Anne Latour – Graduate

Artist statement

﻿Intro:
I am in MC 9 -10 but stalled because I’m not happy with my colour decisions and skills. I lingered in the MCs I loved (shapes!) but struggled to like many of my colour swatches so I have gone back to MC3 to do more work. I may be far from graduating in Aug though it would be fun as there is so much to celebrate.

I have been creating occasional series since early watercolour days. Joining a small shared studio with 3 art friends I switched to acrylics, inks and fluids, added lots of extras iridescent and played with it all.

I would like to submit an older series of 9 works that began with this playing. I feel the series holds together ok; checking out the balance of differences amongst the elements of design and also the B & W values, I see there are several of the elements in each piece. Size, shape, lines, direction, texture, pattern, are present with several differences amongst those elements, in each piece as well as across the series, except ironically and perhaps presciently, our own poor Earth is a bit lacking in clear colour and value differences. And as an acrylics newbie high saturation colour was the norm overall, nothing subtle.

Title: “My Planets are not Gustav Holst’s Planets”

Description/Artist’s Statement: the series is about shape, colour and story.

Goal: a fanciful imagining of each orb in its space.

Parameters : all are acrylic on 12x16” wood panels, several have a textured gesso base, all have basic geometric shapes using my set, represent a single planet for which at least one thing must be true about that planet. There is an element of humour in either the images or in the title or both. All the titles paraphrase a mid-late 20th century popular culture phrase. Humour, subtle, was an important part of my enjoyment in the creation of these. They were not done in orbital order.

I began with new everything, new art friends, new studio, new acrylic fluids and inks, iridescent and metallic colours, several mediums, Caran D’Ache crayons, pencils, scrapers, Catalysts, stencils, etc. And a high school geometry set.

The first 3 started as Play with textured gesso as base, then painted in all-over random bright colours. Geometric shapes were outlined and then painted around in black in 1 and 3, while stencils were used to create the added shapes in 2.

In the first piece geometric shapes of triangles, circles and crescents painted around with black, revealed a continuous chain of multicoloured Cheshire Cat smiles, plus circles and triangles.

The title for this first piece came to mind from what I was hearing on news while painting- the NASA probe to Pluto. Hence “On the Way to Pluto” . The second Play I did not like, but the third definitely suggested Mars, so I added a striped huge orange circle to number 2, and it it became Jupiter, and the idea for a series was born.
Then came the rest of the paintings created over several months as my idea for each planet finally emerged.

In order of distance from the sun the tongue in cheek titles are

Mercury Rising
Venus Has Left The Planet
Let Slip The Surly Bonds Of Earth
If It’s Tuesday This Must Be Mars
Flowers By Wire From Jupiter’s.
Lord Of The Rings
The Night Of The 27th Moon
Neptune Tonight Serving Fish, Cakes, and Jelly Beans \*
On The Way To Pluto\*\*

\* A traditional dish iIn Nova Scotia is Fishcakes and Beans, so it’s an in joke.
\*\* Pluto is no longer considered a planet so the image is of multiple Cheshire cats smiling at the joke that Planet Pluto will never be found.