

## Artist Profile: Deborah Thompson



### *What's interesting or inspiring me right now:*

I've been interested in mysticism for a while now. One of the books I have been reading is Evelyn Underhill's classic book, *Mysticism*. Also the life of medieval period mystic Saint Teresa of Avila. I am interested in that deep quiet and contemplative space in me where meeting the unknown can happen. I am interested in what I meet when we create such a space for myself and allow images and experiences from the inner reaches to effect how I perceive the world and conduct my life. Inspiring: the spring light and budding new life that is happening all around me right now.

### *What a typical day in the studio looks like for me:*

I usually meditate or do some tai chi before going into the studio. In the studio, I never know actually what work I will do that day, sometimes I am working on a specific body of work and it is at a certain stage of development, so that will influence what I am doing. If I am starting new paintings then anything can happen. That is a period of more intensity than working or finishing up existing pieces. There is a certain exhilaration in beginning new work and a more disciplined feeling to working on existing paintings. Either way, I spend my studio day alone and in silence. My studio practice is very solitary lifestyle. Preparing for an exhibition is a whole other thing. Time on the computer, decisions about installation, problem solving, communication with others and so forth. More like chores than actual creation.

### *Other artists I like:*

I have been looking at the paintings of British painter Peter Doig lately. His use of colour, and how he uses colour and composition to create an uneasiness in his imagery. The scenes he creates have a dis-ease about them as if we are waiting for something that has already happened. I guess it is the same stillness that I am interested in about mysticism I also find in his painting. Something we are not quite comfortable with lies right below the surface. Yet they are incredibly beautiful.

### *Best piece of advice for other artists:*

Create your own culture and work with your imagination. Don't be passive about creating the environment you need to flourish. Read what you need to read, watch or don't watch what inspires your imagination. Find it, get it, do it. Don't assume the popular or mainstream culture will meet your imagination.

### *Website or Youtube recommendations:*

I am in the process of re-doing my web site and my old one is still around for a bit - [www.debthompson.ca](http://www.debthompson.ca)

*Deborah Thompson is a visual artist living in Nelson, BC. Her exhibition "Tales From the Underworld" runs from April 21 to July 8, 2012 at Touchstones Nelson. For more information, visit [www.touchstonesnelson.ca](http://www.touchstonesnelson.ca).*