

# CHIC

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ART | CULTURE | FASHION  
TRAVEL | DESIGN | MUSIC  
VOLUME 1 | EDITION 3

**WE'VE  
BEEN**  
*hexxed!*

A Magical Time at  
Hexx Kitchen + Bar

**(HE)ART OF  
PALM(S)**

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# CHIC

C O M P A S S

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**Carolyn Muse Grant**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

# *From the Editor*

---

Welcome to Chic Compass!

We are so excited to share many compelling stories with you in this newest edition. It's purely a sample of all that's to come! We have dedicated this edition to the artist. You will get to learn about many wonderfully talented artists in several different styles of media that I will expand on.

As before we are featuring fashion, music, design, travel and culinary. We're going to India, and I'm going to tell you a little about my trip to Korea! Our fashion portion is stunning and will wow you when you see the newly designed array of fashions that David Tupaz and friends have come up with this season. And you get to meet our beautiful cover model Corazon Ugalde Yelen Armenta.

Our music section features the continued saga of the new release Las Vegas Suite. Brian Thornton will take us on a tour of the newly opened European Kitchen and Bath showroom inside the Las Vegas Design Center here in Las Vegas. Take a trip to NYC and visit the Steinway factory that our youngest contributor, Roxy Jones, will tell us about and I'm going to tell you about a friend who travels the world with UFC.

Before you move on to this awesome edition, let me tell you a little about my recent trip to Korea. I spent most of my visit in South Korea but was able to make a visit to the DMZ. Seoul is a beautiful and extremely large city and portions of the city reflect its growth. Not too far up from Seoul is the DMZ (Demilitarized Military Zone). The road is filled with barbed wire fences and when you arrive at the actual border it is very interesting to be able to peer



over in North Korea. It was definitely a very worthwhile trip to the Zone.

Most of my time was spent in a relatively “new” city, Songdo, which is basically a suburb of Incheon, which is a suburb of Seoul. If you haven’t been and ever have the opportunity to check out Korea, I would recommend it.

Richard Stearns will take you on a magical tour of India. His many adventures and actual meeting with the Maharaja are delightful and the photos will intrigue you. The Arts District in Las Vegas has so many

multi-talented participants and we are so happy to share work and stories with you about four awesome participants. I had the pleasure to meet Deana Khoshhaba, Alexander Huerta, Phyllis Pezzella and Dray Wilmore.

Also, in this issue you’ll learn about the fascinating Pahrump Valley Winery. We then visit the newest hot spot of eateries in Las Vegas called Hexxed with Janice Marie Wilson. While we are on the Strip, we visit diptyque, a new perfumery inside the beautiful Shoppes at the Wynn. We learned about the art of make up from Judith August. Writer Joan Peck introduces us to sculptor Stacey Jacobson, artist and designer Deborah Pittman and silk painter, Suzanne Silk.

So, sit back, relax and enjoy the world of Chic Compass.

*Carolyn Muse Grant*

---

## COVER PHOTO

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Photographer: Leonato August  
Model: Corazon Ugalde Yellen Armenta  
Gown: David Tupaz Couture  
Hair: Ashley Moore  
Makeup: Emily Harper  
Location: Downtown Los Angeles



# Following Your Heart

---

## CORAZON UGALDE YELLEN ARMENTA

---

By Chic Compass Staff

Corazon Ugalde Yellen Armenta was born and raised in the Philippines, the youngest daughter of former Philippine Air Force Brigadier General Aurelio Ugalde and Chony Ugalde. Her paternal grandfather was from Spain, and her other heritage is a mixture of Filipino, Polynesian, Chinese, Portuguese and Italian. No wonder she has that exotic, alluring look! Early on, Corazon started modeling at 13 years old and has been featured several times as a Cover Girl. Corazon is more than a pretty face, however, she graduated Siena College and attended University of Santo Thomas. She is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild of America, SAG/AFTRA.

Over the years, you may have seen Cora in numerous print ads and TV commercials for Pepsi Cola, Firestone, Macy's, Kings Hawaiian Bread, Western Airlines, San Miguel Beer among others. She modeled the runway for numerous Fashion Shows with international Fashion Designers. She has modeled in the Philippines, Scandinavia, New York City, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Her acting credits include several Film and TV roles – The O.J. Simpson Civil Trial Reenactment for E! Entertainment, Days of Our Lives, Dangerous Man, Black Sheep, Behind the Dark, Botyok sa America and "Corazon" Filipino TV series. She has also starred in numerous stage and musical plays - Balikbayan, New Yorker in Tondo, Regina R. of Greenwich, Green Card, Blind Curves, The Legend of Queen Pusong produced by Manila Actors Studio, East West Players and Asian American Theatre. She won Best Actress at the Virgo Awards for her role for There Was a Soldier. She co-hosted a Filipino TV show *Entra Pinoy*, as well as several Celebrity Night fund raisers for the Fil Am Press Club.

Turning one of her passions into a cause, Corazon is the Founder and President of the Beverly Hills Barbie Doll Club. With an astounding 2000 dolls in her collection, Cora is dubbed The Living Barbie doll. She modeled life size Barbie doll outfits for several Barbie Doll Conventions throughout the United States and Germany! Her club also has done several fund raisers -charity work for several organizations.

Cora's talents don't just end here, she is also an author of a beauty and fitness book, entitled *Total Beauty and Life*. Her book was endorsed by Gloria Diaz, former Miss Universe and Marianne Rogers, actress and former wife of country star Kenny Rogers. She is also the

Model: Corazon Ugalde Yellen Armenta  
Photographer: Leonato August  
Gown: David Tupaz Couture  
Hair: Ashley Moore  
Makeup: Emily Harper  
Location: Downtown Los Angeles



owner/founder of Corazon Ugalde Yellen Cosmetics and was the first Filipina to model for a major mannequin manufacturer. They sculpted her face and made a face mask to be immortalized as an Asian Mannequin for several department stores in the U.S.A.

As you might have already guessed, Corazon has competed and won many titles over the years, she was America's Ms. Charisma 1988, Ms. Travel of the World in 1989, Ms. Gandang Pilipina 2015, Mrs. Travel and Trade Love of Country Ambassador 2018 and the current Mrs. Asia USA California 2019. She was at the anniversary celebration of Miss Asia USA at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, California, produced by Virgelia Productions.

Cora has continued to stay busy with a tight schedule for guest appearances at fashion shows, attending fundraising events, giving her time for charity work and visiting US Military Veterans at the VA hospital. She has had an amazing journey so far, including a 10 day visit to Thailand, sightseeing, an elephant ride, filming a video for Cancer Hope Village, and was special guest for the Miss Chiang Rai pageant. Cora has traveled extensively to the seven continents of the world and has visited 100 countries worldwide! Recently, she launched her own company, Corazon Production Company, with Gasa Charities Inc. as her fiscal sponsor. By founding her own company, her love, passion and support for the arts, education and culture she can further her cause and advocacy to promote the talents of Asian Americans, and other nationalities who excel in their artistic fields for theatrical stage plays, short films and fashion shows.

How come this newest venture does not surprise us at Chic Compass? We have a feeling this is just the start of something even bigger for Cora as she continues to live her passion and follow her heart.

**Chic Compass: How did you get started in pageants?**

I got interested in beauty pageants since I was around 10 years old when my oldest sister Cynthia Ugalde won Miss Philippines. I was groomed to join Miss Philippines then, but I fell in love, eloped and got married instead at a young age. However, I made up for it! At present time, I have seven beauty queen titles, the most recent as Mrs. Asia USA California 2018-2019.

**Chic Compass: Did you have a role model?**

My grandmother Brigida Lucero is my role model. I always admired her beauty and beauty within. She was a widow at a young age and raised four children as a single mother. She showed strength and determination and at the same time she was loving, warm and caring. She had 27 grandchildren, and I am proud to say that I was her favorite granddaughter!

**Chic Compass: What are your current plans to capitalize on your career?**

As the current Mrs. Asia USA California, produced by Virgelia Productions, I want to make a difference in the world by volunteering to several charitable causes, to be a philanthropist by heart and to be a great example to young girls and young women, to demonstrate that we women can do anything! Whether it is our career, home life, love life, we can be the best of ourselves! The #metoo movement is a positive direction for women all over the world! It is important that women come out and speak their minds on their unpleasant experience!

**Chic Compass: What is your view of women running for office?**

I admire women running for office. It is about time that more women get involved in politics as there are many issues including women matters to be acknowledged and addressed in this modern world! Women are as intelligent, strong and capable as men in politics!

