



About this issue:

MARIT STANG - VISUAL ARTIST

About the profiles:

This is the first newsletter in a series of profiles - spotlighting interesting girls of all ages. I know them, admire them, and want to lift, and show, and share them.

"Girls who go for it."

The *it* they go for is their passion, calling, a path, an urge or dream.

Whatever you call it - it's about determination and stamina and sometimes a bit of craziness.

The other thing they go for and have in common is they are all wearing **Grey Pearl jewellery**. That makes me very proud and happy.

Girls who go for it

First out is Marit Stang. Marit goes for it - and she has - steadily and determined for the last decade. Painting is her path and vocation. This is for real - she's rather proven that - keeping at it for ten years.

It's an extra challenge to start an artistic career after years in another profession - many who try keep it at hobby level and are content to do so.

Marit however, bluntly states that "this is for real". Painting is her hard-earned new profession. After my visit to her studio I'm glad she means it. It would be a real pity if she stopped making these pictures. I'll certainly share as many as I can here.



145 x 150 cm

Marit started out getting tuition at Nydalen Kunsthøgskolen, Oslo. Today she has regular contact with two tutors, Markus Brendmoe and Roar W Eriksen, for critic and advice. They are tough but supportive and keep her going, challenging her to test ideas, a stroke, a colour, making series of trials. But they also commend her for brave use of colour and unabashed playfulness. I couldn't agree more - and am totally inspired by what *Marit på Maarud maler*. (maler=paints)



About Marit:

Born in Trondheim, Norway in 1954, now lives on Maarud Gaard, in Sør-Odal county, north of Oslo.

She paints in acrylic on untreated cotton canvas. Her paintings usually reflect her main source of inspiration; nature and its changing seasons.



Marit's statement:

*"I work.
I paint.
I have the power it takes.
I own the painting.
I am nature.
My name is Marit."*

Marit Stang

Marit's movements on canvas.

Have you ever tried to imagine how, and what happens when someone puts paint on a canvas the size of a large table?

In addition to holding a brush and dipping it in paint, moving your arm about, a lot, is a good start.

And, believe me, you can't do it if you're afraid to start or to do it wrong. It takes a lot of brave energetic movement - nothing for the faint of heart.



80 x 100 cm

Marit is *not* faint of heart and does what's needed - she moves her large brushes about on her large canvases. During our little winding talk I glimpse the process; tentatively, she is half trusting - half hoping - that her movements will reflect the nature that inspires her. Sometimes it does - or not... And when it doesn't, she steps back and watches. *Watching* may take longer than *doing*.



Not-doing is also harder than doing, from my experience. It is easier to do too much to a canvas than to stop in time. I find the canvas to the left is beautifully stopped in time...



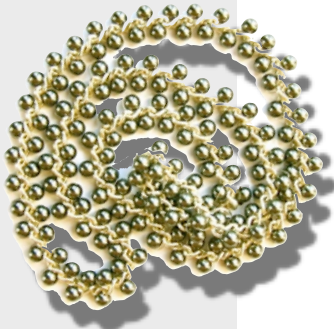
From the studio:



Work station with boxer...



3D - Marit's studio - got its name from the vitamin supplement added to the chicken fodder that used to be stored here. The studio entrance - a vitamin injection in itself.



80 x 100 cm

Mitochondria - was the word flashing through my mind when I first saw this painting - mitochondria for the soul.

Painting can be lonely.

It's nice to have a living soul around, so Wilma, an extraordinarily amiable boxer, plays an important part in Marit's work day. During the long hours of trials or seemingly passive staring, when new actions are considered, Wilma, Marit's loyal studio companion, supports her work from the sofa. Wilma watches wisely, and will skeptically lift one wrinkled eyebrow or close her eyes in content agreement to a tentative new green stroke.



About motives:

As Marit loves nature and identifies with it - one could be tempted to claim that it's about making emotions stick to a canvas in such a way that the viewer can share them - emotions evoked by a tree, or a breeze or shape against shape.

While writing this, the nature poems of American poet Robert Frost come to mind; as he does something similar with words...

Enjoy a Robert Frost poem on the next page!



140 x 140 cm

... a winter so cold that spoken words would freeze and go unheard until they thawed the next summer.

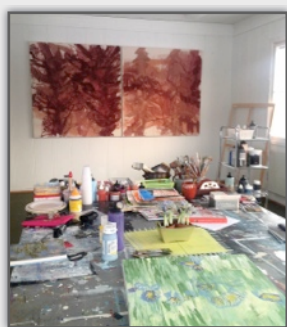


..that year the mimosas stood in bloom for two full months...

170 x 200 cm

About colours:

Colours that dominated the studio on my visit - seen in the work in progress - green, blue and terra cotta. Colours that lead my thoughts to earth, sky and trees.



90 x 90 cm

March brought sun and a revealing thaw ...

Nothing gold can stay

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf,
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day
Nothing gold can stay.

Robert Frost



...and her heart leapt in joy...



90 x 100 cm

About canvases:

"Some canvases are layered with previous attempts - some colour may shine through - but I find these canvases are often setting me free - in that they can only be better."

I couldn't tell, if this snowy scene is built upon layers of former ideas. But it would be nice to imagine that this dense snow covers layers of green, blue and brown from seasons fore and after...



130 x 150 cm



This could be a koan - *What is the sound of falling snow?*
- Isn't this just the most snowy snow you've seen?
- I can literally hear and feel the carpeting effect of snow, denser by the minute, insulating everything from making normal sounds...



