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SPOTLIGHT

An Artistic Journey

Elizabeth Hesp, artist

Elizabeth Hesp is inspired by Kingston's scenic beauty and vibrant arts culture.

"When I arrived in Kingston 20 years ago, I fell in love with the city and its beauty. I was spellbound by its limestone architecture, breathtaking waterfront and galleries," says the professional artist.

Although her work has been inspired by her childhood in India and a stint living in the Netherlands, Hesp launched her artistic career in Kingston.

"I was never a full-time artist until I arrived here," she says. "I discovered the camera and became obsessed with discovering how to paint photographic images."

In India, Hesp was encouraged to pursue science in school, but she remained passionate about art. In Kingston she found a way to combine the two disciplines

through a technical understanding of the camera and a zest for art.

Her latest exhibition, *Water – A Reflected Perspective*, held at 285 King St. E. in May and June, commemorates her fondness for Kingston's waterfront and her artistic journey in the Limestone City.

"It's a celebration of Kingston's beauty that makes you reflect on the aesthetic power of water," she says. "Much of my art work centres on my relationship with viewers and my connection with them. If they feel a powerful association with my art, then I believe I've succeeded as an artist."

Her new book, also titled *Water – A Reflected Perspective* (available at Chapters and Novel Idea), questions the viewer's relationship with nature.

"I feel that my time in different parts of

the world — particularly in India — has really impacted my artistic vision. India is filled with a multitude of different cultures, religions, vivacious colours and energetic art, and I was fortunate enough to be immersed in such a thriving atmosphere," she says.

Hesp says she wouldn't be where she is as an artist if not for the backing of the Kingston community.

"The key to an artist's success is a community that supports you," she says. "Kingston residents support artistic drive and raw talent. Where else would an artist want to live?"

For more information on local artist Elizabeth Hesp, visit lensglowcreations.com. **kl**

BY FILZA NAVEED