**Chic Compass: What does beauty mean to you?**

For most people, beauty is more of an outward image. The beautiful face and body are obviously a beautiful image to everyone. But for me, beauty is more than that. Physical beauty fades as time goes by. Beauty comes from within. When a person is good natured, confident, happy and possess several admirable qualities, her real beauty glows! This is the beauty that lasts and never fades!

**Chic Compass: If you had the power to change or contribute in the world, what would it be?**

If I have the power to change and contribute in the world, it will be to stop poverty! My heart goes to the poor, especially the impoverished children.

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I'VE BEEN

*Hexed!*

By Janice Wilson



I've been Hexxed! Yes, a spell was cast over my husband and myself the night we went to celebrate our anniversary at this alluring restaurant, Hexx Kitchen + Bar. We were enraptured the minute we entered the restaurant and confectionery located in the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This was the first spell they cast.

*Fitter bug and dancing feet.  
Laughter, songs and joy replete.  
Let's go howl unto the moon,  
and sing, and sing a joyous tune.  
~ Alexxa ~*

The restaurant is captivating, the high energy electric. The warm hip South Beach Florida feel is hypnotic. Everywhere you look there is a magnetic pull from the mixture of contemporary upscale decor balanced with chocolate hues, earth tones, rich woods, unique furnishings and happy faces. The bar is elegantly designed with communal high-top tables and an eye-catching wine display that taunts the imagination with passionate pleasures. I felt excitement well up inside me as we were led to our table near the patio. This place was alive with magic!

At Left: Hexx Kitchen + Bar Potions and Specialty Cocktails

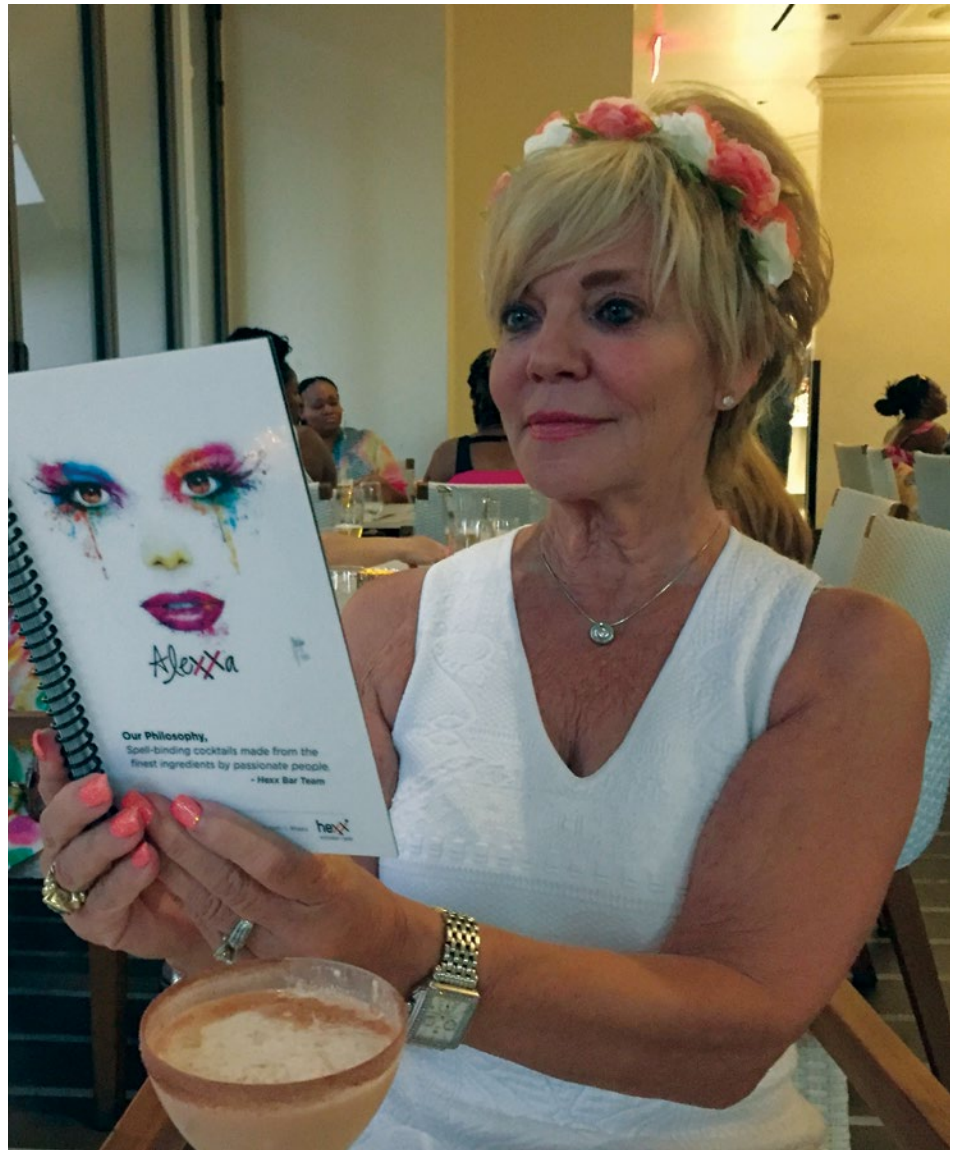
## MAGIC IS IN THE AIR

The darkened night sky was lit up with neon displays from the Strip. The full moon cast it's spell on the dining patio area that stretched along the front and side of the restaurant encompassing the dazzling views of the Strip and Bellagio Hotel. The minute we were handed our menus, a thunderous explosion from across the street took my breath away! The Bellagio fountain began its joyful dancing water show. My feet started to twitch under the table to the captivating medley. I giggled out loud. "This is going to be a rapturous evening. What a perfect place to celebrate!"

### Spell #2

*Precious chocolate rich and dark,  
to my heart throb send a spark  
of passion rich yet heart unfree  
Forge this love in fire for me  
~ Alexxa ~*

The decor, the views, and the exciting ambiance of Hexx Kitchen + Barr was only a prelude to the intoxicating treat of my first cocktail. The Hexx bar team's philosophy is to create spell-binding cocktails made from the finest ingredients by passionate people. My magic potion was "THE HEXX". It was a mixology of Absolut vodka, licor 43, dark creme de cacao nocello, house made chocolate syrup and cream. This precious chocolate martini sent delightful sparks of pleasure to my heart. I'm told that every cocktail they serve has its own unique spell binding effect.



An anniversary must be celebrated with champagne. The Nivolas Feuillatte "Reserve" Brut, Chouilly, Champagne, France dazzled me with its incandescent bubbles and shimmering elegance. The fire of love was ignited!

### Spell #3

*A life so long, of goodly health,  
a richness sure beyond all wealth,  
grant me now a heart so strong,  
and healthy through a life so long  
~ Alexxa ~*

Dinner was definitely a rich experience beyond all wealth. Executive Chef Mathew Pickarski and Mathew Silverman have created and executed an appealing menu. They pride themselves in conjuring all the dishes made from scratch that use only the freshest raw ingredients. There are no pre-made sauces, no frozen vegetables or shortcuts. They serve only 100% natural meats, sustainable seafood and season produce. The result is ravishing.

We started our repast with overcooked bacon. The applewood



smoked bacon with cinnamon, nutmeg and maple aioli was sinfully delicious. Our enthusiastic waitress suggested we order the crispy broccolini. I'm not sure what spell they cast on that vegetable but dried chili, citrus and golden balsamic flavors were bewitching. Their chilled jumbo shrimp (at right) with house made cocktail sauce, fresh horseradish and lemon were succulent and savory.



Our entrees captivated every taste bud we owned. My husband loves ribs and their short ribs served with horseradish, mashed potatoes, citrus roasted Brussels sprouts and braising jus were scrumptious. My chicken and waffles (pictured below) were apple-cheddar flavored

with house-made sweet and spicy pickles, and bourbon maple syrup. They took me over the moon with delight. Every cell of my body was enraptured with gastronomical delights.




#### Spell #4

*With the taste of something sweet  
I conjure luck lay at my feet,  
whether dice may roll  
or wheels go round,  
I bid that luck to me abound.  
~ Alexxa ~*

Dessert is what put the extra "X" in Hexx. If sweetness brings luck, then tonight was our night to win the mega bucks. I ordered the walnut carrot cake, with cream cheese frosting, pecans, cream cheese ice cream and caramelized pineapple jam. The sweetness of that memory still curls my toes. My husband's super natural experience was the Venezuelan milk chocolate cheesecake with peanut butter caramel, Oreo crust and caramel popcorn. He still has a smile that crinkles his eyes and felt like the luckiest man alive!





