

/ IN CONVERSATION WITH.... /



DAVIDE ULIANA

Italian-born Mullumbimby-based artist Davide Uliana uses his practice to reflect on his surroundings.

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**How would you describe what you do to someone who hasn't seen your art?**  
I paint mainly abstracts and abstract landscapes; no rules. Medium/big sized work. I don't have much patience for details so I don't put much in my painting – big moody brush strokes normally prevail. I mainly use oil colour and acrylic.

**When did you first fall in love with art?**  
It's hard to say when I fell in love with it, but I can tell you what I fell in love with: the creative process. When I paint, a relationship begins between the canvas and me. It's a two way relationship – the painting responds one way or another to my actions and eventually it will require me to work in a certain way or do a certain thing to it. I love the feeling I get when I realise what it is that I need to do to move forward with it, and the sense I get when I know a painting is completed.

**Where are you based?**  
I live and paint in Mullumbimby. I am very fortunate to have a studio only a few metres away from my door step. It's quite a magical place sitting right under a big fig tree. There is a fire place as well, so on rainy days and in winter the atmosphere is magic.

**What does a typical day in the studio involve?**  
It really depends on the day and the stage of the work I am tackling. I prefer to work on more than one piece at the time, it helps me understand in which direction to move and it keeps my mind in a dynamic mode. My paintings almost always begin from one idea, but it mutates several times.

**Where do you find inspiration?**  
It could be the environment, but a story or an image, a colour or a song can have the same effect – anything that moves me either in a good or bad way is a source of inspiration. I think it's a state of mind that relies on emotions, rather than subjects.

**What have you been working on recently?**  
I am working on a couple of commissions at the moment, as well as two pieces for a group show in a few weeks at Peek Gallery, Byron Bay and I am beginning to work on my first solo exhibition later this year. So, very busy and very excited!

**If you could add one artwork to your own art collection what would it be and why?**  
*The Hay Wain*, 1821 by **John Constable**. I would often go to The National Gallery, when I lived in London, and I was always drawn to this painting. I'd spend quite some time looking at all the detail and the scene and sort of immerse myself in it. I think it takes me back to the place I grew up, where my whole childhood unravelled by the course of a river.



1 / Artist Davide Uliana.  
PHOTO: DAVIDE BALDUZZI

2 / Davide Uliana *Minyon Falls* 2021. Oil and acrylic on canvas. 150 x 150cm.

3 / Davide Uliana *What if its true* 2020. Oil and acrylic on canvas 76 x 76cm.

4 / Davide Uliana *The Leap* 2020. Oil on canvas 61 x 76cm.

5 / Davide Uliana *The Back Shed* 2020. Oil on canvas 50 x 40cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND PEEK GALLERY, BYRON BAY