

MIKE HOBBS & PAULINE BORTON
MIXED MEDIA ARTISTS / CREATIVE PROJECTS



THE HOBBS & BORTON STORY

Since 2021, Mike Hobbs and Pauline Borton have been workshoping together, investigating new methods of mark making and developing a visual language together.

In their personal capacities, Pauline has been exploring the intricate map of mycelial networks through photography, etching, and drawing; and Mike has been working primarily in photoshop to create abstract digital artworks that are sometimes delicate, sometimes filled with intensity – but always filled with movement and beauty, influenced by the magic of clouds, trees rustling in the wind, and the reflective surfaces of water.

Through this collaborative process they have been working with ever-morphing, abstracted, images- both digital and handmade, and seeing how these can be further manipulated through layering and experimenting with various materials.

They embrace not being restricted by space, and having a space where mess is the process, and the mess is the outcome. They work with fluid, moving and melting materials; that merge, repel each other and make each other disappear – the experience is tactile and engages with the senses in real-time.

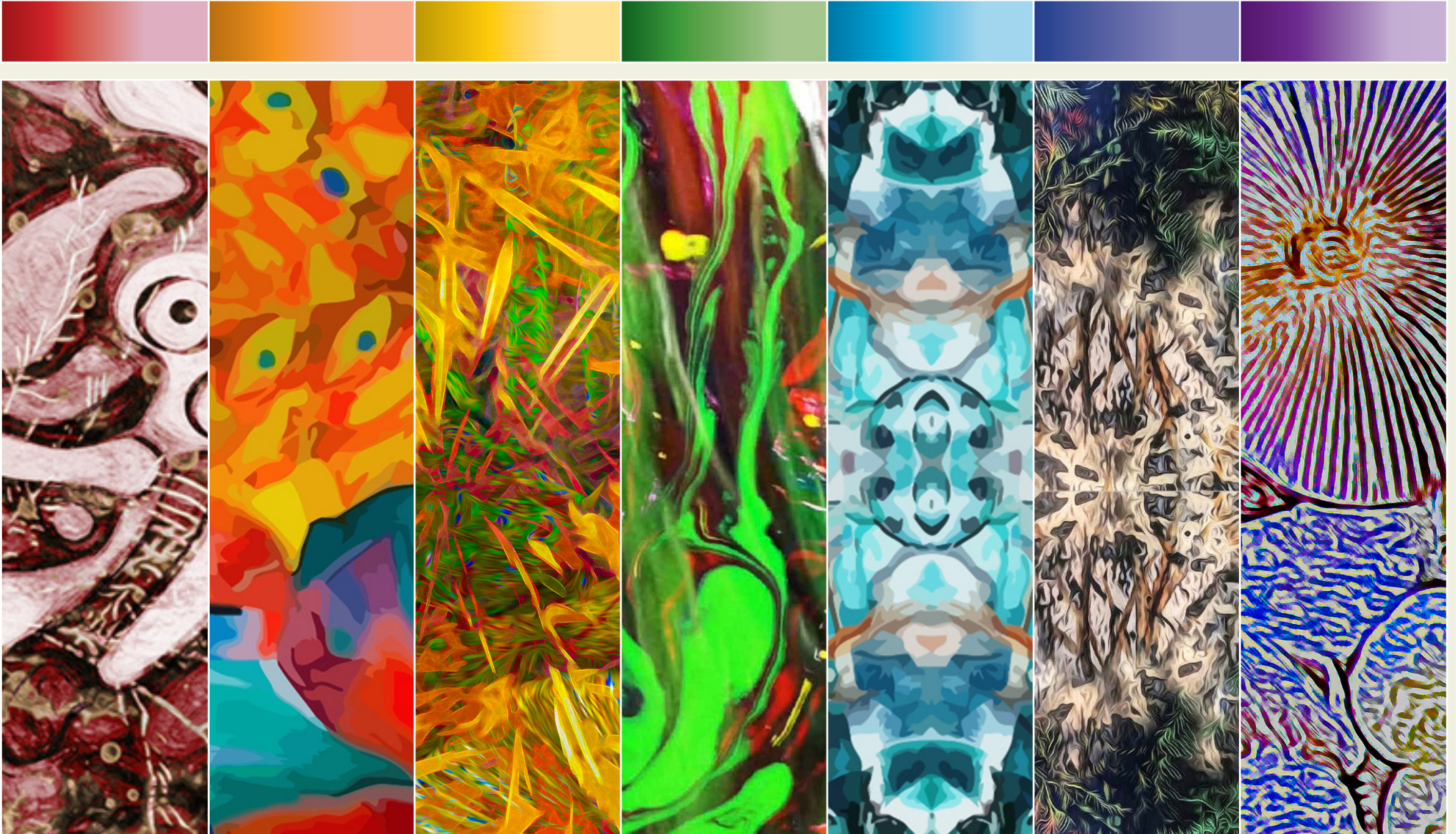
Mike sums up the experience well saying that it is about “what is in your head and heart, being expressed on paper”. More than anything their process has no set outcomes, but rather a focus on materiality and process.