*“Executive Chefs Mathew Pickarski and Mathew Silverman have created and executed an appealing menu. There are no pre-made sauces, no frozen vegetables or shortcuts. The result is ravishing.”*



## Spell #5

*Silver, gold, dollars, coin,  
to my future now be joined  
wealth be mine and it, I'll share  
with all for whom i dearly care!  
~ Alexa ~*

The real magic wand of the evening belonged to executive pastry chef Carol Garcia. Hexx has the first true bean-to-bar chocolate “factory” in Nevada. Willie Wonka eat your heart out! The Goddess of chocolate, Carol Garcia, understands the spell that chocolate casts over you. I had always heard that chocolate was an aphrodisiac. After tasting the Hexx chocolate fresh from her factory, I understand why this is true. What a thrilling anniversary treat.

Carol’s enthusiasm and love for the art of creating a chocolate experience was charming. She exuded knowledge, pride, love and a sweetness for her art that was cap-

tivating. She is the “hexxologist” of chocolate.

The “factory” is about a few hundred feet in size. But the shiny chocolate steel tubs, roasting trays and beans are state of the art. Bean to bar is rare in the chocolate world.

I learned that most people are chocolate melters, not chocolate makers. There’s a big difference in the two. Chocolate makers source the cacao pods, roast the seeds, conche them and mold them. Chocolate melters just re-melt the chocolate into different products. We were about to experience the real “bean.”

Carol opened the sacks of cacao beans from Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Tanzania and Madagascar. She held the beans in her hands as if they were gold. All these chocolate farms are 20 degrees north of the Equator. They traveled a great distance to dazzle and delight us under the expert wand of

Chef Garcia.

She explained how the beans are roasted, crushed, sorted and “spun” for two days to liquefy before being poured into molds that make the flavors. The magic lies in the conching process that may last a few days of non-stop mixing. This is one of the best chocolate makers’ secrets. How long to roast, the temperatures, and how long to conche is where Carol casts her spell.

I was “Hexxed” by the Tanzania bar with its hints of cherry, coffee and lemon. The Ecuador chocolate was the smoothest with flavors of almond, sweet marzipan and flowers. But the Madagascar with its strong fruit flavors and an emphasis on citrus made me dizzy with delight.

The Chocolate Tour is free and worth every second of your time. You will be enraptured by the tasty effect these tiny beans and Chef Carol’s bewitching secrets will

have on you. Her chocolate is a sweet love potion for ecstasy.

Spell #6

*See, hear, taste, touch,  
but when the aroma of love  
is conjured in a kitchen such  
for your gastronomic pleasure.*

*A spell is cast  
and you are hexxed.. Forever!  
~ Janice Marie Wilson ~*

Hexx Kitchen and Bar is a six sided aphrodisiac experience, for all of your senses. Find out what it means to feel blissed, hexxed, and happy. This beguiling and bewitching restaurant adventure is waiting for you. We gave it six stars.



Designs: David Tupaz  
Photography: Isabelle Ruen  
Hair & Makeup: Reyna Khalil  
Model: Izzy Young



# A REBIRTH OF COLOR

---

Designs by David Tupaz | Photography by Isabelle Ruen

From the Fashion Week runways of New York, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles, David Tupaz presents his Spring 2019 looks. The collection is presented in rich tones of magenta with a touch of lime, gold, and, of course, the Tupaz staple of black and white which is present in every collection he creates season after season.

An array of luxurious materials of Italian jersey, viscose crepe, metallic French corded lace, gold leaf spandex, black sequined mesh, silk organza, and crepe jersey with unique gold leaf stenciled print coordinate the entire collection. As expected, there is always a touch of “Old Hollywood.”

David brings a fresh statement of carefree lines and silhouettes that are fun, wearable, and classic. Easy styles, youthful yet sophisticated... A look inspired by a Spanish infanta from the turn of the century stood out in the collection with an element of surprise, and a touch of theatrics.

“Spring for me is always the rebirth of color, it is nature’s gift every season,” said David. We picked our favorites from the collection of 35 pieces for this issue. Photographed on location in the Hollywood Hills home of 10-time Emmy award producers, Peter and Lisa Brennan who are close friends of David.



Designs: David Tupaz  
Photography: Isabelle Ruen  
Hair & Makeup: Reyna Khalil  
Model: Kelli Kickham





Designs: David Tupaz  
Photography: Isabelle Ruen  
Hair & Makeup: Reyna Khalil  
At Left: Izzy Young  
At Right: Kelli Kickham





Designs: David Tupaz  
Photography: Isabelle Ruen  
Hair & Makeup: Reyna Khalil  
At Left: Kelli Kickham  
At Right: Izzy Young



Designs: David Tupaz  
Photography: Isabelle Ruen  
Hair & Makeup: Reyna Khalil  
Model: Izzy Young



Designs: David Tupaz  
Photography: Isabelle Ruen  
Hair & Makeup: Reyna Khalil  
Model: Kelli Kickham

Designs: David Tupaz  
Photography: Isabelle Ruen  
Hair & Makeup: Reyna Khalil  
Model: Izzy Young





Designs: David Tupaz  
Photography: Isabelle Ruen  
Hair & Makeup: Reyna Khalil  
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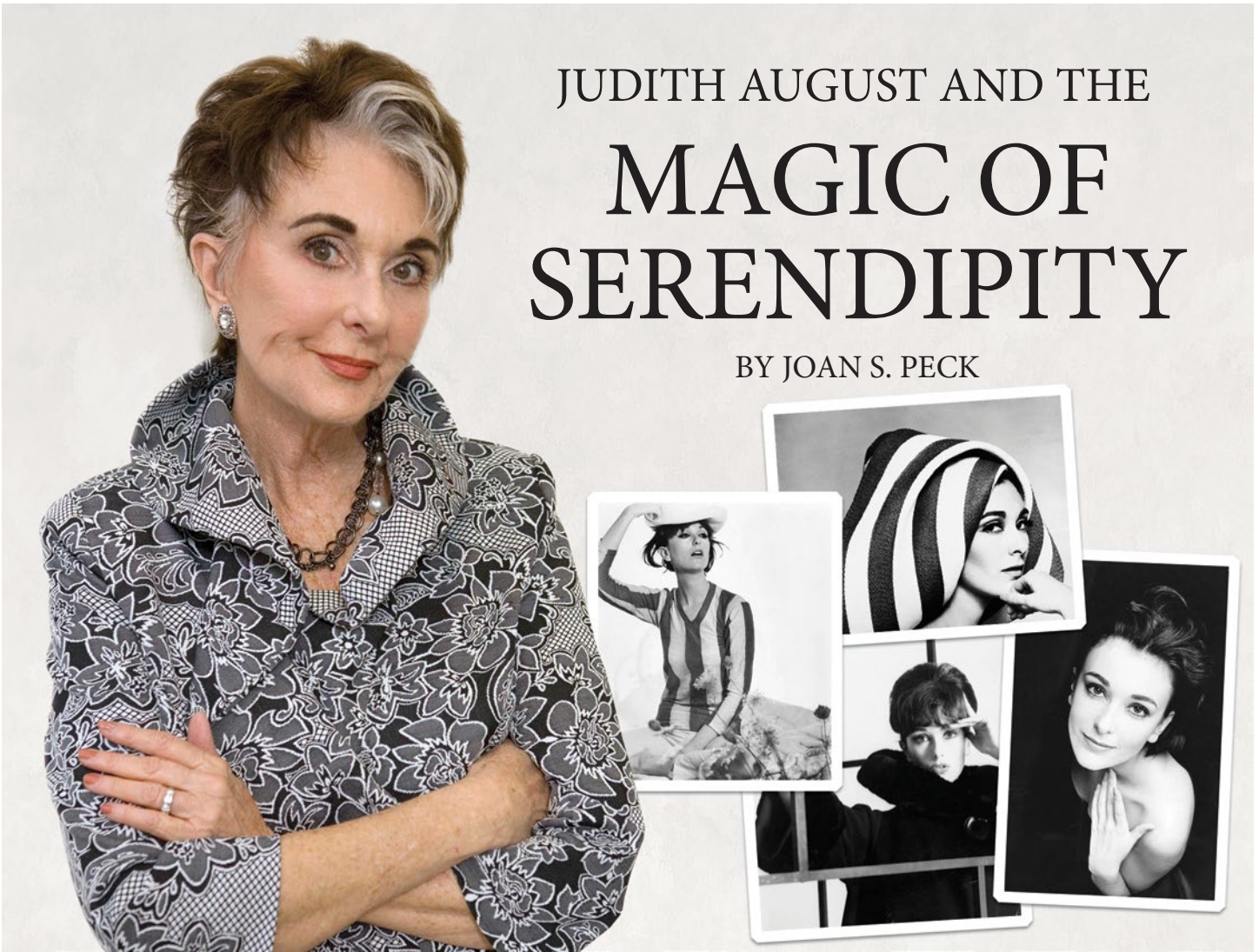
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# JUDITH AUGUST AND THE MAGIC OF SERENDIPITY

BY JOAN S. PECK



As we move through life, there are things that happen that we're unable to explain logically. If we're lucky those are the times in our life where things seem to fall into place and satisfy our desires, whether we've only thought about them or have spoken them aloud. When I met with Judith August to discuss her life and her cosmetic business, she delighted in the idea that much in her life had been more than happenstance. So her story begins...