50 x 65 cm



Something green brushed by me...

About moving hands

I often think of painting as a sign-language; a lasting one, leaving a trace. The painter's movements are the signs, paint makes them lasting and traceable and colour enriches it all.

Movements are essential in and for Marit's paintings - and let me add that Marit's wrists are often adorned with bangles and bracelets.

Colourful bracelets - many bracelets - Marit once told me that she even cuts off her shirt-sleeves to keep wrists free and unrestricted.

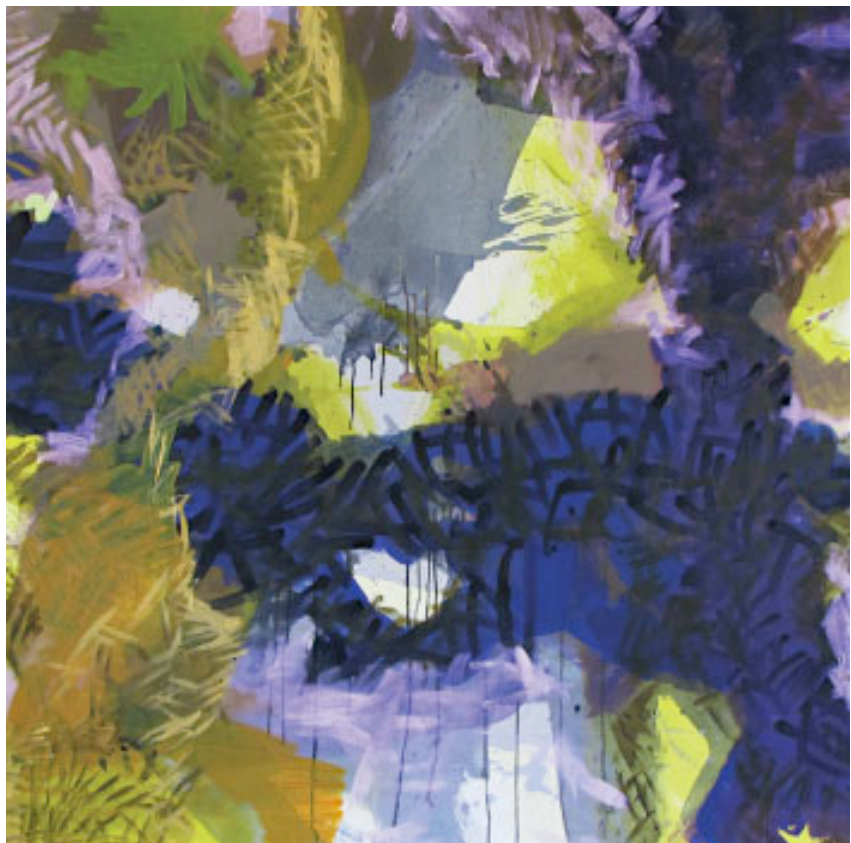
I'm thrilled that she wears my Grey Pearl bracelets too - one that is a micro-amalgam of one of her own green paintings.



Each canvas: 40 x 40 cm

Marit numbers her paintings - there are no titles to lead us! But knowing that her inspiration is nature and plants, I cannot help finding Irises above.

Seeing some of the paintings and bracelets together one could be led to think we have been working in the same room, Marit and I. I assure you, we have not. I had not even seen her work when most of the bracelets were made. We're just kindred colour spirits.



145 x 150 cm



ABOUT:

I'm Tittin Rinde, freelance designer, visual artist and writer; designer by degree and artist by practice.

With a passion for colour I express and communicate my ideas through art and design. Writing ties it all together.

I live and work in France and was educated in Norway at Oslo National Academy of the Arts, KHiO.

My work includes design for jewellery, printed products, collection work, teaching, interiors and interior related products, catalogs, writing and presentation.

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Text: Tittin Rinde



Cartoon by [HUGH MACLEOD](#)

Titles

Please notice, Marit doesn't give her paintings any titles, but a number. I guess it's partly out of respect for the viewer; she would not want to impose a title on someone - but also partly from being a private person. What looks like titles here, are added by me, not forced or willed but simply what sprung strongly to mind when I worked on the layout and I was confronted with the same paintings again and again. It just confirms how taken I am by these images.

Availability

I may have shown some paintings that are sold, but you never know, Marit paints in series, so something similar may turn up again if she's into it. Don't hesitate to ask her about it anyway.

Buying

You have to get price and shipping details directly from Marit. But I can tell as much; this far, these prices are very reasonable considering the size and quality of the paintings. If you want a painting there are ref. numbers on her website and you may contact Marit through these contact details:

CALL: + 47 414 13 695

EMAIL: marit.stang@maarudgaard.no

WEBSITE: <http://maritstang.no>

About this series of profiles

I have many more planned. The featured girls have agreed to let me put the spotlight on both their work and the fact that they have chosen to adorn themselves with [Grey Pearl jewellery](#). If they let me, I'd love to show a photo with them wearing the piece. I'm sorry I had none of Marit, but showing her paintings should make up for it.

Tips and ideas

Please contact me if you know a suitable candidate, or if I haven't gotten around to ask you yet, or you have something interesting going on that you would like to share right now; for the next issue or later.

Hope you all enjoyed this as much as I did making it, and of course both Marit and I would love your feedback!

Marit Stang & Tittin Rinde

With inspired regards, Tittin @ GREY PEARL