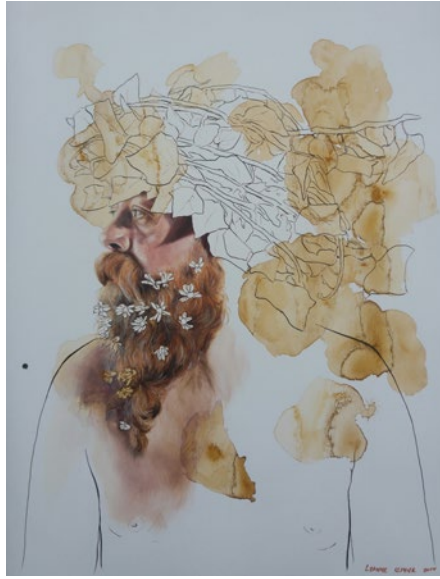




FEATURED ARTIST: LEANNE OLIVIER



Photo - by Phillip Santos @za5



*Top left:  
Stranger Things  
70 x 60 cm; oil on wood*

*Above centre:  
Symbiotic Dreams ii.  
65 x 50 cm  
Oil paint & pigment ink on Fabriano*

*Above:  
Wearing the Wreath  
130 x 100 cm;  
oil paint & ash on canvas*

*Left:  
The ring-necked dove returns  
50 x 40 cm; oil on wood*



*Above:*  
*For Sue and Marat (Sanlam Top 100, 2019)*  
*40 x 50 cm; oil on wood*

*Right:*  
*Theia (Sanlam Top 40, 2017)*  
*130 x 100 cm; oil on canvas*

## *finding new possibilities*

Pretoria-based artist Leanne Olivier feels it is important for her to keep expanding and experimenting with new possibilities. Her approach towards the various stages of painting has been an ever-evolving process. She used to start with an acrylic under-layer and building up with oil paint. However, she now starts with thinned oil paint washes and builds up from there. "Most often I'll start with either Paynes Grey for a cooler undertone and browns for a warmer feeling. During the last stages of painting I spend a lot of time on glazing with transparent colours to bring depth and richness to the work. I have also started experimenting with organic mediums like ash, bone meal and ground-up hematite rock mixed with paint and applied to the surface."





Leanne has held a few teaching positions over the years, but in 2016 she decided to become a full time artist. At the moment she doesn't offer workshops, but may consider it in the future. "I'd want it to be more encompassing than skill-transferral; a platform to engage deeper into the inner workings of the mind/body/soul and the role that creativity plays - literally shaping the neurotransmitters of our brain and consequently the nature of our experiences. I try to treat my art as a full-time job - whether I'm in the mood or not. Wake up, meditate, admin, work/paint, exercise and making sure I get quality sleep."

Drawing inspiration from masters such as Goya, Rembrandt, Frida Kahlo, she is also influenced by contemporary artists including Michael Borremans, Gottfried Helnwein and Aleah Chapin. "I am interested in the ceremonial/ritualistic aspects depicted in the rock art created by ancient civilizations. If I were to sum up the visual qualities and approach towards my art-making; it would be characterised as Classical/Romanticism depicting the liminal/in-between of the human psyche and experience, with a dash of Theatre of the Absurd. I use ash, clay, earth, bones and plant materials as a vehicle to explore and reconnect with the essence of being; challenging ideas of normality.



*Top left:*  
*Migration*  
*100 x 100 cm; oil on canvas*

*Below left:*  
*Gedrog i*  
*35 x 29 cm; oil on wood*



*Left:*  
*Gedaanteverwisseling iv*  
*35 x 29 cm; oil on wood*

*Below:*  
*Gedrog iii*  
*35 x 29 cm; oil on wood*



I try to highlight the interconnected relationship of duality: human/animal, nature/science, irrational/rational, dream-state/consciousness and where these lines become blurred."

One of Leanne's past challenging projects includes painting a dome (measuring 40sq. meters) inside the Christoburg Mosque in Erasmia, Pretoria. It took over three months to complete and quite a while to recover from the strain on her neck. "However, each of my solo exhibitions have also presented challenges of their own. Working on a body of work for 6 months and more at a time is mentally challenging. It takes a lot of commitment."

Leanne is a self-represented artist, and has a solo exhibition planned for June 2020 at the Jan Royce Gallery in Valencia, Spain. "I share a lot of behind-the-scenes processes and demonstrations on my instagram page. I try to be helpful where I can and to share helpful hints and advice gained through my own experimental processes."

**AWARDS:**

2017: 2 paintings selected for the Sanlam Portrait Award  
 "Theia" Top 40; "Ash and Salt" Top 100






2019: 2 paintings selected for the Sanlam Portrait Award  
 "The Two Zacas" and "For Sue and Marat"

2014: Winner of the Longstreet Art Lovers competition  
 (Judged by Diane Victor, Carl Jeppe and Loeritha Saayman)

2008 & 2014: Finalist in the New Sasol Signature's Competition

*in the paintbox*



|   |               |   |                   |
|---|---------------|---|-------------------|
|  | Paynes Grey   |  | Indian Red        |
|  | Vandyke Brown |  | Naples Yellow Hue |
|  | Burnt Umber   |  | Titanium White    |
|  | Italian Pink  |  | Flake White       |
|  | Caput Mortuum |   |                   |

and a dash of the blues and greens

Canvases: Winsen's Canvas  
 The quality of canvas fabric DOES make a difference.

I have replaced turpentine with an environmentally friendly, (and much more health-friendly), product made from D-limonene.

*Below (and detail on the left):  
 Ash and Salt (Sanlam Top 100, 2017)  
 130 x 100 cm; oil on canvas*

