

# Nicolene Burger Summer Collection 2022



# Creative Cycles: Summer

Creativity has a cyclical nature - "there is a natural quickening, birth, rising to a zenith, entropy, decline and death" in the words of dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes. In other words, the creative cycle can be split into a natural spring, summer, fall and winter. But then, when we experience a block in our creativity the natural characteristics of these seasons can become manic, unpredictable and unhealthy. This year I create artworks and practices that afford the opportunity for participants, viewers and myself to explore the natural creative cycles and investigate where blocks and wounds could be muddying the waters. I use the symbolism and lessons drawn from the legend of Demeter, Hades and Persephone like Estes does in her book, *The Creative Fire*, to create thought-provoking and healing art exercises and paintings.

The creative summer - a period of high energy, movement, production and connection. The goddess, Demeter, is the muse for this collection of works. She carries the symbolism of fertility and the harvest. Each painting can be read like a intuition/tarot card, symbolising the various psychologies at play in the artist's mind during the creative summer.

Alongside the paintings in this collection the catalogue also documents thoughts from my visual diary while reflecting and painting the creative summer.

## **In these painting the following symbols can be read:**

- The Grid:
  - (Light colour) meditation - practicing the mind. Using painting as a form of meditation in order to sit with uncomfortable emotions like self doubt, fear, sadness instead of suppressing or avoiding.
  - (Dark colours) - Getting stuck in perfectionism; overthinking structure and concepts, which blocks natural flow of creativity.
- The Palm Tree: Abundance, an abundant mindset. Floating in the wind. Free expression. Open to opportunities and ideas.
- The Pine Tree: Perspective. Working with patience and knowing that art does not function linearly, but whatever is invested now can expand beyond imagination or stay the same.
- The Moon (Gold): Connection to moon cycle - working in tune with menstrual cycle.
- The Sun (Gold): Healthy father archytype active in subconscious - clarity in structure and calm, integrated logical approach.
- The Female Form: Presence and connection with The Muse - mystical, magical qualities of creativity.
- The Eye(s): Connection to intuition and innate wisdom.
- The Mountains: Grounded in practice.
- The Pink: Active inner child (Persephone).
- The Roots: Drawing energy from the earth; productivity (Demeter).

Nicolene Burger  
Professional Artist  
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"If you think you cannot create you need to commit special and focused time to play more, be curious and experiment. Your inner child self needs you to open your mind! So does the world."



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*INTUITIVE WISDOM*

*Oil on board  
15 x 15 cm (unframed)  
R1800*



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*OPEN*

*Oil on canvas mounted on board  
14 x 18,5 cm (unframed)  
R2200*

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"The reason I am an artist, as well as why all other artists are artists, is because I claim it. I have the audacity to call myself an artist. I own the fact that actively expressing my authentic nature makes me an artist. I don't muddy the water by first listing how I am still practicing, how I make mistakes, how my technique is not perfect, how there are other artists that have done so much more than me. Believe me- those things don't matter!

The moment you step up and courageously embody what your being so desperately wants, and call yourself an artist - you'll realize that you have been blinded by your own blocks and didn't notice you have always been just one artist in a species of artists."



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*GROWTH*

*Oil on board*  
*20 x 20 cm (unframed)*  
*R2800*



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Professional Artist  
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*POURING LOVE*

*Upcycled Casted Plaster Pot painted with acrylic medium  
Coated with bitumen on the inside*

~~R1000~~

**Sold**

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"So it works like this: you feel inspired, something is bubbling under the surface but you don't know what yet. If you follow this itch and just start playing with something- ANYTHING- in a non-directional, "I am here for you inner artist" way, it will lead you to clarity. Nothing you do in the realms of creativity is EVER a waste of time."



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*THE MUSE*

*Oil on board  
30 X 30 cm (unframed)  
R5500*





“Do not evaluated the artist by where she is in the process...

Do not evaluated the artwork for where it is in the process...

For this is to deny the truth: that any artist or any artwork is always one stroke, one wash, one line, one shade away from the profound!

An artwork is a collection of thoughts/movements/moments- always in process even if it is perceived as “done”. The artist is but the one who is responsible to hold space for what comes through. Sometimes it happens in a day, sometimes it doesn’t happen in an entire lifetime.

No effort is useless. In fact, every time the artist shows up- it is an act of bravery and a success in itself.”



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*TRANSKEI TRANSCENDANCE*

*Oil on board  
20 x 20 cm (unframed)*

~~R2000~~

**Sold**



The palm trees asked me while I was in the Transkei: “darling, how many times are you going to abandon yourself for the musts and the shoulds? For the striving and the idea of how success is obtained. Then they whispered in the voice of Sarah Blondin, “step out of doing and into being”.

Slowly in the sun, I wound down and remembered myself. I realised, with a deep bodily knowing, that art doesn't have a timeline- no logical unfolding. You can make one mark and it propels you into the consciousness of the whole world because of some bizarre resonance that no one can explain. Or you can labour over a work for years and it never means much to anyone but yourself.

This is so, and it means that any anxiety, stress and suffering is of my own making. I release this pattern now- knowing that I will forget again and strive again. But I will re-member again and again and again. Because nothing is sweeter than coming home to myself."



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*GODDESS GREENS*

*Upcycled Casted Plaster Pot painted with acrylic medium  
Coated with bitumen on the inside  
R1950*

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*THE WAY*

*Acrylic & gouache on paper*  
*15 x 22 cm (unframed)*  
*R2200*





"Sarah Blondin says that often people pick up their sorrows after waking in the morning. Even though there is always a moment before you are completely awake where you have forgotten who you are and what suffering you carry, you reach for your pain like, "Oh yes, THIS is what I am struggling with". Similar to this we need to be vigilant against blocking ourselves again by falling into old patterns of fear, resentment and anger.

I the art process sets me free. Through expressing I empty myself of stories. I open up to life. This is The Way"



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OVERFLOW

*Oil on board*  
50 X 30 cm (unframed)  
R5500

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"The fact is that creativity can never be killed completely. I believe it is the mysterious thing that makes one person different from the other. It is our uniqueness... Creativity can however be packed away so deeply that it seems to be completely dead, but this is always done at an immense cost.

It is also a sneaky energy- we might think we have packed away our creativity for good, just to find it, when we REALLY look, overflowing into our lives in all sorts of ways."



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*INSIGHT*

*Circle embroidery  
35 cm diameter  
R2800*



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*DIE BOS*

*Oil on board  
20 x 20 cm (unframed)  
R2800*

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Ek het uit gewas aan die Wilde Kus  
met piering, koppie en kruik  
Ek het die heelal met skulpe betaal,  
en vir 'n oomblik was ek los van als wat ek kies om saam my te dra.  
Maar net totdat ek weer vergeet dat ek ewig is...



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### MOON BATHING

Acrylic on unstretched canvas  
40 x 48 cm (unframed)

~~R5500~~

Sold

## *INSTALLATION PAYMENTS*

*If you are interested in a painting, but would like to split the payment over a few months, contact me and we can set up an agreement.*

## *SHIPPING*

*Shipping for South Africans is free. International shipping will be quoted and added to the total.*

## *FOR LOVE SALE*

*From 1 - 14 February 2022 all paintings included in this catalogue will be on a "couples sale". Buy two paintings and get 20% off the total.*