

BARRIE SHORT

ARTIST · LÜNEBURG, GERMANY

CONTEMPORARY ACRYLIC PAINTING

Identity · Memory · Creativity · Resilience · Defiance



The Glance

Acrylic on canvas · 60 × 75 cm · 2026

A portfolio of figurative acrylic paintings exploring inner experience through the contrast of monochrome figures and vivid colour.

THE WORK

My paintings explore the space between what I show to the world and what I carry within me. I use the human figure as a vehicle for examining identity, memory, vulnerability, resilience and mental health.

A recurring element in my work is the contrast between monochrome figures and vivid colour. Flowers become a visual language for emotions, memories and inner experiences that cannot always be expressed directly. They can suggest growth, fragility, resistance, hope or an overwhelming intensity of feeling.

I work exclusively with acrylic paint and brushes. Every element is painted by hand — without stencils, sprays or templates. My approach combines realistic observation with simplified, graphic areas, creating a tension between precision and emotional intensity.

ABOUT ME

I am a Welsh-born, Lüneburg-based artist. I studied Fine Art Painting in Cardiff, Wales, and Multimedia in Reading, England. My practice combines figurative painting with contemporary visual storytelling.

I am a member of BBK. My current themes include identity, memory, childhood, mental health, literature, creativity, resilience, technology and AI, and women in sport.



The Glance

Acrylic on canvas · 60 × 75 cm · 2026



This acrylic painting depicts a girl glancing back at the viewer, perhaps challenging their gaze. She may appear fragile or vulnerable, but beneath that surface lies strength, creativity and resilience.

Many of my paintings are autobiographical. They give me a way to explore and process experiences, emotions and challenges from my own life. Although I have chosen to paint a woman here, she is also a projection of my own emotions and feelings — a visual way of expressing things that can sometimes be difficult to put into words.

For me, painting is not simply about creating an image. It is about looking inward, confronting what lies beneath the surface, and finding strength in the process.

She won't look away

Acrylic on canvas · 100 × 80 cm · 2026



I explore hope here as something active rather than passive. The young girl's direct eye contact intentionally confronts the viewer, creating a sense of discomfort that feels almost accusative.

I wanted the muted monochrome portrait to carry the seriousness and weight of the world around her, while the vivid flowers represent resilience, growth and the possibility of something better. The flowers are not simply decorative; they suggest a hope that persists despite everything.

I spent approximately 60 hours on this painting, building depth through layered tones and creating a contrast between realism and symbolic colour.

A Head Full of Ideas

Acrylic on canvas · 70 × 70 cm · 2025



In this painting I explore the themes of depression, self-doubt and loneliness, while also celebrating the beauty of creativity and the moments of release and joy it can offer.

The downward gaze suggests an inward emotional state. The monochrome figure carries the weight of those feelings, while the explosion of flowers becomes a visual expression of ideas, imagination and creative possibility.

I use colour here as a counterpoint to emotional heaviness — a reminder that even difficult inner experiences can contain the beginnings of something creative.

A Blossoming Force

Acrylic on canvas · 70 × 70 cm · 2025



I portray a young woman in mid-motion, her gloved fist punching forward while an unexpected burst of flowers erupts from the glove.

The monochrome figure and vivid colour create a tension between struggle and transformation. I use the flowers to suggest hope, growth and the possibility of creating something beautiful from adversity.

The punch represents empowerment and a break from constraints and expectations. For me, the painting asks us to reconsider where strength can come from — and how determination can become something life-affirming and creative.

A Fiery Intensity

Acrylic on canvas · 140 × 70 cm · 2025



I depict a young woman in an Adidas tracksuit with a direct, confrontational gaze. She is ready to fight for her place and her voice in a society that often tries to silence her.

From her head, colourful flowers burst into the monochrome image. I use this juxtaposition to express the complex layers of identity, where anger and creativity can coexist and fuel determination.

The work explores frustration, gender equality and rebellion against social expectations. I want the flowers to suggest that powerful emotions do not have to remain destructive; they can become a force for creative expression and change.

Blooming in Solitude

Acrylic on canvas · 120 × 100 cm · 3.8 cm canvas depth · 2025



I explore childhood identity through the contrast between innocence and isolation. The young figure, rendered in muted greys against a dark background, represents that moment when we begin to understand our separateness from the world around us.

The flowers emerging where the child's thoughts might be speak to an inner world that continues to bloom, even in loneliness. I see them as symbols of imagination, developing identity and the complexity of a self that is still taking shape.

For me, the painting is about finding beauty in solitude and recognising that the identity we develop in quiet spaces can become one of our most authentic selves.

