



MUSETOUCH



life



JILLIAN
LEE
THE RESTLESS SPIRIT

As a young girl growing up in the Midwest, Jillian found her voice through dance. In her teenage years, she would look to the latest Vogue for design ideas. Together with a local seamstress and her mother's guidance, they would create dance costumes and dresses out of found textiles.

French history and art history were Jillian's focus at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She traveled extensively through Europe while studying art and architecture. The following decade Jillian worked in interior design. Evenings after work Jillian practiced drawing and realized art was her true calling. She created watercolor illustrations and began receiving commissions from top design firms in New York



to Los Angeles. With a strong client base, Jillian was propelled to start painting with acrylics on canvas, partner with her first gallery and become a full-time artist.

Jillian lives in Minnetonka, Minnesota with her husband and two young daughters. Being a mother and wife brings continued purpose, vulnerabilities and strengths to her work. Jillian has had numerous exhibitions with galleries nationwide and has international collectors spanning the United States, Europe, Canada and Australia. Her work has been featured in several publications, including Interior Design, House Beautiful, Traditional Home and Luxe magazines.



Who are you Jillian?

I'm a mother and wife who has the marvelous opportunity to paint for a living. Underneath it all, I'm a restless spirit.

What is your background?

At the start of my career, I worked in many facets of interior design - from antique dealers in Minneapolis to a high-end design firm in Scottsdale. This is where I discovered my love of drawing. When I started painting on canvas years later, it was as though I was coming home.

There was a great sense of relief that I finally found it.

Why do you create?

I can't escape it! Thoughts of how and what to



paint are constantly rotating in my head. It's what stirs me in the middle of the night and brings the best rush imagined in the midst of creating.

Was there a crucial moment when you decided to follow your path as an artist?

When I was 27 years old, I was diagnosed with stage three cancer. It was a wake up call. It was then that I knew art would be my lifelong passion and to turn a painful experience into purpose.

What inspires you?

Textiles, pattern and color - from a grandiose ball gown to a lush velvet settee to an exquisite



chinoiserie backdrop.

What is your greatest indulgence in life?

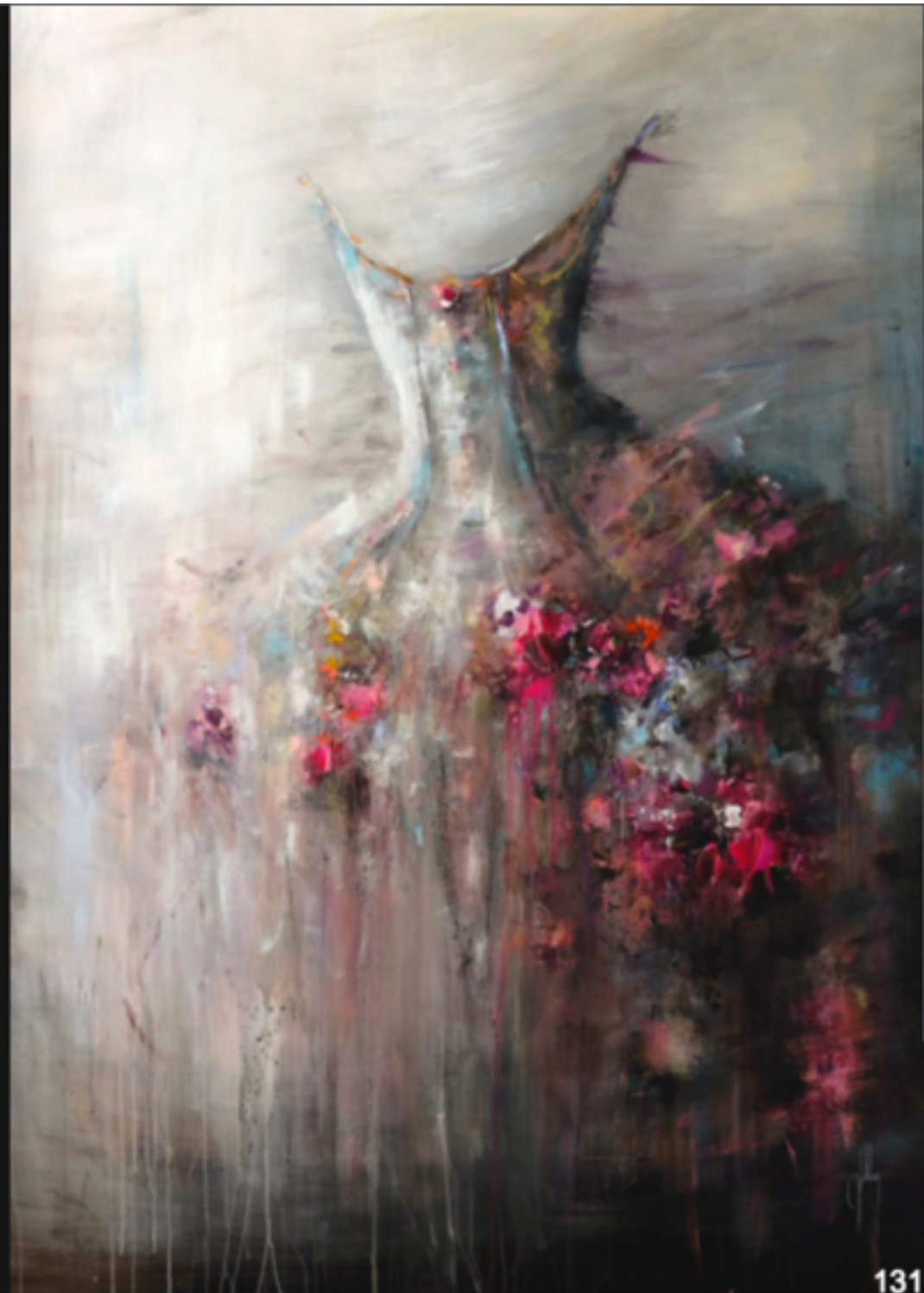
Unabashedly feminine dresses, I especially love Cabbages and Roses in the UK. When you wear their clothes, you are in a different era.

