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# Jennifer Morgan

## EMOTION & ENERGY ON CANVAS

Emotion and energy are two things that Dallas-based artist, Jennifer Morgan, is not afraid to paint onto her canvas. Morgan is represented by galleries across the nation and also sells her work internationally. She graduated from the University of North Texas where she studied art history, marketing, and painting. A full-time artist for ten years, Morgan frequently works with galleries, designers, and other art collectors and enthusiasts. She has sold over 2500 paintings in the course of her career and only has plans of creating more. Her empowering vision and bold use of color and emotion bring life and inspiration to the art community of Dallas.

**Q: Your first solo debut was in May 2001, and you have been a full time artist since. How did you get your start and become the accomplished artist you are today?**

I had an art marketing book and a class

called Professional Practices for Art. That class from my senior year gave you options on how to make a living as an artist. I also read a statistic in the art market magazine that only 17 percent of people had been in an art gallery. So I decided to focus on the other 83 percent. So everywhere, in coffee shops, restaurants, I would put up my art. I kept making a body of work and started hanging it anywhere. So that's kind of how I got started. There is a furniture store that I hooked up with in 2003 and they have sold the majority of my work.

**Q: Did you always dream of being an artist? Or was there any defining moment when you knew this was what you wanted to do?**

I have always been able to do it, I have always drawn and painted. But when it came time to go to college, I was thinking all I can do with a painting degree is teach.

While at North Texas, I met my mentors and they played a key role in encouraging me and helping me pursue being an artist. Of course, I credit my mom and family, also my mentor at college, Don Schoal. He and his wife really told me "You need to paint". They are the key players and put me on my path. Also, they are artists and I really respected their work.

**Q: You have been known to express strong emotion and energy into your work. It is noted that an excerpt from Henry Beston's "The Outermost House" inspired your "We're all Pink" series. What elements from Beston can be seen in your collection?**

I think we need to have a greater respect for animals and know how amazing they are. Nature and animals lead us through life and to peace. I just want people to connect with animals and nature, our roots. I think that excerpt is so powerful and beautiful.

**Q: Has your style of painting evolved over the years? Or would you generally say it has stayed the same? What inspires these changes, or new themes to your**

collections?

I did a total style change in 2005; my work was almost animated. It is still surreal, but it took a totally different turn, visually. So I have been doing this style for almost 6 yrs and I have seen it evolve. But I am probably getting ready to move on to the next idea. I have sold over 2500 paintings over the past ten years, so I have been wanting to experiment with different mediums and ideas.

**Q: Do you have one piece of work that is particularly special to you? Why?**

Someone asked me this last night. I think of my painting as puppies because you have an attachment to all of them but you can't keep all of them. I only have one painting that I have done in my own home. I would say my work is based on what I was feeling or experiencing at the time. You never know what people will really connect with.

**Q: What has been your greatest accomplishment?**

Overall the fact that I have been able to make a living as a full time painter for ten years, that is probably what I am most proud of because it takes a lot of different things like hard work and sacrifice. And also you have to take risks, you have to be astute in business, even though it may not be your strongest selling point.

Working with Nieman Marcus was also a great accomplishment. They have commissioned quite a number of my paintings.

The Omni Hotel Project is a new project I am working on. I have done about 80 pieces for the Omni Convention Center Hotel in Dallas, which is opening this Summer.

**Q: Your art is represented nationally and you have clients all over the world. Being Dallas-based, how have you been involved in the community?**

I participate in a lot of fundraisers, like the Art Conspiracy, every year for 5 years, the Arts and Advocacy Fundraiser, and the Art of Skateboarding. I try to participate in fundraisers. It's my way of being able to give back. I feel like just doing what you do, just getting out and showing and putting your art places, really inspires other artists to think, "I can put my work out there, I can do this." I'm hoping to inspire other artists.

**Q: From all of your experience, what would you say you have learned the most about life, or what being an artist has taught you most?**

Because my job is very solitary, I think one of the things it has taught me is to stay a little bit disconnected. You know, I don't watch TV or things like that, because I feel part of my job is to be aware. And, I think in our modern society, it is easy to get caught up with your phone, TV, internet... It has taught me to stay grounded. It has also taught me that with being self-employed, and the ebbs and flows, that people come in and out of your life, and so do buyers. It has taught me to have faith, having faith that you are going to be taken care of or your next painting is going to sell. There are no guarantees. I trained myself into accepting what the universe brings me. I think when you are more fluid, it is easier to go with the flow. [www.jennifermorgan.net](http://www.jennifermorgan.net)

