

**Soula Mantalvanos**  
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2006



[www.soula.com.au](http://www.soula.com.au)

## **Soula Mantalvanos**

### **Date of Birth**

17/11/1969

### **Employment**

1997-current

Origin of Image

Graphic designer

### **Solo exhibitions**

Aug 2006

'Winter Light' French facades. Brunswick Street Gallery

Oct 2006

'Nudes'. Brunswick Street Gallery

### **Upcoming exhibitions**

Oct 2006 – Jan 2007

Cafe Toulouse. Hobart, Tasmania

Aug 2007

French facades. Gasworks Arts Park

October 2007

French facades. The Convent, Daylesford

### **Group exhibitions**

Oct 2006

Colourful Moments. Art Moment Gallery Bondi Beach NSW

July 2006

The Body Show. Brunswick Street Gallery

Dec 2006

Xmas Charity Auction. Brunswick Street Gallery

Sep 2007

The Body Show. Brunswick Street Gallery

Dec 2007

The Fitzroy Show. Brunswick Street Gallery

### **Other exposure and experience**

2005-current

Exhibiting various works at First Settlement Gallery

2005-2006

Exhibited various works at Rose Street Gallery

April 2005

Melbourne Affordable art show. Represented by

First Settlement Gallery. Nudes on Belgian linen

Mar 2005

Live Stage painting. Mercedes Grand Prix dinner.

(2 x 4.6 x 2mt pieces)

Oct 2004

Live Stage painting. Committee for Melbourne

annual dinner (10mt x 3mt)

Sep 2004

Completed commission 'crops'

Aug 2004

Abstracts on display at the Committee for Melbourne

Dec 2003

Began exhibiting nudes at First Settlement Gallery

Nov 2003

Began exhibiting oil screens at the Rose Street Gallery

Nov 2003

Bio on screens published in the HeraldSun

### **Professional Memberships**

Arts Hub Australia

Art Whats On

artworkers

fuel4arts

NAVA

NGV

### **Education**

2006

Etching course, Firestation with Deborah Williams

2006

Monotype course, Australian Print Workshop

with Martin King

1993

Bachelor of Arts degree, graphic design,

Swinburne University

(originally Victoria University Prahran campus)

1988

Certificate in Art and Design, Box Hill Institute of TAFE

1987

T12 Graphic design, Box Hill Technical College

1986

T11 Fine art, Box Hill Technical College



## **Soula Mantalvanos**

### **Artists' Statement**

I love art... creating, bringing something to life. Showing an element or a quality that might not be so obvious, perhaps discovering something not everyone sees or simply enhancing a wonderful characteristic.

Drawing has always been a part of my life but the last few years have been the most rewarding and interesting. This is a result of more dedication, inspiration from travels, research and exposure. My knowledge and experiences have handed me great confidence and led to a deeper energy to pursue the fine art path.

### **Nudes**

My nude works portray the female as confident and free without being too confrontational. The female body has always been a fascinating form for me, and I imagine, it will remain a fulfilling creative channel forever.

### **Still Life**

My 'Winter Light' series represents buildings and streets of Paris. Just two short trips brought incredible inspiration and gave me a larger energy for culture, not just specifically art.

Each season would be inspiring but what I enjoyed painting most in Paris during winter was the colour. I could accentuate it so strongly against the grey skies, dull roads, the bland greys of the tops of the buildings... it was wonderful. My aim with this work was to also capture the personalities: 'wonky', settled buildings with contrasting decorative finishes and brilliant coloured faces.

Paris was an experience I will be drawing on for some time.

Currently, I'm working on recent travels which also included Cyprus and Greece this year. The new work will also include printmaking - a new direction for me. I look forward to the experimentation, discoveries and surprises.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Soula', written in a cursive, flowing style.

To Whom It May Concern

I approached Soula after viewing her work on the [artwhatson.com.au](http://artwhatson.com.au) website only a few months ago. I was impressed with soula's application to both the still life and figurative styles and invited her to exhibit at the gallery. We both felt the two styles and works were strong enough to support a solo show each.

Soula continues her interest to exhibit with future shows booked in and is currently part of 'the body show'. She shows incredible interest in providing an experience for visitors to her solo show already planning to include working journals as part of the show.

Soula's own website is an indication of dedication and professionalism, she has a great passion and energy for her work and i hope to continue showing her work at Brunswick Street Gallery.

Soula certainly practices as a professional, i personally look forward to seeing her development and growth.

Mark Jamieson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Jamieson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Director

Great art, like great writing, moves us – mostly for reasons beyond our comprehension. This innate emotional response transcends the academic, the technical, the political, the symbolic. We feel the artist's passion reflected in the beauty of the art. Contrary to popular myth, where art is concerned we do know what we like.

Soula Mantalvanos pours her heart into her art. Obsessive drawing during childhood led to tertiary studies in art and design and, eventually, a full-time graphic design business. Frustrated by the artistic constraints inherent in corporate design work, Soula always turned to fine art in her spare time.

I have known Soula for many years and have watched her talent flourish as it evolved from film-icon portraits pencilled on her childhood bedroom wall, through major corporate design commissions to her most recent works in ink and watercolour, which are breathtaking.

Soula's devotion is evident in her prodigious output; each piece lovingly conceived and rendered, from elegant nudes to the lush, tactile quality of her paintings - including beautifully realised Parisian streetscapes imbued with Impressionist spirit. A wholly confident artist is revealed in the composition, brushwork, perspective, and juxtaposition of colour, light and shadow in her recent canvases.

Soula's joy in her art is a pleasure to behold.

*Jodie Davis is a Melbourne-based writer and editor.*

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