

PROFILE

By **MARY HEENAN**

Angela opens own studio in Pery Sq.

THE much acclaimed and admired Limerick artist, Angela Woulfe recently became the first Limerick artist to open her own studio and exhibition area.

"She has shown great courage and deserves the support of Limerick", said Ms. Brid Dukes of the Arts Council, when officially opening the new facilities at 16 Pery Square.

And this week, Angela admitted that it certainly did take courage to embark on this venture "but I did need someplace where I could work and display my work. It is hard work but I wouldn't enjoy it if it wasn't a challenge.

"Everything is working out very well and I'm delighted that I made this decision".

Angela admits that her main requirement when painting is to be on her own. "I just need to be on my own to work. And because of that it is a lonely career".

"However I do go out painting sometimes with Sr. Nora — she runs an art workshop in Laurel Hill and I do enjoy going there".

But this talented lady who's paintings are now sold worldwide admits that she never went to Art College. "And I really can't remember when I first started to paint".

But she does admit that she was influenced by her

father's profession — her father, Tim Dennehy was a well known Limerick freelance photographer.

Amazing

"I was always interested in his work, especially his techniques with black and white photography. It was amazing what he could do with light and now light is one of the most important aspects in my work.

I would have liked to have been a journalist, it was a career that always fascinated me".

Angela claims that though she was influenced by her father, she is quick to point out that she has never been influenced by other artists.

"That is not to say that I don't enjoy seeing other people's work. I love looking at other works and I especially like to see artists experimenting and taking chances", said Angela who herself loves to experiment with her work.

"If I do go to a large exhibition, then I don't paint for a long time afterwards, just in case I would be influenced and I wouldn't want that".

She is totally emphatic about that — "I do not want to be influenced by anyone's work.

"I don't paint to sell, I paint for myself and that's it. And I don't pass anyone any apology for what I put on canvas".

It was her brother Brendan



Angela Woulfe.

who bought her a set of oil paints as a present. "I think he really bought them for himself as he was really interested in art.

"And even though I can't remember when I took up painting seriously, I can

remember, even from a young age that I was always sketching.

Sketch

"Whatever I was doing I always had a sketch of some

scene on the top of a page. "I break all the rules when I am painting. I do it just for the fun" — however Angela believes that there should be no set rules for artists — "that leaves no room for creating something new".

"Some people think that if you are painting then you go in a particular direction. I don't agree. I like variety in my work".

At the official opening of her studio, Ms. Dukes described Angela as an artist with an ability to create an atmosphere that everyone else sees. "And I hope that everyone will appreciate what she has done for art in Limerick".

"Art is a means of expressing oneself. If I saw something which I thought I could capture on canvas, then I would express it in such a manner. However, if I told someone about it, then I would also have expressed myself and once I have expressed it once then that's it for me".

Nature and themes closely associated with nature dominate much of Angela's work.

"Lighting is very important in my work — it can create so many different effects. I often like to create a cold effect — this can either be misty, eerie or mysterious.

"I like to create an element of fantasy in my work". Angela has the ability to

capture many different scenes from one scene or image.

"I also like to take images and sections of folklore and bring them to life on canvas. However, I don't like my paintings to be very obvious. And I always work in oils".

Background

"I love Limerick and it is usually in and around the city that I do most of my painting. But I do not like straight-forward scenes".

And to help create the atmosphere, Angela likes to have background music as she works.

"I love music particularly the piano and the classical violin. I enjoy playing the piano and my daughter is at present learning to play the classical violin".

Angela said that her son and daughter are her two best critics — Katherine, a student at N.I.H.E. and Daniel, a student at St. Clement's.

A member of the Limerick/Zonta club, Angela is also a former secretary of the Limerick Arts Society.

And the future for Angela: "Well I don't like to plan too far in advance, but I will certainly be staying in Limerick.

"The Limerick public have kept me going. If they hadn't supported me as they did then I would have had no choice but to move away".

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