they help people forget their troubles and engage with a different reality.



Photoshoot 3

I'm sure there will be long period of adjustment both during and after the pandemic, and I hope people will not become lazy and use Zoom and other such methods instead of face to face contact in the long term. Many office workers have already been told they are likely to work from home permanently, which will leave a lot of office space empty and likely to be redeveloped for residential use. However I think having many people working from home only adds to the general isolation of society and so may not be a good thing. Perhaps it will result in higher attendance at social gatherings such as private views!

- FACEBOOK
- TWITTER
- WHATSAPP
-

TAGS: [ART SALON SOHO](#)[BORIS BALLET](#)[LOCKDOWN ARTISTS](#)[SOLD MASTER HUMOUR](#)[TUTUS AND TANKS](#)[WARRIOR](#)[PAINTINGS](#)