Judith was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. At the age of

16, Judith went on a modeling interview to become the "May Girl," which meant she would become the image of the store modeling everything from fur coats to dresses to dishwashers. She got the job and her photos were all over the newspapers for the next three years.

Part of her job allowed her to meet the models from New York City who came to strut their stuff on the runway and the photo department during the store's events. She became enamored with them.

When she was 17, Judith met her

mentor, Aida Grey, through her friend's mother, who was a client of hers. Aida Grey was the cosmetic guru of Beverly Hills and was the first person to develop custom-blended foundations. It was the beginning of a great business relationship throughout the years. Wanting more than what May Company had to offer, Judith packed her bags and left for New York City where she was successful working as a photographer's model.

However, during that time, Judith ran into a serious hereditary problem which made it hard to com-

pete in the “perfectionist” world of modeling. “The bags under my eyes would never allow for great camera work. No surgeon would operate because I was too young! While some girls would sink into the premature wrinkles of defeat, I took it on as a challenge and started the lifelong study of Camouflage Cosmetics. I realized that I was not alone because ‘everybody’s has something to hide.’” Judith mastered lighting, makeup artistry, and camouflage techniques, allowing her modeling career to flourish for almost 20 years.

Judith married and moved to New Orleans with her husband. She wanted to open a cosmetics store but she had no money to do that. When she sought a bank loan, the bank made a deal with her. They’d loan her ½ of the money needed if she could raise the other half. She came up with the idea to open her company as a Limited Partnership and again, fate stepped in. Through a friend’s mother and her many social contacts, she was able to raise the money and open the cute little 300 sq. ft. store, *Let’s Face It*. It presented many exclusive lines of cosmetics and perfumes and became an instant social success with lines of people waiting to squeeze into the small store each Saturday. It was definitely the place to go to get ready for all the parties, proms, and balls that the New Orleans was known for. The store received the “YWCA Award for Excellence” and was the “Mecca of Makeups and Makeovers.”

Many celebrities and makeup artists from Hollywood, Beverly

Hills, and New York came to the “Big Easy” as “Special Guests” on her television show, *Let’s Face It*, broadcast on 36 different networks. It was a perfect platform for Judith and her guests to speak about cosmetics and her passion for concealers.

In the 1980s, Judith moved back to Los Angeles and became the training director and community outreach person for the Aida Grey Company. She became in demand for her lectures speaking about how to look younger longer. She also developed contracts with plastic surgeons to help their patients after surgery to use concealer and makeup to cover any bruising that had taken place. Judith had come across a cosmetic pencil made in Germany that everyone seemed to love, but it had no contact information. She was not to be deterred. She worked with the doctors and developed her own cosmetic pencil formula and located a cosmetic laboratory in the United States that manufactured

cosmetic pencils. When the final product was complete, the doctors asked Judith what exactly the pencil did. Her response was “Simply everything!” Thus, the Everything Pencil was born.

When the Everything Pencil (pictured below) was featured as the Editor’s Choice in *Allure* magazine in April 1986, the response to the small ad was overwhelming, and Judith August Cosmetics Solutions was born!

Today, she constantly works in partnership with top cosmetic laboratories in the USA, and together they create relevant products that cover up and conceal just about everything for everybody. This includes under eye circles, rosacea, vitiligo, acne and blemishes, age spots, scars, post-operative bruising, birthmarks, tattoos and more. She designs her products to achieve beautiful and effective results, from simple annoying flaws to serious coverage. “It’s all in the formulas, colors, and textures that make





## *“Everyone’s birthright is to look good.”*

them work,” states Judith. She realizes makeup plays a pivotal role in the psychological well-being of both men and women. “Looking good is not superficial. It measures health and image and encourages self-esteem. If you’ve got a problem, we’ve got the solution.”

I was blown away by Judith’s very successful book, *Gotcha Covered – The Compact Guide to Camouflage Makeup*. It is an exquisitely illustrated, 110-page guide, providing detailed tips and tricks. This “at home” guide is available for purchase through her website ([JudithAugustCosmetics.com](http://JudithAugustCosmetics.com)) and as a Kindle download through Amazon.com. When you leaf through this book, you will understand there is no better or more complete book than this for any cosmetic camouflage. It is the

ultimate answer and primer for any person who wants to camouflage a skin issue or for anyone who is a makeup artist or in the cosmetic business. This book proves Judith is the maven extraordinaire of the camouflage business.

I was curious to learn what enticed Judith to write the book. “Two reasons, really. The book took five years to complete because of all the photographs, testimonials, and content. In my 40 years of being a part of the cosmetic business, I have a wealth of information that I wanted to share. This isn’t just about beauty because everyone’s birthright is to look good. It’s certainly not about vanity. It’s simply a motivational book on looking good and how to do it!

I also wanted this book to be a

legacy to my four grandchildren—two of whom live in New York, and two in New Orleans. Since I don’t get to be with them every day, they don’t really have an understanding of who I am and what I do. This way, they’ll have a better understanding of that.”

We’re all aging—it’s a fact. However, how we view that is what can make a difference. I read Judith’s blog, *The O Word*, written in 2013, and thought by sharing it, you’d have a clearer understanding of how she sees herself and others as we age. It’s all about perspective.

“It was my birthday last month and my darling friends took me for lunch. As we were all “living” in the second half of our century, we boohooed all the hateful words associated with the word old. “Older is a much better word than the word old,” I said. “There is a marked difference in attitude and intent.”

The Thesaurus describes the “O” word as aged, mature, elderly, cantankerous, prehistoric, primeval, archaic, outdated, obsolete ... all terms that have no relationship to the way I feel every day. I am still 36 in my mind, although certain parts of my anatomy don’t react in the same delightful way. (Who knew that peppers and sausage for breakfast would be stricken off the list of food to eat?) Bottom line, while I refuse to be stuck in the world of “Old,” I can handle the world of “older.”

Looking around me, my friends do their best to stay in shape: walking dogs, water aerobics, Pilates; yet, many of us have more doctors’ appointments than ever. Does that mean we have to get Old? “Good Heaven’s NO!” My friend Barbara just ran a 5K marathon at 80-ish and wondered why she was so tired at the end of the run. Remember when you were 5 and your 28-year-old mother was “old?” And God knows as a teenager, you could never imagine sex at 60. Getting older is all relative.

Aging can affect us in incredible ways—both the bad and the good. Fortunately, with today’s modern products and techniques, our bad habits don’t have to show. Over time I’ve watched the changes on my own face. Through my business, I am fortunate to work with chemists and colorists designing camouflage makeup that works for me and everyone else. I love creating wonderful products that give us a fresh, young appearance, covers age spots and dark circles, and fills in wrinkles, allowing us to look amazing right

through the elegant years. (Notice I didn’t use the “O” word?).

I have a good friend who compares aging to the feline world. Babies are kittens, the 20s are kitties, 30s are cats, 40s are cougars, 50’s-70’s lioness, 80’s the sphinx—the wise one who simply looks back upon history with candor and interest. We can also change the dynamics of the word by simply adding a few letters: “Old becomes Gold with Untold tales of adventure and Bold stories of glory and wonder.”

Life is longer than ever...enjoy, live, love, hug, and pass along wisdom. Be young in your mind.

We still have a lot to do...there’s still time. Like I have always said... old is someone else! It’s just another “O” word!”

Looking back upon Judith’s journey to develop her business, I can see how serendipity worked in her favor at times. But the truth is that for fate to step into our lives, we have to have a desire we want to be met, and we have to recognize the Universe’s “gift” as it is presented, and be willing to act upon it—to do our part—to create what we want. When you meet Judith August, you can’t help but admire all the parts she played in her success and continues to do so each day.





By Ann Parenti | Photography by Talbot Snow

What do you get when you put two angels of the arts together in the same room? You get Art Dash!