Pages of Power

Acrylic on canvas · 70 × 70 cm · 2025



I wanted to capture the quiet power of reading. A young girl sits absorbed in a book, while flowers burst from its pages against a subdued monochrome setting.

The flowers become a visual metaphor for the worlds that literature can create. A book can offer escape, imagination, inspiration and a place where the mind can wander freely beyond everyday struggles.

For me, this painting celebrates the transformative power of literature — the ability of stories to open new worlds, provide comfort and encourage us to dream.

(A)lice in Wonderland

Acrylic on canvas · 70 × 70 cm · 2026



I use a familiar story to explore the uneasy intersection between creativity and artificial intelligence. A lone girl stands with her back to the viewer, while a fragmented rabbit-like form and vivid flowers transform the image into something unsettling.

For me, “(A)lice in Wonderland” is both a lament and a question: what becomes of wonder when the hands that create no longer dream?

The painting considers what happens when technology reshapes imagination without understanding the emotional and human experience behind it.

Reflections Beyond the Machine

Acrylic on canvas · 100 × 80 cm · 2025



I explore the evolving dialogue between artificial intelligence and human creativity. The robotic figure is rendered in muted greys, embodying the intersection of technology and emotion.

Her downward gaze suggests introspection and vulnerability, while the flowers emerging from her head symbolise human imagination, organic beauty and the resilience of artistic spirit.

I want the work to ask how we can embrace technological innovation without losing the emotional, intuitive and individual qualities that make creativity human.

Crown of Empowerment

Acrylic on canvas · 70 × 70 cm · 3.8 cm canvas depth · 2025



I capture a woman cradling a football, her gaze directed downward. The painting addresses expectations placed on women in sport and the ways they navigate those expectations.

The figure is rendered in black, white and grey, while colourful flowers emerge from her head like a crown. I use the flowers as symbols of hope, creativity and strength — a quiet visual statement about empowerment and the opportunities women continue to claim in sport.

As a father of two girls who both play football, this subject is especially meaningful to me.

Blooming Resilience

Acrylic on canvas · 70 × 70 cm · 2025



I explore the contrast between the starkness of reality and the vibrant potential that can exist within it. A woman's monochrome profile emerges calmly from the canvas while colourful flowers cascade outward from her head.

The restrained figure and vivid blooms reflect the relationship between adversity and inner potential. I use each flower as a symbol of hope, creativity and strength — the capacity to flourish despite difficulty.

For me, the painting is a tribute to resilience and a reminder that even in the darkest circumstances, beauty can be found, nurtured and transformed into new possibilities.

Literature's Defiant Spirit

Acrylic on canvas · 100 × 70 cm · 2025



I portray a woman absorbed in a book, rendered primarily in black, white and grey. Her downward gaze and enclosed posture suggest introspection and the weight of overwhelming circumstances.

Yet from her head emerges a cascade of vivid flowers. I use these blooms to represent the transformative potential of the mind and the creative possibilities awakened by literature.

For me, reading can be an act of defiance — a way to create space, strength and hope when the world feels overwhelming.

The Hummingbird's Dance

Acrylic on canvas · 70 × 70 cm · 2025



I explore the coexistence of mental struggle and creative brilliance. The woman's lowered gaze and monochrome surroundings create a sombre, introspective mood, while the explosion of colourful flowers suggests the boundless potential of the mind.

The hummingbird becomes a metaphor for creativity: ideas can move from one place to another, spreading and igniting new possibilities. I wanted the work to suggest that struggle does not diminish our capacity for beauty and innovation.

The painting reflects my belief that difficult experiences can sometimes become fertile ground for transformative ideas.

An Optimistic Glimmer

Acrylic on canvas · 100 × 70 cm · 2025



This painting delves into the complex emotion of feeling down and out, as if constantly viewing the world from a lower perspective ? a place of struggle, despair, and introspection. The woman, rendered in soft grey tones, sits on the ground with her gaze slightly lifted, embodying a quiet resilience amidst the darkness. The black background emphasizes her solitary presence, accentuating the sense of isolation.

From her head, vibrant and colorful flowers emerge, symbolizing hope, creativity, and the spark of life that persists even in moments of darkness. These blossoms represent the possibility of growth and renewal from a place of despair, a reminder that beauty and inspiration can flourish from within the shadows. Her posture and gaze suggest a subtle awakening ? a glimmer of optimism and inner strength shining through the gloom.

This piece is a visual reflection on the duality of despair and hope, illustrating that even when we feel undervalued or overlooked, our inner creativity and resilience can bloom anew.

CONTACT

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