

INTERVIEW: Claudia Soria (with Joi Pride)

November 2015

When/where were you born? Where do you live now?

I was born in La Paz, Bolivia. I live in Charlotte, North Carolina

How do you self-define—Hispanic/Latina/Latin-American? What does that mean to you?

Latin American. It means that I come from a country from that region.

Where did you go to school? Did you study art?

I went to school in La Paz, Bolivia. I did not study art. My background is in Economics.

How/when did you start getting into art?

Art was always one of my passions. As a child it was mainly music. I learned to play classical guitar and I have been studying cello for the last five years. I also started painting ten years ago with oil painter Andy Braitman.

What/who influences your art?

What influences my art is color, light and texture. Who: Cezanne, Picasso and the impressionist painters of the nineteenth century; and contemporary artists Brian Rutenberg, Wolf Khan, and Derek Gores.

What obstacles did you have to overcome as artist, or as person?

I am still developing as an artists in search of a unique style

What is your goal, as an artist?

Incorporate the causes I am deeply passionate about into my art, in other words bring activism into my art without sacrificing the artistic part, but making it far more meaningful to me.

Style of art? Any favorite medium?

Impressionistic to abstract | oil and collage

How has your life impacted your art?

It has not yet, but it will as I slowly bring more meaning to my work

Any favorite pieces? If so, which and why?

Picasso's "Demoiselles de Avignon," Vincent van Gogh "Roses." Both paintings show the genius painter at his best

What do you think art is?

Art is a way to express yourself

Did you grow up in La Paz? If so, what was that like?

Yes, I grew up in La Paz, a cold city, but very beautiful in all seasons.

Why did you start painting? Was it just to try or something else?

Art was always my passion. First it was music, and then drawing and painting.

Why do you think self-expression is important?

Self-expression is important because it allows you to show who you really are and what you care about.

How do color, light, and texture influence your art? Can you give an example from your work?

It is a personal choice. Vibrant colors, light and texture is what draws my attention when I look at any painting. It is what moves me and inspires me. Those elements are present in all my work, oils and collage.

(I like that you're searching for a unique style) So why are you? Why do you think that's important?

It is important for every artist to have a unique style that sets him/her apart from other artists, and that truly reflects the soul of the artist.