Art Dash was the brain child of Niki Sands who has been an advocate for the arts for decades now in Las Vegas. She enrolled Nancy Good, another strong arts advocate to help her in her mission for a grand cause. That cause being Forgotten Song Foundation. It was a night designed to raise funds for the foundation whose entire mission is dedicated to recognizing, remembering, and sustaining the visual artists and performance artistry of live music for future generations. That is an ambitious statement but FSF has been working hard for the last four

years to keep their mission alive and they have succeeded in giving out \$25,000 in scholarships and grants to UNLV, CSN and like-minded organizations that support the arts.

The night was filled with music, art, wine, food and fun and, of course, lots of raffles! The idea behind Art Dash was to purchase a single raffle ticket for entrance to the event and once there you would have a chance at winning a valuable raffle gift that evening. There were nine artists on display for the event and they had a Pop-Up show at the gallery during the week of the show that closed the following day after the event. The artists who generously offered their talent and gifts were the following, Lynne Adamson, Michelle Almassy, Jerry





**Top Left:** Niki Sands stands before two of her pieces on display.

**Top Right:** Alex Huerta stands before two of his pieces on display.

**Far Left:** Sondra Lynch and Staci Alayvilla attend Art Dash

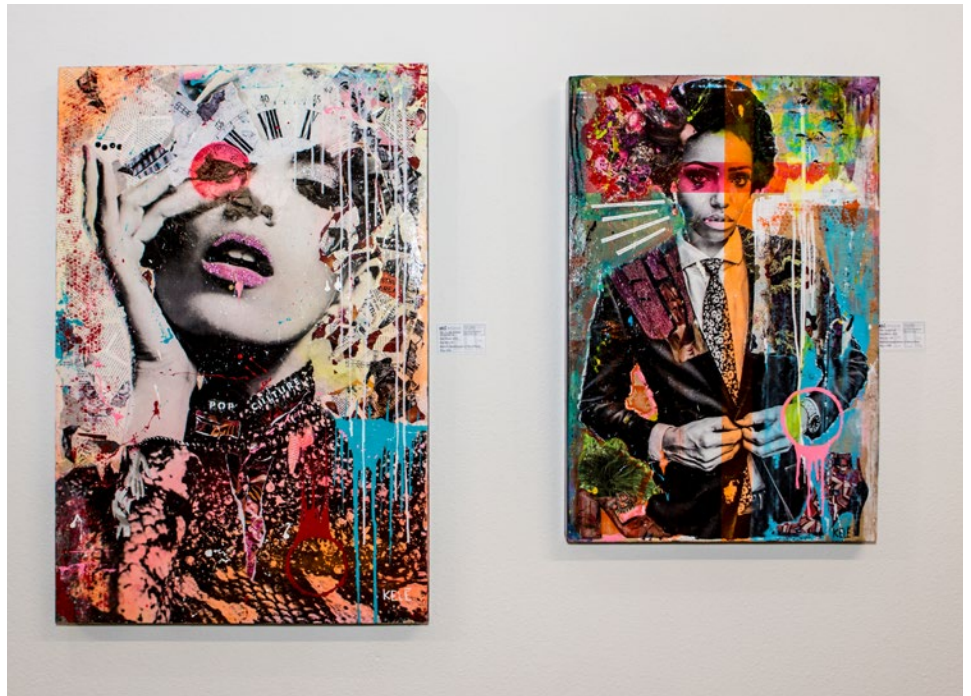
**Left:** Jerry Blank stands before two of his pieces on display.

Blank, Maria Bran, Nancy Good, Lisa Herr, Alex Huerta, Kelley Nelson, and Niki Sands.

It was a magical night and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Core Contemporary was a very gracious host and Nancy and Paul did a fabulous job entertaining us that evening with music that touched the hearts and soul of the guests.

If you are looking for a new place to check out some art, Core Contemporary is the place to be. There is always new art on display and fun exhibits to see.

Check out [corecontemporary.com](http://corecontemporary.com) for the latest shows and updates.



**Top:** Artwork by Kelley Nelson  
**Above:** Nancy Good & Paul Barnes  
**Left:** Maria Bran stands before several of her pieces on display.





**Above:** Core Contemporary artwork in progress on display during the Art Dash event.  
**Left:** Leo Szantol, Kelley Nelson, Stephanie Nelson, and Victoria Gil De Lamadrid



# diptyque

## paris

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diptyque is excited to announce the opening of their first Las Vegas boutique inside the Wynn Plaza and to join its community of long-standing connections, partners, and friends.

Sprung from the creativity and dedication of three artists at 34 Boulevard St. Germain in Paris, diptyque has long explored uncharted territories in the world of perfumery, bringing together olfactory and technical inspirations to enliven the senses.

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shade of fig trees in Greece or standing at the court of a maharaja in Southern India. A dream-like feather installation by Janaina Milheiro splashed across the center of the boutique brings visitors back to the bright neon and original burlesque shows that electrified the Las Vegas Strip. This is the universe diptyque invites you to experience.

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# INDIA

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By Richard Stearns



What makes the perfect travel experience? A weekend getaway? A “Bucket List” European destination? Or Asia? A country or city that you always wanted to visit? Rome (Love pasta, right?)? Somewhere you can “slip into” that’s comfortable, a more like home experience that you love? After all, we know that travel can be difficult.

My advice is... Get out of that Comfort Zone! Try a country or a destination that you would never consider going to. Perhaps, a trip down the Nile River in Egypt. Or an adventure that starts in the headwaters of the Amazon to see the native white dolphins. It could become the experience of a life-

time... sealed in your memory and worth more than a hundred photo albums.

Well, that’s exactly what I did. One day I saw an advertisement for Pan Am One (now I’m dating myself). Book a trip on an around the world flight with stops in destinations that were “far away” both in distance and culture. Who would go on a flight like that? India was the fourth stop on this flight. I didn’t like spicy food (What is curry, anyway?) Oh yeah, they had a building called the Taj Mahal, I think. I thought to myself, “Why not? If I don’t like it, I can leave on the next flight.” Exotic thoughts of magic carpets, palaces and maybe an elephant ride passed through my mind as I contemplated my trip.

As I arrived in New Delhi and walked out of the airport there was bedlam everywhere. The noise was deafening as I saw throngs of people shouting, taxis waiting, tuk-tuks trying to snag fares and vendors selling food and souvenirs to everyone who walked by. It was beyond anything I had ever experienced.

A nice-looking man approached me and said in perfect English, “Where are you going?” I looked for the paper with my reservation on it, but he just started loading my bags into his vehicle - a tuk-tuk. It had no windows; no air conditioning and it was very hot. Suddenly I was off into this strange new world. The driver wore a turban, a huge grin and a walrus-type mustache. I’ll never forget it as he turned his head back to look at me and said, “Sir, welcome to India.”

When we arrived at the hotel it seemed like an oasis. It was calm, cool and familiar (American) After all, it was a Hilton and it should be. As I went to the registration desk, I was handed a cool fruit drink. So nice. I requested a room WITH air conditioning. They told me that my room was, indeed, air conditioned. However, due to the EXTREME heat wave that they were currently experiencing (115 degrees plus) the electricity would be shut off from 1-4pm, or longer each day. “What?”, I exclaimed in total astonishment. My shirt was already soaked from my tuk-tuk ride. That afternoon was spent in a very hot, humid and uncomfortable room with no power. My thoughts were, “What have I done?”

The hotel arranged a car (please make sure it's air conditioned) and an English-speaking driver. With a little research, I planned my week in India. The "Golden Triangle" of New Delhi, Jaipur and Agra sounded perfect. That famous building we have all heard about in India (The Taj Mahal) was in Agra.

The next morning my guide was waiting for me in the lobby. The first thing he said to me was that I was wearing the wrong type of shirt for the time of year (no wonder I was feeling so warm). With a slight change to our itinerary, he drove me to a custom shirt tailor. The tailor showed me fabric made of super thin linen. He took my measurements and when I asked him how long it would take to make the shirts, he told me he would have them delivered to my hotel by lunchtime. I was a bit skeptical but when we returned to the hotel for lunch, they were at the front desk waiting for me. With all that service they cost about \$8.00 each.

After a nice western lunch at the hotel, I wasn't brave enough to try the Indian cuisine quite yet, we once again headed out to see some the sights. Being in an air-conditioned car was far preferable than sitting in a hot hotel room with no power. My guide took me to Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. After we left, he then drove down the Grand Boulevard, built by the British, past the President's House and Parliament. It became increasingly obvious that India is credibly the only country with the largest and most diverse mixture of rac-



es. Sacred cows wandered the side streets and avenues with no restrictions. I looked in awe as I observed a spellbinding country where people of disparate communities and religions live together in oneness. It is a land of bright and beautiful colors.

