



After graduating she moved to Los Angeles for six years where she featured in *The Hessen Affair* and *Love at First Kill*. She relocated to London almost two years ago and took the female lead in a play called *The River Line*, followed by *Spite* and *Malice* and subsequently *Parades End* for HBO. Most recently she starred in season four of HBO Cinemax's series *Strike Back* in and around Johannesburg.

After 10 years of acting, what sparked this talented young woman's creativity to become a painter?

She says: 'My mother Annemarie de Smet is a well-known Belgian artist so I grew up with a lot of art around me. She used to take us to galleries and art exhibitions around the world which, as a little girl, I found excruciatingly boring. Yet, I always wondered why she had the ability to create art and I could not? >

# LYNE RENÉE

BORN AND RAISED IN CHENT, BELGIUM LYNE RENÉE WAS EDUCATED THERE AND EVENTUALLY GRADUATED FROM THE STUDIO HERMAN TEIRLINCK UNIVERSITY OF ACTING IN 2004. SHE LIVED AND WORKED IN NAMIBIA FOR WILDERNESS SAFARIS DURING HER GAP YEAR, AT ONGAVA GAME RESERVE. THE PARK IS PART OWNED BY HER FAMILY WHO LIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAS BEEN PART OF HER LIFE SINCE SHE WAS 14.

*opposite (clockwise from top left): 'Red Turban', 65cm x 45cm; 'Diane', 75cm x 50cm; 'Tanya', 25cm x 20cm*

*this page (clockwise from top): 'Window', 150cm x 120cm; 'Birds', 80cm x 66cm; 'Crossing', 115cm x 90cm*





**left:** 'Stella; 46cm x 38cm

**bottom:** 'Silenced'; 60cm x 50cm



'About a year and a half after moving to London I read a book by Robin Sharma in which he explained that when you tell yourself you can't do something you actually impose that limit upon yourself.

'I found this theory truly fascinating and wanted to put it to the test. So I did what scared me the most – I believe now that behind one's biggest fears lies the absolute truth. I bought a small canvas and the necessary paints and brushes and started by painting a portrait of my best friend. It felt so liberating and relaxing and so I let it happen.

'I became inspired to acquire bigger canvases and more colours. My works got ever larger, my confidence grew and the ongoing challenges overcame my fear. I was loving being able to tell a story visually. After 12 months I had completed 22 paintings and my walls were covered with them. Learning about new artists on a weekly basis and visiting galleries had become a ritual. My Tate Gallery membership was now my most treasured pass.'

Lyne Renée was driven by an ongoing urge to paint, a direction she would have previously considered impossible. Since then, painting has become a part of her life; while working on a film or play she often paints on the mirror of her hotel room with washable pens, or works on an idea for an installation.

Her works are presented on raw canvas without a primer leaving a surface with a brown tint; this she feels makes her images seem to rise off the canvas. She works in acrylic and uses regular black or coloured pencils for

sketching portraits.

Inspiration evolves from interesting faces, original images that she has taken. These she tries to portray as an abstract tale, mostly poetic or even glorified. The work changes continually from figurative to more recently quite compositional and architectural; yet always attempting to capture a moment of time. Currently, she is exploring installations, trying to add a 4th dimension.

Artists that she admires are: Damian Hirst, Dali, Picasso, Rebecca Horn, Gary Hume, Permeke, Egon Shile, Jenny Saville and Francis Bacon among many others.

Could art replace acting for Lyne Renée?

'People often ask me whether I want to be an actress or a painter? I am both, as much as I am a writer of songs, monologues – and a singer. I'm an artist in various disciplines. I don't see why one should only do one thing? I want to explore and grow within each.

'Diane Von Furstenberg is a woman for whom I have great admiration and I consequently decided to paint her portrait. I had longed to meet her and was very nervous to present her with a replica in New York. I'm pleased to say that she loved it and asked me to send her the original. She has since become a collector of my work.'

Lyne Renée is currently expanding her body of work and has an exhibition scheduled for a London gallery in September 2013.

For further information contact: Lyne Renée:  
[Lyner\\_art@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Lyner_art@yahoo.co.uk)

□