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EXPERIENCE THE LUXURY

BAHRAIN

## VIVA LA BAHRAIN

CAPITAL OF  
ARAB CULTURE

DEDICATED TO ART  
MARIANNE  
PASMANS

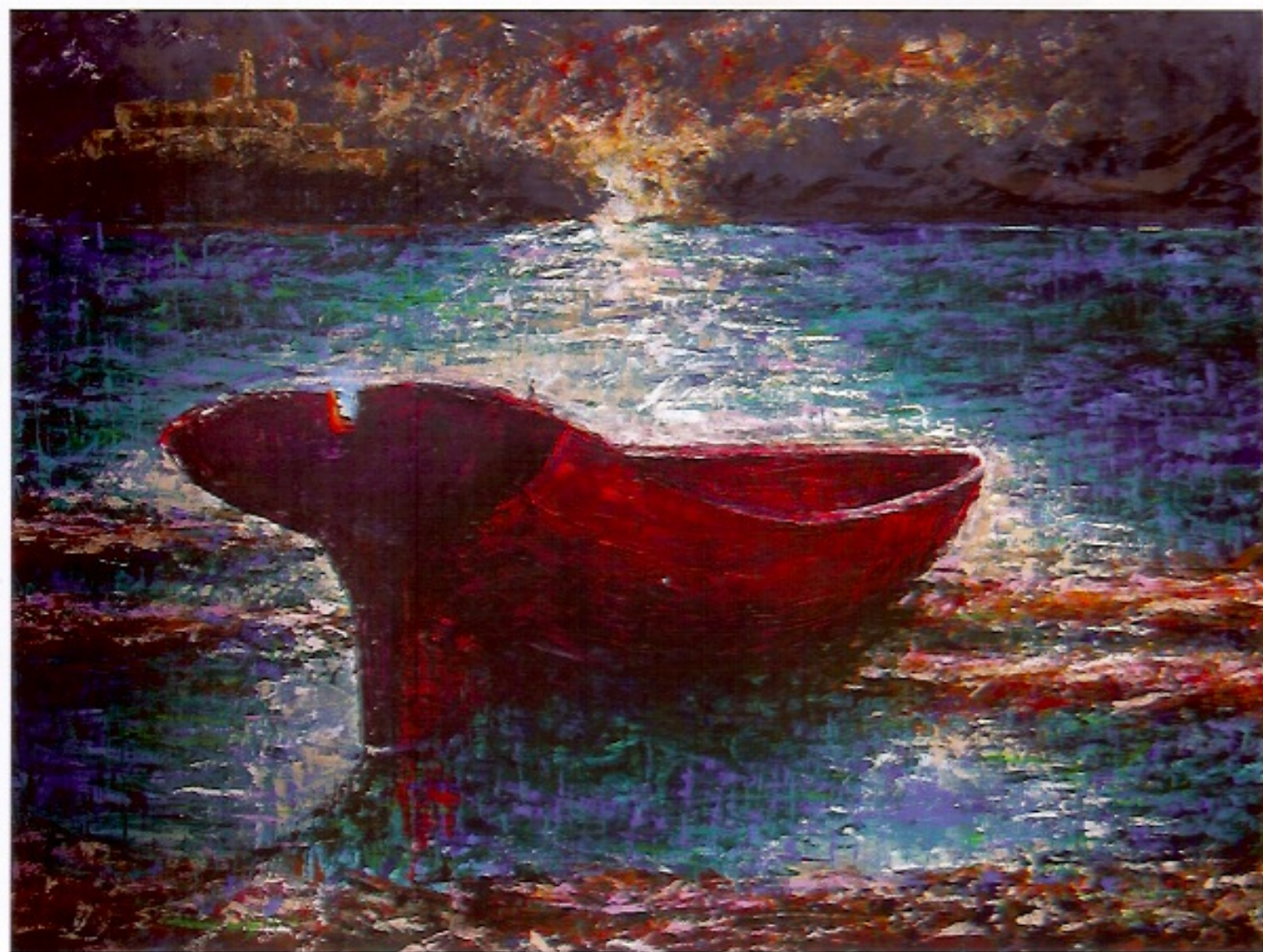
DRESSING FOR SUCCESS  
ABULLA BAHAR





# KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOURS

Local artist Marianne Pasmans has been creating evocative and striking contemporary art for the last six years. With her second eagerly anticipated Bahrain exhibition opening at the esteemed Capital Club in April, Samantha Holloway meets Marianne to discover her passion for colours





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arianne  
Pasman's  
life story  
is as  
colourful  
and  
inspiring  
as her  
artwork.

