

Charlotte

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

# HOMIE

DESIGN & DECOR®

ARTS+  
ARCHITECTURE



PLUS:  
ARTIST  
SPOTLIGHT

THE ART OF  
ASHEVILLE

# Painterly PROVOCATION

A CHARLOTTE ARTIST GIVES A GLIMPSE INTO HER CREATIVE PROCESS, SHARING THE PASSION BEHIND HER PAINTINGS.

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE RUTH KELLY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN PECK



**LEFT:** A couple of Brooke Werhane Maples' paintings are propped beneath the bay window in her home studio. The large window allows for plenty of natural light in her workspace.

**RIGHT:** Brooke Werhane Maples lounges on a green velvet sofa in her living room. Her artwork above, *Untitled*, is composed of acrylic, pastel stick, and charcoal on canvas.

The bold colors and fervent vitality of Brooke Werhane Maples' paintings are forceful yet gentle, exuding an underlying softness that grounds her powerful imagery.

"The human experience is what really fascinates me," Maples says. "I attempt to portray the narrative of someone's energy and what they represent, which really boils down to the conditions of the human: motherhood or sexuality or life and death."

Maples' paintings evoke the subconscious and tend to be almost dreamlike, evidence of the influence of Surrealism and Neo-Expressionism in her work. She uses oils, acrylics, pastels, as well as pencils and markers to create her art, admitting that her process begins with chaos.

"Each composition begins very chaotically. Then I start editing and putting things into a more relatable design," Maples shares. "It's like I am speaking my



**TOP LEFT:** An assortment of painting supplies at the artist's home studio. Maples uses a variety of paints to achieve the desired results for her works.

**RIGHT:** This vivid portrait of a young man by Maples is entitled *Nothing I Know*. It is composed of oil, acrylic, and pencil on canvas.

**BOTTOM:** Maples at work in her home studio. She applies finishing touches to a self-portrait, incorporating oil, acrylic, pencil, and charcoal on canvas.



own language, and part of the joy is figuring out how to make it understandable to others.”

Maples has taken art lessons throughout her life and draws influence from her childhood on a farm in the Ozark Mountains, her study of art history, and her experience working in interior design in New York.



**LEFT:** Maples employs a variety of painting techniques and tools. She particularly loves working with oil pigment sticks because of their painterly texture and ease of use.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** The slower pace of life during the pandemic influenced Maples' art. She shifted from a chaotic, frenetic approach to a more careful, detail-oriented style, which is evidenced in this self-portrait.

**BELOW:** A sampling of Maples' charcoal drawings in a variety of colors.



She combines her love of painting and interior design through her business, Werhane Maples Art and Interiors. Her goal is to nurture both passions while helping others find art and interiors that move them.

“I want my work to provoke people,” Maples says. “Selecting pretty colors is lovely and beautiful, but ideally, I want to stir up an emotion or a nostalgia within others and help inspire them.” ♦