



"All my works came straight from my heart, my imagination, and I made them intuitively"
— Julie Stoutt

Mapping a life lived across continents, artist **Julie Stoutt's** latest works speak of finding one's voice through art

PAPER TALES

Viewing the world in unique and singular ways, London-born artist Julie Stoutt channels her voice through her work, currently on display at Maison D'Art in an exhibition titled *Paper*. Working across paper collage, acrylic paint, and watercolor, Stoutt combines varied materials to capture a life lived across oceans.

A self-taught mixed media artist, Julie arrived in Hyderabad in 2018, where she discovered a passion for creating art. With the support of her mentor Shaun Heffernan, who instilled in her a foundational belief: there are no mistakes in art, only possibilities, she developed a vision that was bold, tactile, and emotionally alive.

On view until: July 8
Maison D'Art Banjara, Road No. 10, Banjara Hills
Timings: 11 am to 7 pm

Q&A:

WHAT SPARKED THE CREATION OF *PAPER*?

I really wanted to do something in India. I felt a little lost not working here and having time on my hands. So, I joined Hyderabad Happy Art Club. That's how it began, and I am so grateful to Shaun Heffernan for believing in me and giving me the freedom to explore art and find my style in his classes.

CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THE USE OF PAPER COLLAGE IN YOUR WORK?

I quickly realized that I loved sticking paper. I remember doing this as a child, and it ignited a spark in me. Once I get into a zone, it's like finding the perfect piece of paper to place in the paintings. I'm often picking up paper scraps or keeping paper bags and magazines, then using them in my work. A big pot of glue and loads of scraps is my happy place.

AS AN ARTIST, WHERE DO YOU DRAW YOUR INSPIRATION FROM?

Being an expat hasn't always been easy. Some of my pieces are of

special places from my memory. *To the Shore* was a work I did during lockdown as I longed to be by the sea, *Goan Spa* came to me in a dream, *Flying the Nest* is my daughter leaving home to go to university, and *Maisie* was my childhood friend now imagined as an adult.

HOW HAVE LIFE EXPERIENCES INFLUENCED YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS?

Lately, the loss of both my parents has affected my work. My parents are represented in many pieces. *Alice* shows my mother's spirit. She was such a live wire, very funny, and the life and soul of parties. My dad is in *The Forest of Hope*, and both are represented in the *Hearts I Kept*. All my works came straight from my heart, my imagination, and I made them intuitively.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE TAKE AWAY AFTER VIEWING *PAPER*?

I hope people are moved by it, and that they see the journey. I want people to know that they can achieve things even if they think they can't. I never thought I could be an artist, and it is an amazing thing to say that I am.

■ IPSHITA