India's cultural history has been derived by absorbing the customs, traditions and rituals from both invaders and immigrants over the centuries. It has been the birthplace of many religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. The culture of India was also heavily influenced by invasions from the Arabs, Turkey and Persia.

The next morning we left at dawn. Driving out of the city we saw various groups of women. All of them were dressed in brilliantly colored saris. Many carried containers of various shapes and sizes on their heads, filled with different items to sell. They were walking towards the center of the city where they would sell their wares before returning home.

**Above:** Indian woman in colorful Sari

**On Opposite Page:**  
**Left:** Richard at Taj Mahal



Our next stop was Jaipur. Often called the Jewel of India, Jaipur is nestled in the grooved hills of the Aravalli Range. This charming city is known for its forts, colorful gardens, huge palaces, hustling bazaars and splendid heritage. The city was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh. It is also called The Pink City because all the buildings in the old section of the city have a pink hue to them.

Our first stop was the Rambagh Palace. It had recently been partially turned into a guest hotel and it was going to be our home for the next couple of days while we

**Above:** Rambagh Palace

**On Opposite Page:**

**Top:** Amber Fort

**Bottom Left:** Peacock Throne

**Bottom Right:** Snake Charmer

explored this fascinating city.

Rambagh Palace was built in 1835. It has stepped gracefully through many royal transitions. It was once the home of the Queen Victoria's favorite handmaiden, then a Royal Guest House. It was also a Hunting Lodge and eventually became the home of the Maharaja Sawai Mam Singh and his wife the Maharani Gayatri Devi.

As we entered the grounds you could see that it has retained its elaborate splendor. It is extravagantly decorated with hand carved marble lattice work, sandstone balustrades and cupolas. "Magnificent" is an understatement and it is only one of the five palaces the Maharaja inherited as a child.

"This is the hotel?", I asked the driver as we pulled up to the front doors of the building. "Yes, sir, it is," he answered. "Only recently, the Maharaja opened a few suites to guests, and you are one of the first."

I gave myself a quick pinch as I stared out the window at the glorious building before me. I was sure I was dreaming.

After getting settled in it was almost dinnertime. I went down to the guest dining room. It was a small elegant room with a long table draped in iridescent silk. A group of six musicians arrived and started to play. I asked the waiter about the main course. He told me that the menu for the evening would be Butter Chicken Curry (See Recipe). "Curry?", I asked. "Yes, sir," he re-



plied. "Well," I thought, "When in Rome....." As it turned out the food was absolutely amazing and to this day, I just love curry!!

After dinner I went for a sunset stroll through the Moghul Garden with beautiful manicured flowers and bushes. Strolling peacocks wandered about strutting their plumage. My trip was becoming more exciting by the hour. I couldn't wait to see what would happen the next day.

I woke up the next morning ready for my next adventure. After a full English Breakfast and a wonderfully restful night in the "Royal Palace" of a "Living Maharaja," my expectations were high.

The first destination of the morning was the Amber Fort, built in 1592. Located on a high mountaintop the only practical way to access it was on the back of an elephant (A REAL elephant). Once I had climbed into the wooden saddle and the elephant started moving up the mountainous road, we were followed by three musicians playing Indian music. It was just surreal.

Once inside, we were shown rooms where rubies, emeralds and diamonds used to decorate the ceilings. When the Persians raided India they removed the gemstones along with much of India's wealth and transported it all back to their home country. Included among these stolen treasures was the Peacock Throne which is still in Iran to this day.

A part of the architecture were small shallow "canals" that ran



through the marble floors into every room in the fort. These waterways were designed to flow throughout with perfumed water.

We were able to return to the "Palace" in time for tea. Sitting on the lawn in front of the terrace were two men, each with a basket. As they played their flutes a cobra poked its head out of the basket and started to sway with the music. Oh my, if Mama could

see me now. I HATE snakes!! Nevertheless, the performance was fascinating even though I was left scratching my head wondering how they did it.

As I was finishing and getting ready to leave an elderly gentleman approached me. He was dressed in white and had a white turban. He welcomed me and asked if I was enjoying my stay.





"Yes, I love it here!", I replied.

"He then asked me, "Would you like to see the Palace Clock Collection?"

I followed him down a hallway to a set of locked doors, elegantly carved. He pulled out some keys and unlocked them. He pushed open the doors and turned on the lights. The room was huge and elegant beyond anything I had seen so far. The chandeliers were wrapped with soft linens. The entire room was filled with hundreds of antique clocks. Some were made with gold. Others were encrusted with rubies, diamonds and emeralds. This man went on to explain that most of the clocks were gifts. I just kept looking at all the wonderful and exotic clocks that were on shelves, tables and every flat surface in the room. He led me out of the room and locked the doors once again. As he turned the key in the lock, he asked me if I would like to see the Polo Practice. After the treasures I had just observed, I, of course, agreed immediately.

As I was escorted to the far end of the palace expecting to see some polo ponies, I glanced outside and saw three women trimming the massive lawn. They were down on their knees and they were using scissors to cut the grass. Lawn care has been taken to a new level here. I remember as a kid I had to mow the lawn with a push lawnmower. I'll never complain about that again.

We eventually arrived and in front of me were six colorfully painted elephants waiting for their trainers. Once they were mounted, they would begin the polo match.

"We hold Elephant Polo games several times a year," he told me as he left us to watch this amazing game in utter fascination. It is something I will never forget.

After the game, I stopped by the front desk to ask them to thank my impromptu guide.

"I don't know his name, but he was an elderly gentleman, dressed in all white.", I said to the clerk.

The clerk nodded his head and said, "I will thank the Maharaja for you."

"Huh?", I responded in shock. "The Maharaja of Jaipur?"

"Yes, sir. That was him."



I recently told my dear friend Elaine Newton about my meeting the Maharaja in India. She said, "Oh, you met Bubbles." And I said Bubbles? She said, "yes, his nickname was Bubbles. We met him at his home in London. He was a polo player for the British team. And he loved Wayne's music!" It's a small world!!

My final destination was the famed city of Agra, located on the banks of the River Yamuna. Many of you will know this city as it was the inspiration for the Disney movie, Aladdin. It is also home to the Taj Mahal, arguably the most famous landmark in the entire subcontinent.

The Taj Mahal has been nicknamed the "Crown Jewel of India." It is one of the seven wonders of the world. It was commissioned in 1632 and completed in 1653 by the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan, as the tomb for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It is set in formal gardens and is bounded on the sides by a crenelated wall. 20,000 workers spent 22 years constructing this magnificent building. The white marble was of the best quality and came from Makrana, Rajasthan. There are 28 types of precious and semi-precious stones throughout and they were all imported from, China, Punjab, Afghanistan, Tibet and Arabia.

Often called the "teardrop on the cheek of time" my guide took me on a boat trip across the river to view the Taj Mahal by moonlight from the Royal Garden. It was unforgettable.



**Above:** The Maharaja of Jaipur

**On Opposite Page:**  
**Top:** Palace Dining Room  
**Bottom:** Elephant Polo

The last stop was the Agra Fort, a World Heritage site that you simply can't miss while you're in Agra. It played a very important part in the "Sign of the Four," the second published Sherlock Holmes novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

It is built of red sandstone and is still used by the Indian military to this day. The fort was first mentioned in 1080 AD and was renovated in 1573. It took eight years and 4,000 workers to complete the renovation.

Now, since my return from that fabulous trip, I love curry. In fact, I love Indian food, period. Shopping in India was a WOW!! And while

I still don't enjoy water polo, Elephant Polo is simply MAGIC!!

I have come to believe that travel has the power to change us as we connect with different cultures, people, places and experiences. From the iconic to the unexpected, we need to get away from the guidebooks and explore.

*In our next issue: Don't miss a trip down the Nile in Egypt.*



# Butter Chicken Curry

Richard's First Curry Experience

## Marinade

- ½ cup Plain Yogurt
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 2 tsp garam masala
- ½ tsp cayenne powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp ginger, freshly grated
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed

## Curry

- 2 tbsp ghee OR 1 tbsp vegetable oil
  - 1 cup tomato puree
  - 1 cup heavy cream
  - 1 tbsp sugar
  - 1 ¼ tsp salt
- 
- 6 boneless, skinless chicken thigh filets
  - Basmati Rice
  - Cilantro

## Instructions

1. Combine marinade ingredients in a food processor and blend until smooth.
2. Place the chicken in a bowl and cover with the marinade. Place in the refrigerator for a minimum of 3 hours.
3. Heat the vegetable oil over high heat in a large fry pan. Take the chicken out of the marinade. Do not wipe or shake the marinade sauce off the chicken.
4. Place the chicken in the fry pan and cook for 3 minutes or until the chicken turns white all over.
5. Add the tomato puree, cream sugar and salt. Turn the heat down to low and simmer for 20 minutes. Taste it to see if you need more salt.
6. Serve over Basmati Rice and garnish with cilantro.