Originally from the Netherlands, Marianne was artistically creative from a young age. On leaving school she was chosen to attend the prestigious Academy of Fine Arts in Maastricht where she excelled in fabric and textile design. From these auspicious beginnings, her career in design and passion for creating flourished. And then, after travelling extensively in Europe, Marianne seized the opportunity to move to Bahrain in 1994 to broaden her horizons and experience of life.

A brief stint in the Ministry of Information followed, before Marianne moved into the lucrative world of investment banking where she enjoyed a successful 13 year career. "I moved away from art and became creative with numbers instead" jokes Marianne. During this period of her life, Marianne stepped away from art and design completely, although she readily admits that she was still tantalised by visual images she saw all around her. Perhaps to satisfy her dormant talents, Marianne turned to photography to document her travels and capture the beauty she saw around her. In 2008, Marianne made the courageous







decision to relinquish her life of finance to return to her life-long passion for art and design, "I decided it was time to pick up the brush and teach," she says. Marianne initially intended to concentrate on design but after the success of 'Blue', her first exhibition, she realised that people were genuinely interested in her paintings.

It is easy to see why. On entering Marianne's home you are immediately struck by a kaleidoscope of breathtaking colours. Extraordinary abstract artwork adorns every wall and the effect is simply striking. Marianne is inspired by Bahrain and explains how "the absence of visual stimulation in the form of rich colour is actually good, as it means that I really have to go into my head to see what I can produce and that can be a really positive experience".

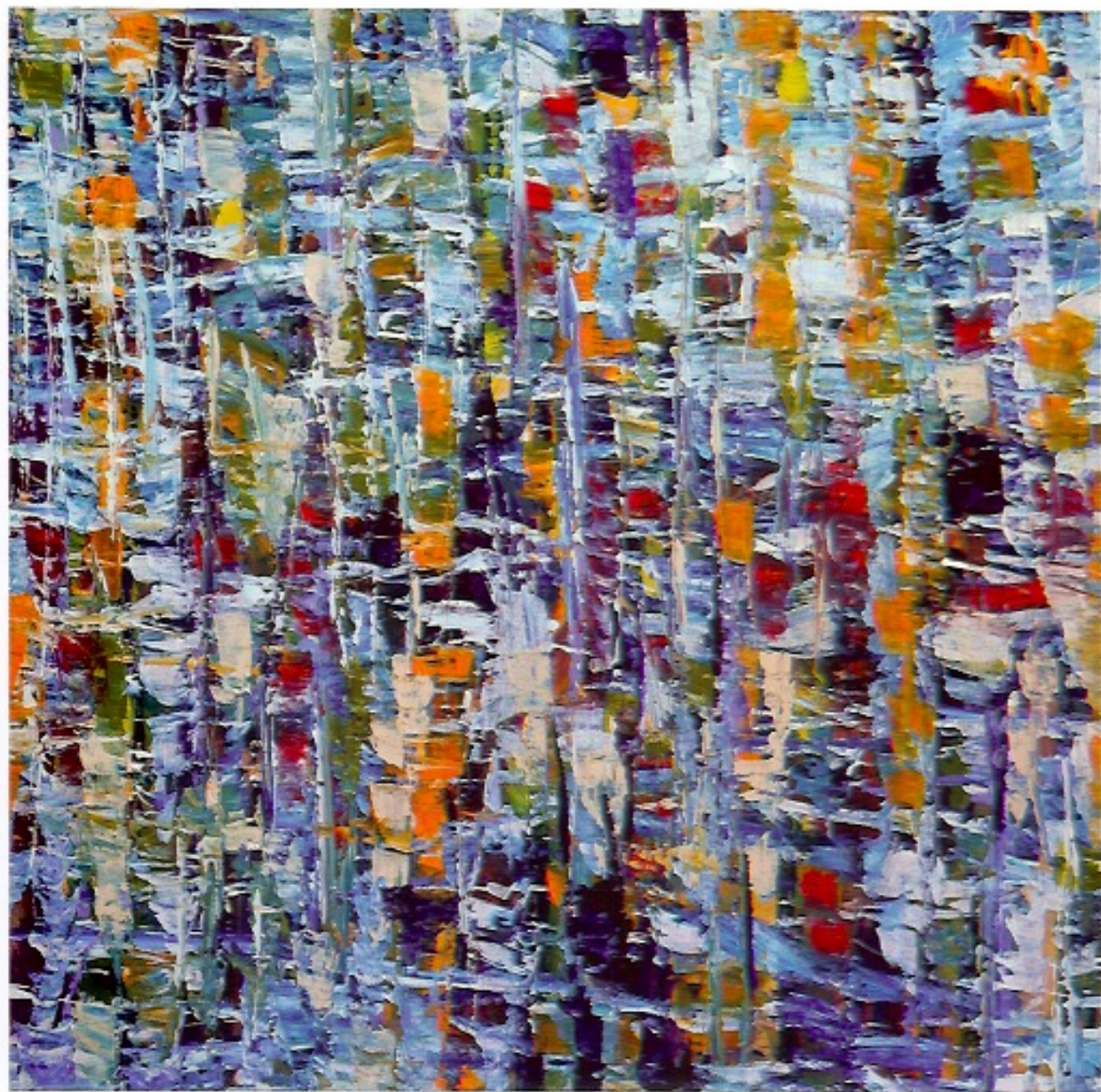
Marianne's compositions are mainly intricately created evocative abstracts layered with vibrant acrylic paints, each one is "a journey that I allow to happen" she says. Marianne's creative process starts when an idea begins to form in her mind, from there she says "I don't know if a composition will work when I start, but I let it flow. I'm not rigid about an idea at all, and I go with what the canvas presents me with". Her favoured medium is acrylic as it pushes her to make decisions quickly and work fast while the paint is wet.

