

TURNER | ART | PERSPECTIVE

Anika De Souza

Anika De Souza is a London-based visual artist whose work merges contemporary abstraction with the traditions of calligraphy. Her practice explores the expressive potential of written language, transforming script, gesture and mark-making into dynamic abstract compositions that sit between painting and writing. Through this process, De Souza investigates the rhythm, movement and emotional resonance embedded within the act of writing itself.

Her artistic journey began with the study of historic scripts during her time in Germany, where she developed a deep interest in classical calligraphic traditions including foundational hand, italic and copperplate writing. These historic forms provided a technical foundation for her later experimental practice, allowing her to reinterpret traditional lettering through a contemporary abstract language.



Anika de Souza in her studio.



Anika de Souza, Momentum at Rest, Acrylic, graphite, and oil stick on canvas, 2025.

De Souza's paintings often combine layers of acrylic, graphite, oil sticks and other which letters and gestures dissolve into expressive forms. Language becomes visual material rather than literal communication. Lines stretch, fragment and overlap, capturing movement and emotion in a way that allows the viewer to experience writing as a physical and visual act rather than a purely linguistic one.

Her work draws inspiration from renowned calligraphers including Brody Neuschwander, Yves Leterme and Thomas Ingmire, alongside abstract artists such as Cy Twombly and Brice Marden whose practices similarly explore the boundary between drawing, writing and abstraction.

Anika De Souza's recent series *Surface Tension* explores the physical and emotional qualities of mark-making

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through layered abstract compositions. Working on raw canvas, the artist allows lines and gestures to emerge gradually through pouring techniques, calligraphic strokes and layered paint.

The works are described by the artist as a “quiet choreography of line and language”, where marks ripple across the canvas like traces of thought or fragments of speech. Letters and gestures appear, dissolve and re-form within the composition, suggesting language without fully resolving into words.



Anika de Souza, Want, Acrylic, graphite and crayon on canvas, 2025.

Materials play a central role in the series. Acrylic paint is combined with pastel, oil stick and thickening powders, allowing the surface of the canvas to build subtle textures and densities. The works balance deliberate calligraphic structure with moments of spontaneity created through fluid pouring techniques.

Across the series, De Souza explores the tension between control and release – between the disciplined gesture of writing and the unpredictable behaviour of paint. The result is a body of work that sits between writing, drawing and abstraction.



Anika de Souza, Dust to Dust, Acrylic, graphite and crayon on canvas, 2025.

Group Exhibitions

2024

Rose Theatre – Kingston, London
KAOS (Kingston Open Art Studios) –
Kingston, London

2023

KAOS (Kingston Open Art Studios) –
Kingston, London

Art Fairs

2026

The Affordable Art Fair – Hampstead
Heath, London

2025

The Other Art Fair – Truman Brewery,
London

2024

The Other Art Fair – Truman Brewery,
London