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## About Richard

Richard Stearns is the Travel and Culinary Director for CHIC COMPASS Magazine, Award Winning Author, Columnist, Restaurateur/Chef, Hotelier, World Traveler and Designer. His designs have graced the Forbidden City in Beijing, Rothschild European Nurseries, and in Las Vegas, MGM Grand, Bellagio, Bellagio Conservatory, Caesars Palace, Mandalay Bay, New York New York and Monte Carlo – to name a few.

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# REBIRTH OF SUZANNE SILK'S ART

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By Joan S. Peck

Many of us are fortunate to live a longer, healthy life than we anticipated or

dreamed was possible. Instead of being retired as planned, many of us are in the throes of learning

different and new ways of conducting business—how to attract customers and compete in today's market. Advances in technology have forced us to look at business in an entirely new way by directing all aspects through the internet and social media. In 2017, more than 8 million people worked from home, and we know that figure has grown significantly since then. Especially when that means businesses no longer have to be housed in actual constructed offices or buildings at a time when business owners are looking for ways to cut their costs.

In addition, thanks to social media and the internet, our clients and business partnerships have extended to include the entire world. The expression "the world is your oyster" has significant meaning in today's economy, and for good reason. This certainly has become true for contemporary American Artist and Designer, Suzanne Silk.

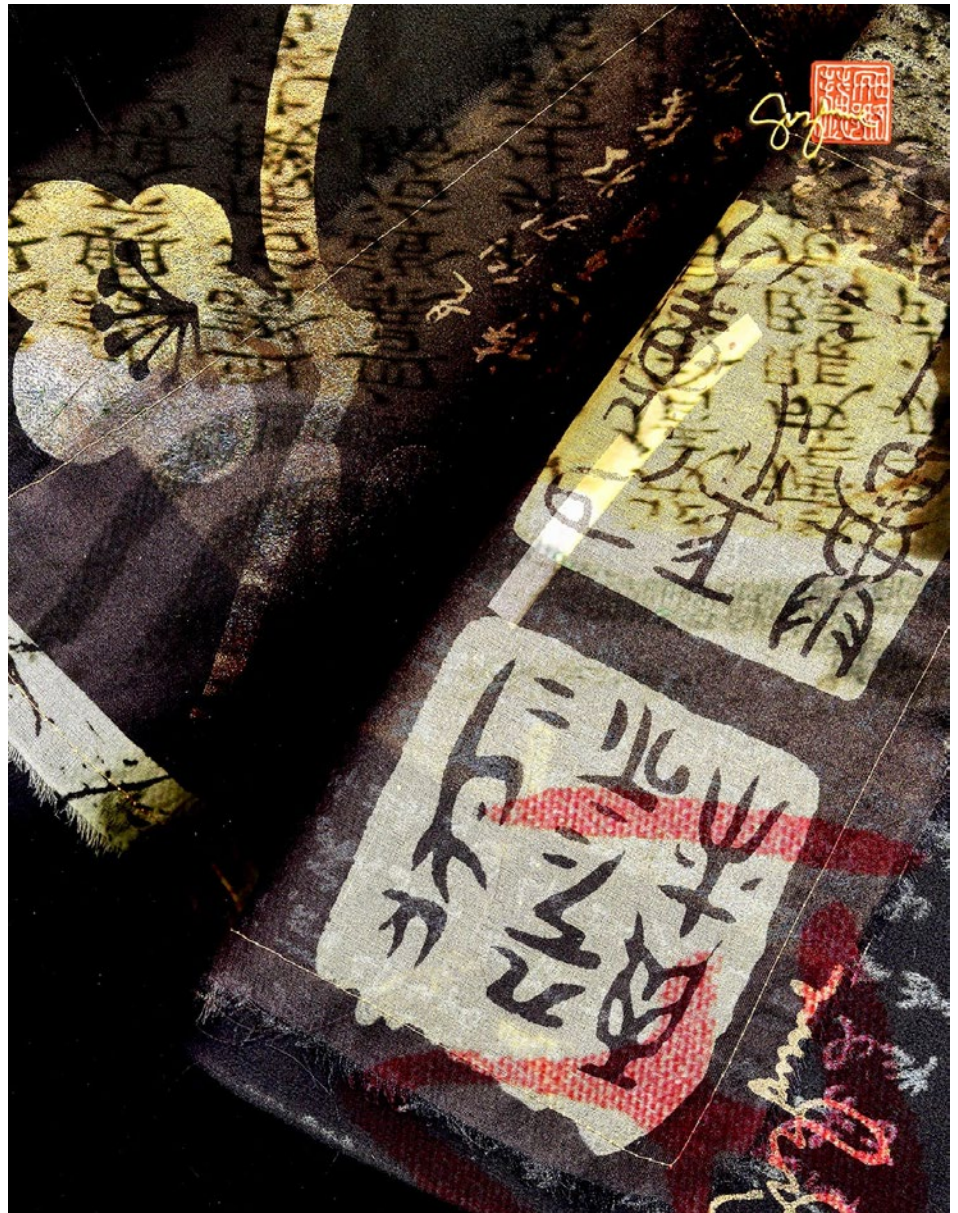
In days past, you might have found Silk in her own studio with swaths of silk surrounding her as she painted on silk and designed her highly in-demand, stylized pieces of wearable art—which are now collector items.

Today, she sits in front of her computer at home, listening to classical music and jazz, and creates her art pieces much like she used to do. Only now, by learning and mastering the intricacies of Photoshop over the last 20 years, Silk uses her images and technology to create her new work and sends her large computer files to Asia where her work will be manufactured through

the company, Vida. How did she come to this point in her life?

Although Silk was born in San Francisco, she was raised on Long Island, where the nearness of New York City made it possible for her to be exposed to all the wonderful art galleries there: the Guggenheim, Metropolitan Art Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art and more. Thus began her stepping into the world of classic art. Her East Coast education and a summer schooling in Paris included a BS in Art Education from NYU and an advanced degree in Graphic Design from the Parson's School of Design. Two years at the Syracuse Art School is where Silk focused on life-drawing, basic 2D design, introduction to oil painting, and the science of color and light. As her exposure to other influences increased, she says, "I still envision all that world museum going and sophistication not having gone to waste one New York minute!"

In 1976, Silk, her husband, and young son returned to the Bay Area, her birthplace where she says her heart belonged. The move changed her life and brought her out of the classics into the wild spirit of the women's movement and the new freedom it represented. Her sense of art expanded and an understanding and exposure to the San Francisco / Asian / American community produced stunning creative pieces of her work now with bright colors and Asian influence. They were highly stylized, Asian-inspired silken pieces of wearable art. It was there in northern California that Silk learned to paint on



silk, which she says is a very "sensual" thing to do. Silk considers her Asian influence pieces her favorites. "Inspiration comes in living with curiosity, seeing what is possible, and in connecting all things."

It was in that spirit of curiosity that Silk moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2005. It was where the Far East meets the southwest. She was pulled there by many friendships and gallery connections she had already established. The rich gallery and art scene was so com-

PELLING and called her to experience a new culture and unknown environments; to explore firsthand the Native American lore and culture, and to be inspired by ancient wisdom cultures of the American southwest. Following in the paths of many independent women artists, Silk studied at the Santa Fe Workshops—an established photography school housed in an old, Catholic monastery. Courses in Advanced Digital Photography and Advanced Digital Printing techniques were the most engag-



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*“Inspiration comes in living with curiosity, seeing what is possible, in connecting all things.”*

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ing for her, leading her to how she creates today.

How did Silk reach this milestone of rebirthing her creations? Silk’s story is not unique in that she had already settled into retirement and was not thinking about creating

more of her work. Yet, as with many artists, it was impossible for her to stop creating altogether. As she sorted through her boxes of photographs of her work, articles written about her, and cards from her many clients around the world, she realized she wasn’t done yet.

What I found stunning in her work is how she develops her patterns because they are not single images. She calls herself a Collagist—“I believe that working in a variety of mediums including digital photography, graphic design and a variety of surface-design techniques has greatly influenced my life; a dialogue is formed, and it informs what comes next. This alchemical process is an expression of: “Art making art making a change.”

“I’m inspired by exotic foreign travel and a passion for collecting world textiles. During a 40-year career in graphic design and surface design, I’ve mastered a variety of textile design techniques such as Silk Painting, Silk Screen, Devore, Discharge, Foiling, and Rozome (a Japanese form of brushed wax-resist). My work is all about Nature’s Beauty.”

