

# {about me}

I began my art career as a child, drawing in children's books, all over the walls of the house and on every other surface I could reach. This obsessive behavior induced my parents to take me to art lessons, where I learned that I loved drawing on paper even more. However, I would have to wait until high school to be introduced to oil painting. It was then that I knew I had found my medium. Although in college I gravitated towards Graphic Design and after graduation I worked in marketing and advertising for a couple of years, I soon realized that I was not made to sit in front of a pretty desktop, pushing a mouse around. I decided to go back to my first love and now I move paint around.

In terms of technique, I strive for bold clean lines in my work. I love color. I love the high contrast created by black and I use it freely. In terms of content, the human figure dominates my work. I am particularly interested in faces as the reflection of the subject's inner life. For that reason, expressions and emotions have always been the underlying theme of my larger works. I use the skeleton in my paintings as a *memento mori*, a reminder of our mortality. After all, once we come face to face with this most democratic aspect of our humanity, it is the bones that remain. Aside from its metaphorical value as the minimal form to which we shall be reduced, the skeleton is fascinating as a sort of puzzle constructed of the shapes that provide our supporting structure.

My smaller pieces are a joy to create. Their subject matter is much more graphic based and generally more lighthearted and whimsical. Their size defines these pieces, by virtue of the inevitable bond of intimacy created when the viewer is forced to get close to the artwork.

Thank you for allowing me to share my work with you. Enjoy.

Lau Gallico