

Elena Parashko

Behind the Scenes – “In the studio”



If a client needs a painting that is not a standard ready-made size, even though it's labour intensive, I can custom make the canvas. My framer builds the wooden stretcher bars and then I hand stretch raw canvas over this frame. After giving the canvas two coats of gesso primer, it is ready for painting.



I use pads of disposable palette paper for my oil and acrylic paints. I keep all my colour mixes until I have completed the artwork in case there is any need for touch ups. I usually have 2 or 3 palettes of paint for each painting. Covering the paint with cling wrap stops the paint from drying up too fast.



I have lots of space in my studio to lay out all the materials I need and an easel that accommodates large canvases. Lots of windows provides natural light to work in and good ventilation for the fumes from turps and other mediums.



Once paintings are dry and varnished, they are ready for shipping to clients or galleries. I have a big table for constructing packaging from recycled boxes. It's quite an art to create safe packaging. Boxes under a metre go with Australia Post and larger boxes are collected by a courier.