

# QC

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★ P. 92 ★



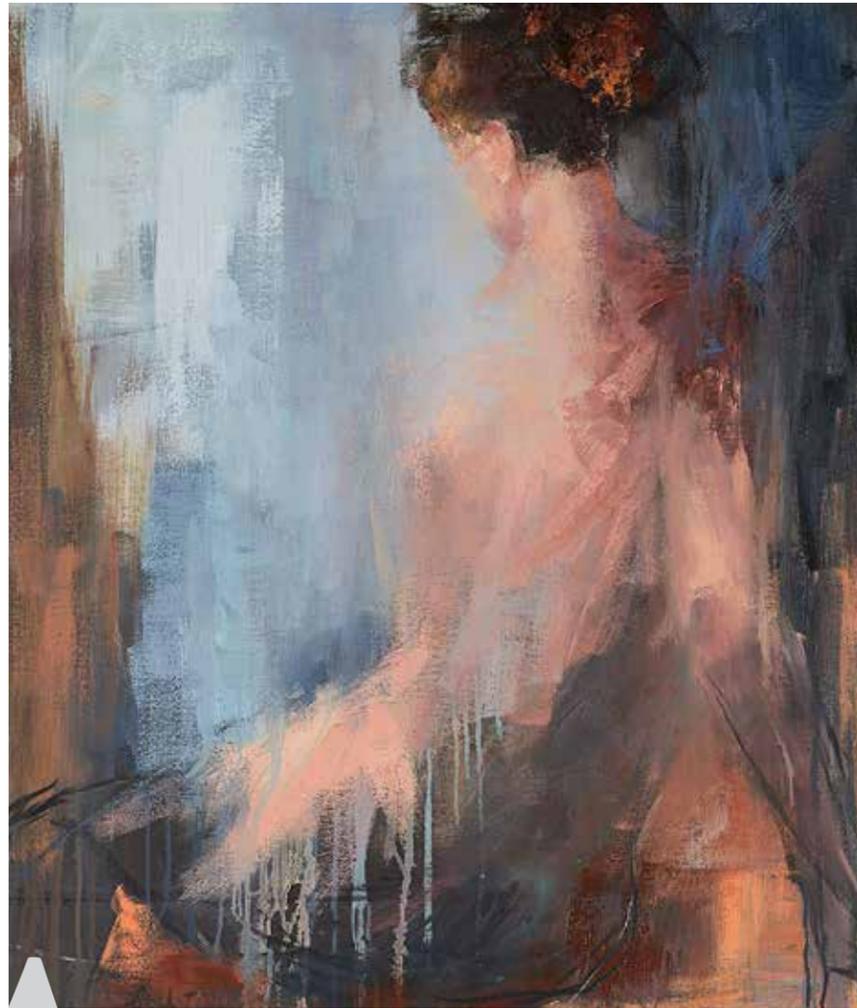


# ANGELA NESBIT

The Charlotte-based artist and instructor, Angela Nesbit, paints portraits of children at play, lively still lifes, and abstract nudes that are displayed in galleries throughout the Southeast.

BY **SUNNY HUBLER** | PHOTOS BY **ERIN L. HUBBS** AND **CHARLES JOHNSON**





ANGELA NESBIT NEVER SET OUT TO MAKE A CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST. As she tells it, she was a CPA and a mom first and foremost; someone who kept painting as a treasured hobby and creative outlet. Nesbit never imagined she could be where she is today, selling hundreds of paintings a year and teaching other artists, in both Atlanta and in Charlotte, her craft.

Today, the Charlotte-based artist and instructor lives and works as a studio oil painter. Her portraits of children at play, lively still lifes, and abstracted nudes are in galleries throughout the Southeast and in California.

Angela Nesbit's entire approach to her artistic hobby changed when she met Andy Braitman, the renowned local Charlotte art instructor, in

1999. She credits Braitman's talent as a teacher and his refined artistic eye as being the catalyst for her career. Once the two crossed paths, Nesbit began to take a much more serious approach to her painting, studying up to 18 hours a week with him. Before long, Braitman suggested Nesbit pursue representation.

"Angela has tenaciously carved out a niche that is all hers," Braitman

"ANGELA HAS ACHIEVED A NARCOTIC SURFACE THAT MESMERIZES THE EYE AND ENTERTAINS OUR INTELLECT."

- ANDY BRAITMAN



Angela Nesbit in her studio with some of her finished works and works in progress.

says. "I have never seen an artist manage the sheer volume of paint and maintain the beautiful, varied, informed and informing surface that Angela has achieved. Luminosity is her goal and she has achieved a narcotic surface that mesmerizes the eye and entertains our intellect."

"I truly thought Andy was nuts and I really didn't believe anyone would be interested in buying my work," Nesbit recalls of that initial suggestion she pursue art professionally. She - like many - found the highly-exclusive world of art more than a little intimidating.

But as Nesbit took Braitman's advice and sought representation,



opportunities started to surface and her hobby cultivated in the type of rare artistic success so many spend a lifetime chasing.

One of her very first inspirations was her daughter; she sought to recreate her childlike movements and so would come to the studio with piles of photos of the young girl in motion. To capture that emotional energy, Nesbit experimented until her own natural style emerged and solidified. The paintings of children are one of her most popular commissions.

Today, Nesbit's technique requires lots of layering, texture, and varied types of application. She describes her own aesthetic as Expressive Impressionism, into which she also at times pulls subtle hints of Abstraction. Her painting process takes several passes, and she begins by layering large amounts of oil paint on the canvas before knowing what the subject will ultimately be.

"Once I decide on a subject for the canvas at hand, I play a game of carving out my subject and working to make sense of it all," Nesbit explains. "It is a very expressive process, letting the canvas and subject



"IT IS A VERY EXPRESSIVE PROCESS, LETTING THE CANVAS AND SUBJECT GUIDE ME."

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guide me. I never have to think: 'what am I going to paint today' because the canvas tells me."

Once her subject solidifies, she will scrape paint, pour turpentine, or get rid of edges to instill a little more chaos back to the piece. Walking the line between chaos and control is Nesbit's signature, so that what meets the eye at first glance is never all there is to the painting; a closer look will always reveal varied layers and textures peeking out.

As for what's next for Nesbit, she plans to continue to pursue teaching, which she loves, and strives constantly to become a stronger and more expressive painter.

"I work hard in the 'Art Gym' doing my pushups and repetitions of painting and drawing exercises," she

Some of Nesbit's most popular paintings are lively still lifes and paintings of children in motion.

jokes, "while also being sure to find time for reflection and intuition. My goal is to become the best me that I can be. 'Know what you love and paint it' - this has been the guiding principle that brings me to the easel each day."

With a 6th and 9th grader and a packed teaching schedule herself, Nesbit is busier than ever. She will be teaching and sharing her work throughout the Southeast during 2016. Hilton Head, Atlanta, and Charlotte are on the books, with locations and dates still to come.

★ FOR INFO: [www.angelanesbit.com](http://www.angelanesbit.com)