

# Michaela Jane

***Always a very creative person, when the decision came in year 13 to decide what was next for Michaela Voigt, it was either going to be something along the lines of Sports and Nutrition or something creative and she chose an Applied Arts Degree - a Bachelor of Applied Media Art at the Southern Institute of Technology which she completed in 2013.***



***'Land of the Rising Sun' - work in progress, Japanese inspired - 500 x 500mm. Ink pens, gold leaf and paint***

**"** I did focus a lot on the digital side whilst studying but my favourite class, looking back, was definitely life drawing. Since graduating I have mostly been a full time Graphic Designer putting work into the odd exhibition but in the last couple of years I have really started pursuing my love of drawing again in particular flowers and botanicals."

She finds inspiration in all that surrounds her. "I draw things I have seen that are memorable to me and it's usually the little things. I remember the types of flowers I saw at the castles in Japan, the bugs or the tree type I saw, more than the big things. My phone gallery is full of pictures of flowers. I like to express these 'little things' by adding a twist of whimsy or mixing with other objects to create a piece sometimes in





**'Manuka Ice-Cream' - 250 x 400mm. Ink pen and gold paint**



**'Glass of Blooms' - ink pen indian ink. 'Golden Pansies' and 'Golden Peonies' - ink pen gold paint**



**Michaela and Frank, the cocker spaniel in front of Blooms of Growth**

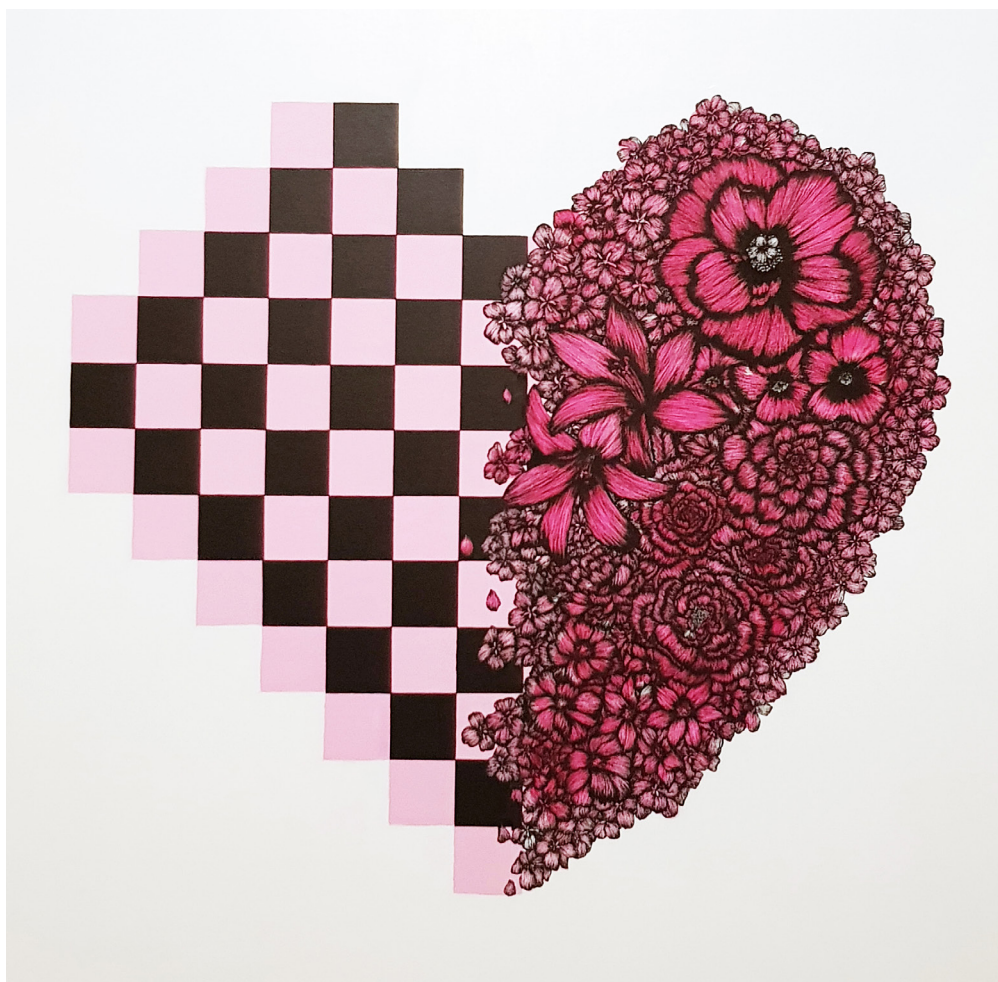
a more surrealist manner. I like the idea that nearly everyone can resonate with flowers and botanicals whether they like them or not, they mean something different to everyone so that's what makes drawing something so common so special I think."

