



A HARMONIOUS BALANCE

Helen McKenzie looks at the diverse creative practice of artist and designer Alison Percy.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEC HAYCRAFT - THE BOWER CO



A lesson with a calligraphy art master in Japan took artist **Alison Percy's** figurative work to a new level but that doesn't mean she will turn her back on her many other creative pursuits. Multitalented Percy juggles her career as a graphic artist with creative work that includes landscape and floral painting and an occasional interior design brief thrown in for good measure.

Calligraphy was not new to Percy, who had previously worked with a firm nib, but she explains, "Calligraphy art in Japan is with a brush and is very different. It is about the yin and the yang of balancing the thick line, the thin line and the different tonal qualities within. You find yourself in quite a relaxed state, balancing and changing the flow of things. It is an interesting connection."

Percy's first job was as a graphic designer with her local paper *The Albury-Wodonga Border Mail*. "I always wanted to be an artist, or in the creative area so for me to be trained as a designer was a dream come true," she says. "My grounding with the paper



Artist Alison Percy

THIS PAGE
Top left,
Alison Percy,
Body and Soul.
Ink, framed
82 x 65.5cm.

Top right,
Alison Percy,
*Of Strength and
Benevolence*.
Compressed charcoal
and ink, framed
71 x 56cm.



Alison Percy,
Magestic Woman.
Japanese
watercolours on
yupo, framed
45.7 x 35.6cm.



ABOVE LEFT Alison Percy, *First Tracks*. Acrylic, framed 71 x 56cm. ABOVE Alison Percy's studio. ABOVE RIGHT Alison Percy, *Floralscape III*. Acrylic, framed 33 x 25.4cm. BELOW Alison Percy, *Wattle and Plum down Wymah Road*. Acrylic on canvas, 30.5 x 40.5cm. All images courtesy: the artist

and the diversity of work that I got from them was amazing, from advertising to front cover fashion illustration, I had free reign."

Today Percy works from her studio, a purpose-built extension on an old Victorian house that has been home to her husband's family for many years. The studio overlooks a parterre vegetable garden designed by Percy. "I might do design work in the morning and if I am waiting for approval, or a press check then I'll paint in the afternoon. I move from one to the other very freely and comfortably I'm in a great place at the moment it's wonderful," says Percy.

Percy enjoys making commissioned works and has also recently produced fine art prints, complete with printer's chop and certificate of authenticity. It is clear she loves to experiment with a variety of materials and mediums. "I've got these really big blocks of compressed charcoal, they are in lovely neutral tones with a little bit of pink and a dash of green in them. I have watercolour graphite and water-soluble black carbon that is flat with a chiselled end. I love trying all sorts of things. I have a great deal of supplies now and don't need anymore but when I see something I want to try I have to have it!" she says with a warm laugh.

Find Alison

m 0419 151 315
e alison@alisonpercydesigner.com.au
w alisonpercydesigner.com.au



"Calligraphy art in Japan is with a brush and is very different. It is about the yin and the yang of balancing the thick line, the thin line and the different tonal qualities within."

Alison Percy