In Marianne's portfolio you can see series of paintings depicting a particular subject matter which she has developed and changed over the years. One of the most captivating of these series concentrates on Marianne's interpretations of Bahrain Fort. She often likes to continue a concept over several years as she believes that an artist has a duty to develop and further study a concept so to enable some reflection over the years to see how one's style has evolved.

Marianne's commissions are popular with both commercial and private buyers. Her work can be seen in prestigious settings such as the Royal Golf Club in Riffa and the Capital Club in Manama and are also held in private collections in Los Angeles, Ireland, Switzerland and France. Marianne is very free when it comes to creating







commissions – she'll meet her client and get a feel for their life before she creates a unique work of art reflecting their individual desires. Marianne is also an experienced and dedicated teacher of art. In 2007, she started sharing her art and design skills with adult enthusiasts who came with no prior experience but armed with a passion to learn. Her courses include instruction on concept, composition, balance and development which furnishes the students with a firm foundation upon which to build their own styles. Marianne is overjoyed with her student's progress and is so confident about the real talent they have displayed that she plans to stage exhibitions of their paintings.

Other future plans are also in the pipeline. She would love to work with other artists to

create an exhibition encompassing a spectrum of multi-media art, including sculpture and paintings and feels her own paintings would compliment such an event. Most exciting perhaps, are Marianne's plans for a five city exhibition of her art in conjunction with a well established Belgian jewellery designer whose creations would reflect the luxurious colours of her work. For the immediate future, Marianne has amassed an astonishing collection of paintings for her upcoming exhibition at the Capital Club in April, her first exhibition since 2009. The exhibition has come together at the perfect time for Marianne and she promises it will be dynamic, energetic and expressive. Her amazing ability to capture light, texture, form, and colour on canvas will no doubt ensure its success.

Preparation for the exhibition has been an exciting experience for Marianne and she relished the challenge of seeing how she could develop the concept. "I didn't want to hold back this time" she says "I'm now more confident to allow myself to work with colours and take more risk and enjoy them more".

A visit to Marianne's exhibition at the Capital Club next month is strongly recommended and won't disappoint. The main problem enthusiasts may encounter is deciding which painting to take home! [63](#)

*The Capital Club exhibition runs from April 1-30.  
Please call 17100100 for exhibition opening hours  
and to arrange a visit.*