When it comes to artists that she admires, her preference is not necessarily to her own style. "I love Pop Art artists like Banksy and New Zealand Artist Dick



**'Blooms of Growth' - 1200 x 1200mm. Indian ink wash and posca pens on canvas**





**TOP: 'Loves Crossover' - 850 x 850mm. Acrylic paint and posca pens on canvas**

**TOP LEFT: Pink Crossovers pieces**

**ABOVE: 'Dripping Dahlias' - 400 x 600mm. Acrylic paint and posca pens**

**LEFT: Close up of Eclipse of Aotearoa using native NZ florals with ink pen and gold paint**

Frizzell, but one a bit closer to the floral aspect that I always go back to is Georgia O'Keeffe. Botanical artist Edith Rewa is amazing and I also love watching New Zealand artists Hannah Shand & Ellie Compton's work process and of course their finished pieces."

For her, being an artist is about switching off, getting away from the screens, music up and zoning out everything else. "I very rarely draw in front of people so it's my time. It's also a pretty incredible feeling when someone buys a finished piece. Like someone actually wants to have something I've created in their home."

In the future she wants to be a full time artist. "I don't say job as I don't feel like it's a job at all. I would love to illustrate a book, or collaborate with other brands. Maybe something along those lines would be super cool."

Her goal is to get her work into some galleries in New Zealand as well as overseas and she would love to do some international artist residencies too.

The first exhibition that she participated in since picking up the drawing tools again, in 2021, was the West Otago Taste of Art and she was very happily surprised to take away the Best Painting – All Mediums prize and the Overall Supreme award which she was super stoked with. She has since exhibited in six group exhibitions in the Southland area.

"I had my first solo exhibition in Sep-Oct this year (2022) at the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre Gallery, Mandeville (5 mins from Gore). Called 'Bloomin Heck – a floral chaos' where I exhibited 15 pieces completed over the last 18 months. It was a great learning experience selling a few pieces, and meeting and talking to people whilst being an artist in residence for the opening weekend as part of the Murihiku Arts Trail. I'm currently in process of planning my next solo exhibition for end of 2023."

Living in another country brought some home truths to Michaela: "Japan is a very



homogenous country, therefore my partner and I really stuck out, especially as we were living in a city that isn't a tourist destination as such. I never realised this till I had experienced living in another country. It took a bit of getting used to, being stared at all the time but it has made me not care so much about what people think. Everyone is so different and I think living abroad has made me accept that a lot more. It's definitely made me a lot more confident in myself and what I want to do and I honestly don't think I would be pursuing this so much if it wasn't for that experience. I really am looking forward to getting back there!"

Her favourite subjects are flowers, blooms and botanicals, but also bugs and small animals she's seen. "I also like to add a bit of a surrealist feel to pieces, incorporating the blooms into environments you wouldn't usually see them in. Playing with viewers, so they also have something more fun and unique to view. I like playing with Indian ink wash and gold paint and fine tip drawing pens. .003-1.0 nib sizes."

She keeps journals everywhere, office, work, handbag, bed side and will quickly sketch down any ideas before she forgets them. "Sometimes I'll plan a piece but most of the time I have a vision in my head and just go for it. I use reference images either from photos I've taken or from a couple of people's photographs that have given me permission to use, and just start sketching out the idea in pencil. Then I just get in with the ink pen and start drawing, or ink wash and then pen."

She has a very spoiled nine year Cocker Spaniel who is a huge attention seeker, so she spends time with him and her partner when she isn't creating. "Walking, being outdoors and spending time with family and friends and watching movies are good downtime things we like to do."

"For aspiring artists my advice would be to just do it, if it's what you want to do. Take criticism on the chin, don't get too upset about it and carry on. You'll never please everyone doing what you are passionate about and the thing is you don't need to!"

She is currently working on a couple of collaborations, one being in fashion which she is very excited about. "I have a few commissions on the go and listing artwork and available prints on my website [www.michaelajaneart.com](http://www.michaelajaneart.com) and working on planning my next solo exhibition."



**Award winning 'Beautiful World' at the West Otago Taste of Art exhibition'**



**Michaela with artwork at West Otago Taste of Art exhibition**