The result is an intense multi layered collection of work, always retaining a combination of natural symbols with manmade pattern. These works have the potential to spill off the page, out of the computer screen and onto swathes of fabric that engulf a person, trying to capture the feeling of plunging into a copper version of a black hole, a swirling rainbow of colours and movement.



ARTWORK WITH PRODUCT APPLICATIONS

These examples showcase a few of the Hobbs & Borton artwork pieces and their potential application in a home environment. Unique applications appropriate for multiple functional and utilitarian spaces.



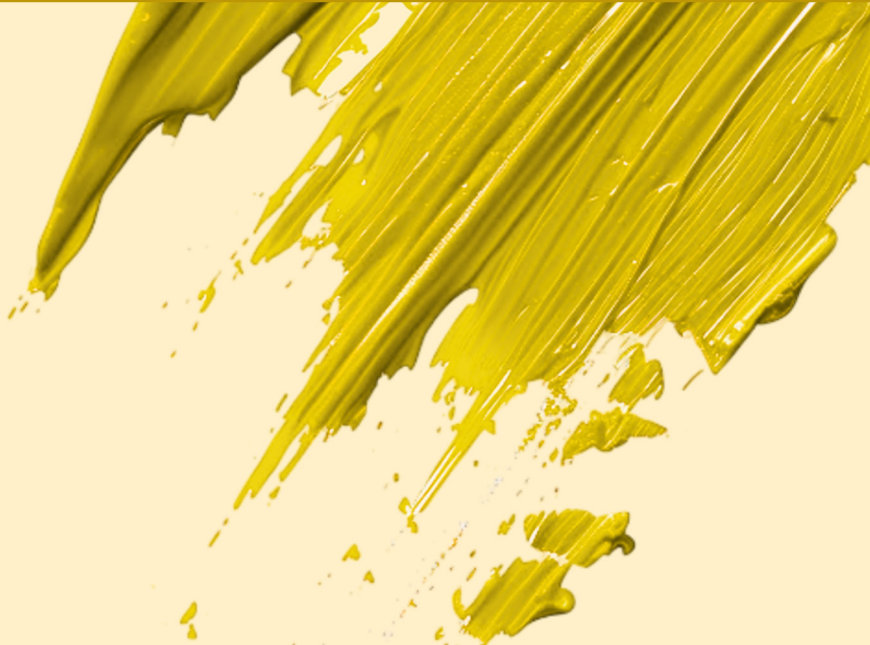












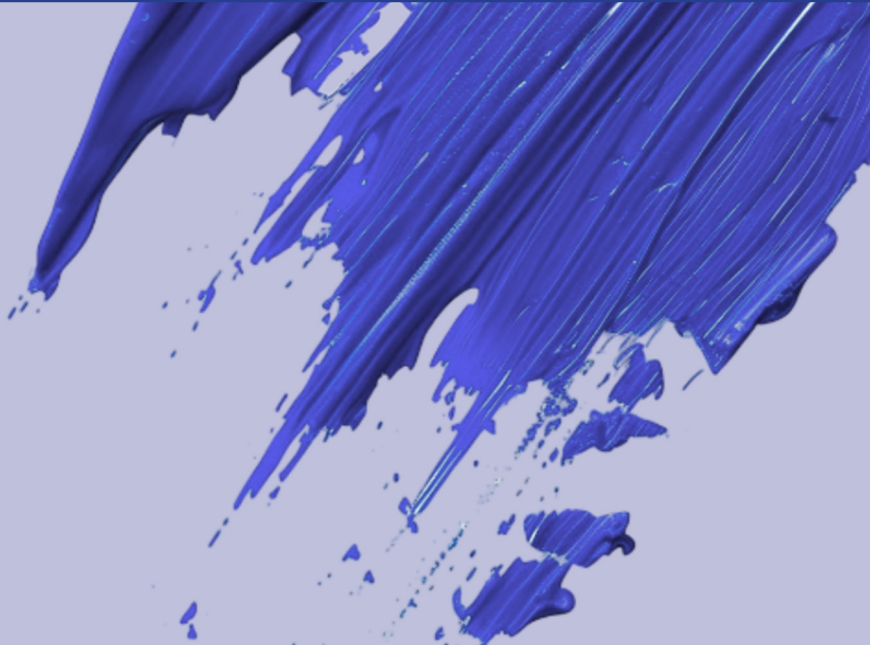
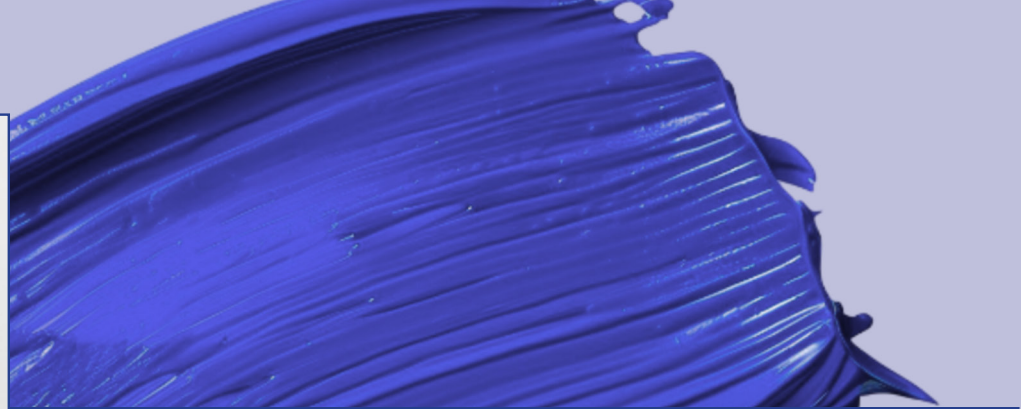
















ABOUT MIKE HOBBS

Mike Hobbs has a decades long career in the advertising industry as an art director/conceptualiser, which has taken him between the UK, South Africa, and Italy. After years abroad, he returned to South Africa with his family and eventually started his own agency, which lasted for 18 years.

Since then, he has found the time to indulge his passion for drawing, painting, and photography which was developed during his years at art school in the UK, often under the tutorship of Pop Artist- Peter Blake. During these more recent years, he has re-worked many of his older artworks while developing completely new works, through the interplay of analogue and digital processes. These processes of digitising and manipulating images through editing software has completely captivated Mike, as old pieces become almost unrecognisable, and others retained their visual integrity but took on different meanings and associations.

