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|  |  Melissa Johns

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| Professional Profile | I create my pieces using Recycled T E A B A G S and other recyclables. I chose these mediums as I wanted to work with sustainable materials that would lend my work a certain whimsical feel. In 2015 I began my journey of creating pieces using the teabag fabric on canvases as part of a collage, along with other recyclables; coffee cups, serviettes, gift bags, coffee filters etc. My process involves painting and drawing on each individual piece of teabag fabric (i.e. every colour represents a different collaged piece of fabric), which I then collage onto a canvas. My process is a lengthy one, with pieces taking anywhere from 1 to 5 weeks to complete. Other mediums I use in this process are charcoal, pastels & watercolours, with acrylic base on occasion.  |
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| Artist Statement  |

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| I have always enjoyed creating & believe I have a keen imagination and a vast pool of passion for my art. 2015 saw me begin to create on canvas where I discovered my love of using recyclable materials; this led to me experimenting with different mediums. I discovered a biased & unconditional love of tea bag fabric, painted & collaged onto canvas to create scenic pieces. My work has been described as Naïve and Whimsical, to Contemporary, to Abstract. My wish is for my pieces to find loving homes that will cherish them, to raise intrigue for the viewer and awe for the buyer, and for my work to remain my passion for years to come. |

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| Solo Exhibition | Wangaratta Art Space, ‘A Tribute to Tea’, September 2017Wangaratta Jazz Festival, Milawa Art Show, October 2017  |
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| Awards | Viewer’s Choice Award St. Bernard’s Art Show 2016 Viewer’s Choice Award A Feast Of Art, Oxley art show 2016 Viewer’s Choice Award St. Bernard’s Art Show 2017 Emerging Artist Award King Valley Art Show 2017Commendation St Augustine’s Art Show 2016, 2017, 2018Commendation King Valley Art Show 2016Commendation Camberwell Art Show 2017Commendation St Bernard’s Art Show 2017Commendation Bright Art Show 2018Commendation St. Bernard’s Art Show 2018Viewer’s Choice Award St. Bernard’s Art Show 2018Commendation St Augustine’s Art Show 2018Grand Prize Winner St Augustine’s Art Show 2019 |
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| Publications | 2018 Autumn edition of Go Local Magazine – 4 page spreadMarch 2020 – ‘Tabitha and the Raincloud’, published/released AUS, NZ, UK, US, CanadaAugust 2020 – ‘Growing Pains’ to be published/released AUS, NZ, UK, US, Canada |
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| Commissioned Artwork | May 2016 – currentCommissioned: 24 Recycle pieces |
| Sold Artwork | May 2016 – CurrentSold 64 recycle art work piecesSold 32 Illustrations |
| Illustration | January 2018 - Signed first Illustration contract for a children’s book for EK PublishingApril 2019 – Signed with EK publishing for second children’s book illustrationsMarch 2020 – ‘Tabitha and the Raincloud’, published/released AUS, NZ, UK, US, CanadaAugust 2020 – ‘Growing Pains’ to be published/released AUS, NZ, UK, US, Canada |