



Bobbie Burgers, here in her home studio, has moved away from realism in favour of a more emotional style.



IN BLOOM

Bobbie Burgers' oversized floral paintings are a powerful take on a traditionally delicate motif.

Text by **STACY LEE KONG**

BACKGROUND: For Bobbie Burgers, there was no other path but art. "I've been painting my whole life," she says. "I come from a very creative family. We didn't have a TV when I was growing up; instead, we did a lot of painting and drawing, taking courses at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and Arts Umbrella and things like that." After high school, she spent a year painting in Provence. She returned to Canada and earned an art history degree from the University of Victoria, exhibiting her work while studying. Since then, she's become a name on the Canadian arts scene.

HER WORK: On the surface, Burgers' body of work looks like an in-depth exploration of flowers, but she says her paintings aren't actually about tulips and roses at all. Rather, her subjects are a way to explore colour and movement. While figurative, her work has always been loose and large, suggesting a personal impression of the subject over a concerted focus on a realistic depiction. But recently, she's returned to her earliest stylistic impulses, painting with an even more abstract, expressive style that includes accidental drips and splashes, all with the goal of imbuing the canvas with emotion and depth. Though she's started working in sculpture and mixed media, she's not quite done with flowers yet. Instead, she's trying to make them say more. "I want my flowers to be stronger. Even though they're traditionally feminine subject matter, I want them to exude power."

WHY WE LOVE IT: Colourful, rich and dynamic, Burgers' paintings are destined to be the standout feature in any room. They shine against white walls and modern interiors, giving minimal spaces a sense of character without sacrificing brightness.

Burgers' next solo exhibit, at Bau-Xi Gallery in Toronto, runs from April 16 to 30. Her work is available through Bau-Xi (Toronto and Vancouver) and Galerie de Bellefeuille (Montreal).

Burgers is known for large-scale paintings, like *Arsenal of Memories* (2014), which is 60" square.