Mike loves to watch an image grow, morph and transform at his fingertips and feels empowered by the process of digital image-making as the possibilities are literally endless. He has read copious amounts of literature about various movements and artists and the journey from modern art-making to contemporary art-making.

This process has assisted Hobbs in achieving a more mature exploration of the abstract art genre. Presently, he has no set agenda or mission, but is rather focusing on his personal development across these various new media, while creating new works that are visually intriguing and accessible to wider audiences.



ABOUT PAULINE BORTON

Pauline obtained her Honours in Visual Arts from UNISA and enjoys problem solving and developing creative strategies. Pauline believes that creativity has the power to change the world, in that it's a different mode of communication that should be explored more as it breaks down barriers and boundaries.

She has also completed courses in Community Arts Counselling and Biomimicry and is exploring the ways in which art and growing have the potential to overlap and serve as safe spaces for nurturing, and collective care. Currently she spends her time volunteering for Lefika La Phodiso (Community Arts Counselling Organisation) and managing and nurturing Grow Parkhurst (community urban growing project inspired by the Incredible Edible movement).

Given her background in connecting people and spaces, and her new research into growing and greening; her recent artworks focus on fungi and mycelial networks, and how these become metaphors for social, and often hidden, connections between people and all living things.

There are very practical reasons to develop a reverence for mycelia & mushrooms which include their place in our ecosystem, in the soil food web, as powerful natural forces that can create conditions for decay, decomposition, dissolving and regeneration, which are vital actions for all life.





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