

Gulf Insider

PROFILE

Dutch artist **Marianne Pasmans**, for who Bahrain has been home for 20 years.

What's your latest work?

WI was commissioned to provide the art for the newly opened The Domain Hotel. I produced a total of 10 large paintings but reproduced in 238 square meters, and these have been reproduced as prints that hang in all rooms as well as in communal areas.

You used to be a in Finance, why did you choose that career?

Guilty. I was in Finance for 13 years. Believe it or not I enjoy mathematics and my role in finance involved this. I love numbers. I especially love big numbers (laughing)

You have travelled all over the world. So what's your favorite city?

Sydney, Australia – it has everything you could possibly want in a city.

If not an artist, what other career would you love doing?

I trained as a ballerina which I loved and was good at, but being as tall as I am (6 feet) meant few male dancers were strong enough to handle me, so no matter how good I was, my opportunities as a dancer were very limited.

How would you describe your art?

Well, I prefer to let it speak for itself (editor's note – it's big, beautiful, vibrant in colour, and we intend to

reproduce and publish some of her art very soon in Gulf Insider)

Do you paint when you are in a particular state of mind?

Yes. I only paint when I feel positive and then I empty my mind.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on a future duo exhibition that will be something very special, a combination between my paintings and sculptures. I'm also finishing a book of photography focusing on

Bahrain's plantations which has taken me

some years to complete. There are a lot fewer plantations in Bahrain than there used to be which is a shame. They have a unique beauty worth capturing and preserving.

What are the most valuable lessons in life you have learned?

To be patient and committed, to embrace life and people, to never give up and always believe in you. Through discipline, application, determination and commitment one finds true freedom and liberation. I "dream" an awful lot too, and having kept diaries over years and years, I suppose with a vivid imagination and sheer will one can achieve anything despite any severe setbacks!

How do you relax?

Sharing time with friends and getting inspired by the little things in life, my Weimaraners [dogs] Blue and Zepl; the walks and time spent just you with animals and nature, reflecting on life, and having the opportunity to take time off, to just be. **GFI**



Marianne Pasmans