How do you navigate the art world?

With patience and hard work. Advice was given to me early on that you should stay true to your vision and not follow trends or other artists. I am grateful for that direction.

Do you have your favorite artwork?

I have kept two large-scale pieces that tug at my heart strings. One is Grotta Azzurra, an abstract based off of the sea cave on the island of Capri, Italy that was completed after the birth of my



first daughter. I also have Emeline, a female portrait I completed after the birth of my second daughter. Often I joke the best painting is done after giving birth when emotions are running high!

Is there a hidden message behind your art?

Unleashing the freedom to feel romance with a sense of exhilaration and grit.

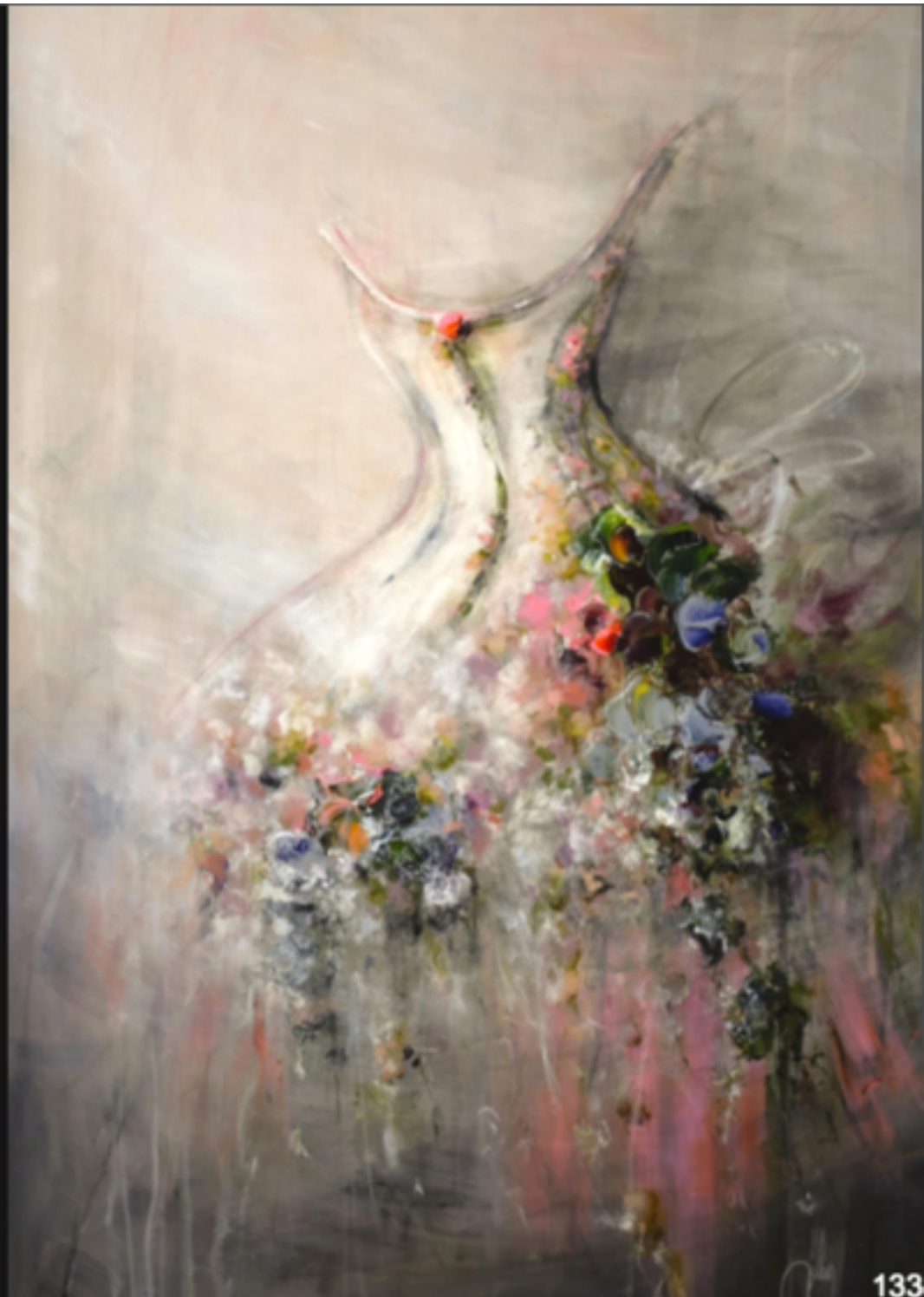
How do you see yourself in the future?

The dream is to be painting blissfully off the coast of Italy or France.

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