



Photos: Aurélie JANNETTES



Atelier Diana Malerba

*This artist's studio doubles as a picture-framing workshop,
a place of warmth, liveliness and real creativity.*

Situated on the lovely, historic Place aux Aires in the old town of Grasse, Diana Malerba's studio beckons you in to browse at leisure through her paintings, all framed by the artist to add another decorative dimension to the work itself. After 25 years of painting and portraiture in Lorraine, Diana moved to the South of France about 18 months ago. She had fallen for its sunny climate and brilliant colours, the history and fragrances of Grasse, and the Italianate arcades on this beautiful square. Her paintings of cats, trees, houses and gardens now invite the viewer to share a bright, cheerful world where colour and matter convey a delightful simplicity and sense of playfulness. On the first floor of this 18th-century mansion with an aura all its own, Diana displays figurative paintings by about fifteen artists, including her mother, sister, and painters who have often become long-time friends. A melting-pot of styles and subjects, whose eclecticism is echoed by Diana's collection of delicately retouched icons and rare illustrations taken from 1930's magazines. It's hard for the visitor not to be tempted by all these gems, especially as there are prices to suit everyone's pocket. And it's hard to resist the atmosphere of a

studio where this artist and picture-framer clearly loves her work. "I have to be doing something all the time," says Diana, "though I really enjoy meeting people who drop in to look around and like the idea that this is a studio and workshop, rather than just a gallery". An invitation to be taken up at the first opportunity !



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