

Love of color influences artist who works in Spring Branch studio

By Flori Meeks | December 2, 2014 | Updated: December 4, 2014 8:51am

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Photo By R. Clayton McKee/Freelance

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Artist Anne-Joëlle Galley shows a print fresh from the press in her studio. Artist Anne-Joëlle Galley shows a print fresh from the press in her studio.



Artist **Anne-Joëlle Galley** was born in Switzerland and has lived in London, Paris, Madrid and New York before making Houston home, but she says it was her years growing up in Mexico that infuse the pieces she creates today.

"What I do today is very much influenced by the colors of Mexico," said Galley, who lives near Memorial Park and has a studio in the Spring Branch area. "I use a very bright palette."

Galley, who studied art in Europe in the 1980s, exhibits in the United States and internationally. For her, creating art has multi-faceted rewards.

"On the intellectual side, by having so much color, you can bring a bit of joy to people when you see so much trouble and sadness everywhere. To me, that's very important.

"On the practical side, I really love to work with the paint, and I love to paint on wood and canvas. Most of the time, I paint with my fingers. I use a lot of oil-based paints. That, I guess, is the kid in me. I love to play with the materials."

Galley's love for bright, lively colors has shaped her latest project: a collection of silk scarves displaying some of her designs.

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"It goes back to the idea that you want to bring color into the world," Galley said.

The public can see her seven scarves, one for each day of the week, during a reception at the **Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4.

Galley also will sell the scarves as limited edition pieces, initially for \$365 a piece and later for about \$425. "To me, you're wearing a piece of art," Galley said. "You become one with the art."

Galley, the niece and granddaughter of artists, said creating art didn't really gel for her until her

early adult years.

"For me, I really had to work at it. It became more important to me during my time living in London."

There, her training included courses provided through **Sotheby's** and the **Institute of Contemporary Art**/Christies.

"There's a vibrancy and amount of creativity in London that are spectacular," Galley said. "The one thing I found difficult was the climate."

Houston, Galley said, reminds her more of her childhood home in Mexico City. "Now it's a bit of chaos with the traffic and crime, but when I was growing up it was nice; we'd get on our bikes and go to the park.

"All of the markets and the smells and the colors: that's with me always."

Galley has a series of paintings she named "Cities of the World" that showcase cities she has visited or called home.

She also creates commissioned pieces that she can personalize for the client. "The idea is that you're making art for the viewer, not just for you," she said. "Of course I express myself through my colors, but I really believe we should be on this earth to give happiness to others."

For information about Galley's work, visit <http://annejoelle.com>