



Are there other artists whose work you draw from?

Many. And I've noticed as the years go by that I'm more and more open-minded. I was not as open-minded when I was a young adult. Of course there are many strong influences, like painters of the Renaissance, Rubens, Rembrandt, the use of colour in Vincent van Gogh's work has inspired me a lot. Colour has a hell of a lot of importance in my work. For me, colour is like an emotion, it's like energy, it's like life. I don't mean 'red is this, yellow is that', but the interaction of colour is a really magical aspect of painting.

But yes, Rembrandt especially. I'm not nostalgic, but I like old painting because it's kind of out of time. I like to think that my work might also be somewhat out of time. I mean, you can't truly become out of one's own time, but I like not to voluntarily push it into it. You know what I mean by that? This might be a bad example, but I use a computer and I find lots of things about it useful so I'm living in my time. But I've never had a Twitter account and I never will have Facebook. It's going too far. I can understand why some people want to use those tools, but for me, I like to keep a safe distance. You can tell that my paintings are being painted 'now', but I like to think they are happening out of time a bit as well. The references are hopefully a little timeless.

As a self-taught painter, I learnt what I know about art history and art by reading and going to museums. I go to the library a lot. When you've absorbed so much information, you're in a sense influenced by all of that. You have favourites, but it all just becomes part of you over time.