

Roxa Smith

Biography

Roxa Smith is a Brooklyn-based artist working primarily in figurative painting and collage. Born and raised in Venezuela, she studied Western Art History and German at Bowdoin College (ME), and subsequently achieved a Post Graduate degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz in Fine Art. She moved to New York City in the early 1990's, where she began to explore and eventually anchor her work in themes of quotidian domestic settings.

Through out the years, Roxa has exhibited in multiple solo exhibitions and two-person shows. In 2013, she had a solo show at the Conde Nast building (Times Square, NYC). She had exhibited at The Focus Gallery at the Sheldon Museum (NE), at Kenise Barnes Fine Arts (NY), at Lyly's Gallery at the Rodger Smith Hotel (NYC), at George Billis Gallery (NYC and LA) to name a few. In addition, her work has appeared in numerous group exhibitions nationally and internationally.

Roxa Smith has received a range of awards, residencies and fellowships. Most recently in 2020, she was awarded an artist grant to attend the Vermont Studio Center Residency program. She was a finalist for a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Arts and Design commission (Brooklyn, NY) in 2017. In 2013, she was awarded the prestigious New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)-Basil Alkazi Fellowship at the Sheldon Museum in Lincoln (NE). The previous year, Roxa also received a Fellowship in Painting from NYFA, on the heels of her grant award to *attend NYFA Boot camp Artist as an Entrepreneur* program in 2011. She has been featured in *New American Paintings*, *Studio Visit Magazine*, *Artspace magazine*, the NYFA Newsletter *Artspire*, and *HuffPost*.

Artist Statement

Lush color and intricate patterns infuse my practice, which spans my education in Western art and my passion for naïve and outsider art. Growing up in Venezuela, Latin American flavor steeps into my vision as an artist (oeuvre). My art is simultaneously a reflection of my direct experience, and a composite of idealized or dramatized imagery, which subtly forms or re-forms a visual narrative.

The subjects of my paintings and collages are based on first hand experience, and absorb, then distill digital imagery I encounter to present altered perspectives. Using off-kilter perspective, I create a space that is familiar and romanticized, yet abstract and idiosyncratic. The pieces are joyful, colorful filters reflecting my lived environment where patterns and details reign supreme, and where planes oscillate as the viewer moves through space. These pieces are based on reality, yet they evolve into works that have a unique lexicon and personality all their own. My works engulf the viewer, providing a luminous banquet of color and warmth. I see myself as a visual chef: my artistic cuisine bubbling with vibrant color and patterns. Each art work a unique serving in my repertoire.