It was through Silk’s research that she found the company, Vida. She was thrilled to discover it represents everything she is passionate about in regard to the responsibility we have to share with others the just rewards of what we help to create. Much of today’s creative art has been developed by the techno world we live in, and Vida is one example of how we can work together to benefit all who help in the creation of a product. What Vida provides is a place for artists to have their creations manufactured.



Umamah Mendhro is the founder and CEO of Vida. She grew up in a small town in Pakistan and dreamed of becoming an artist. She came to the United States as a young adult, earned an Ivy League education, and then built a career in technology and business. Today, she blends her passions for art, technology, and business while helping her fellow Pakistanis break the cycle of poverty with the launch of her new e-commerce platform, VIDA. She has investors and a strong team of advisors.

"I wanted to use technology to create a global platform that gives emerging designers all over the world an opportunity to share their gift with the world," she explains. Vida's story is that of the rich, interconnected world we live in — the story of contemporary life and mindful global citizenship. We are a global partnership of co-

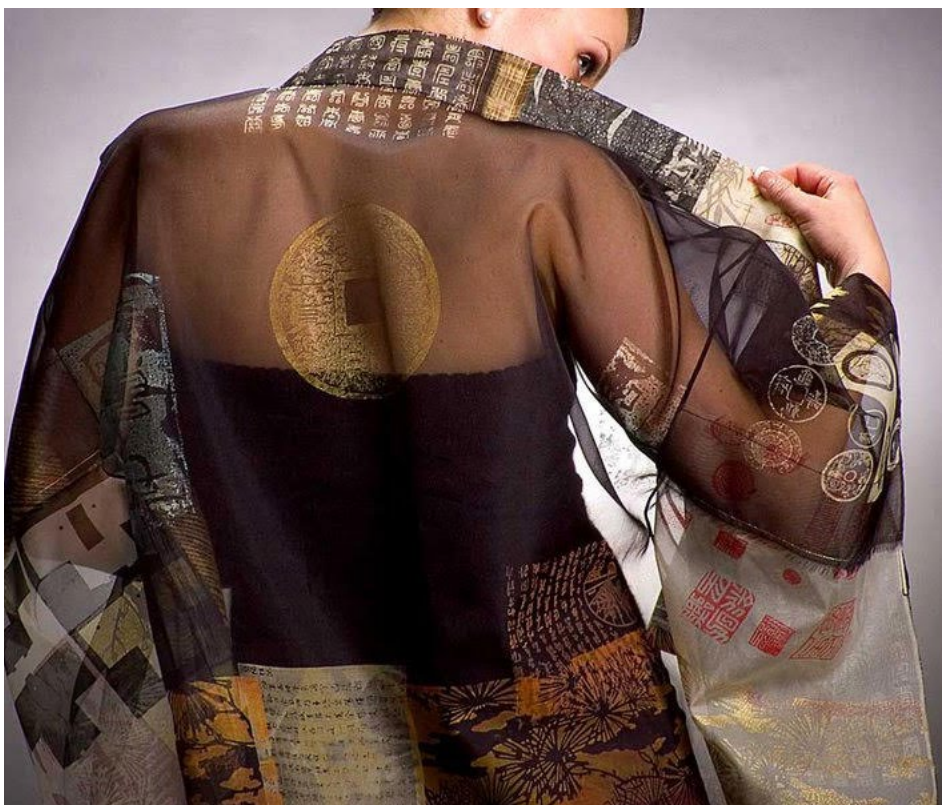


ators, from a designer in Paris to a producer in Karachi, and a consumer in San Francisco." Artists receive 10% of the \$45-\$90 retail

prices for each of their pieces sold.

Like all of us, Silk has moved through life collecting her experiences and choices, making it a part of who she is. That is what makes her and each of us unique. Since life never remains the same, each of Silk's moves to a different area created a new way for her to look at herself, her life, and her work from a different perspective. Her art reflects that with all their influences represented. She is a prolific artist who because of her willingness to rebirth the way she creates, remains a successful artist today—even beyond retirement.

Silk says, "Four years ago, I decided to retire to Las Vegas to be near my family. But as you now know, my retirement is now on hold, and I'm excited to be creating again."



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# (HE)ART OF PALM(S)

A SENSE OF DISCOVERY

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*Where else can you mix high-rollers with Hirst... wheel-spinners with Warhol... or bet makers with Basquiat? Turns out in an unlikely place: the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas.*

By Stacey Gualandi

*W*ho says Sin City lacks culture? Now, all you need to get your art game on is to spend some time exploring what's become the (he)art of Palms.

Known since its opening in 2001 for spacious rooms, themed suites and innovative vibe, Station Casino owners and avid art collectors Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta bought Palms in 2016—and then promptly brought in renowned British contemporary artist Damien Hirst (a favorite of the brothers) as an official collaborator—with a goal of hooking Palms' next-gen devotees on an art-infused aesthetic incomparable to anything on (or off) the Strip.

In 2018, the resort revealed a one-of-a-kind, property-wide art program as part of its massive (nearly) \$700 million "From Dust to Gold" renovation...and it was Creative Director Tal Cooperman who was called on to curate the contemporary collection.



NAME: The Unknown (Explored, Explained, Exploded) // By Damien Hirst, 1999 // MATERIAL: Glass, painted steel, silicone, monofilament, shark and formaldehyde solution // LOCATION: Unknown Bar

With a background in the Los Angeles graffiti art and fashion scene, Cooperman installed blue chip, street, and up-and-coming artists in the lounges, the high-end restaurants, the penthouse...you name it. Even the women's restroom at Scotch 80 Prime—where I dined last year with priceless pieces by Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Hirst surrounding me as I ate my salmon—has something to look at. (Not to be missed: Scott Hove's blinged-out takeover of the center stall!)

According to Cooperman, there were months-long deliberations on

who would bring a unique—and Instagrammable—aesthetic to the property. "We wanted to create a true experience for guests here, and thoughtfully tried to juxtapose the blue chip works with emerging graffiti artists," Cooperman told Observer.

From Olivia Steele's and Keegan Gibbs' "Wish You Were Here" pink neon and photo mural at check-in; to Timothy Curtis' painting inside the cashier's cage titled, "I Wear My Money on My Face"; to Hirst's "The Unknown," a segmented shark installation (the first of its kind!) on the casino floor, Palms

**PICTURED BELOW:**

**NAME:** Wish you were Here // **By** Olivia Steele & Keegan Gibbs, 2018 // **MATERIAL:** Neon and photograph // **LOCATION:** Check-In

*"Wish you were Here" (Commissioned) is a visual mashup combining a larger-than-life photo mural and hot pink neon text to create a multi-dimensional and whimsical backdrop for the guests' arrival experience. The stunning art installation is a collaboration between photographer Keegan Gibbs' iconic skycap cloud imagery and light artist Olivia Steele's signature neon messages. The stunning piece creates a moment at check-in for guests to interact with the art, while sharing an image with loved ones. The use of the phrase "Wish You Were Here" is the perfect greeting and invitation to create an instant postcard.*

***"We wanted to create a true experience for guests here, and thoughtfully tried to juxtapose the blue chip works with emerging graffiti artists."***





surrounds you in what it calls “a world-class collection of some of the most notable and unique art pieces rarely displayed publicly in one setting.” There is so much to see, it’s a sense of seemingly endless discovery that keeps people coming back to explore...but it wasn’t until an official tour that I learned there is an original Richard Prince tucked neatly inside the Camden Lounge! (My personal favorite is Joshua Vides’ social

media-friendly “wedding chapel” installation.)

Of course, the one piece that will never go unnoticed: the 60 foot Damien Hirst headless “The Demon with Bowl” sculpture found poolside in the middle of the new KAOS day club. And with the remodel’s most recent roll-out this past March—titled “Unstatus Quo”—visitors can now share an art selfie with either a Murakami or

**PICTURED ABOVE:**

**NAME:** I Wear my Money on my Face // By Timothy Curtis, 2017 //  
**MATERIAL:** Acrylic on canvas //  
**LOCATION:** Cashier Cage

*Timothy Curtis’ (Commissioned) I Wear my Money on my Face hangs in the Cashier’s Cage. This almost twentyfoot painting is a composition of faces that are made out of worldwide currency symbols.*

DabsMyla; James Jean or Jason REVOK; and a Basquiat or Banksy... the latter being Las Vegas' first permanent work by the elusive street artist now hanging inside Greene St. Kitchen.

Cooperman recently took time out from art collecting to describe his casino resort-turned-art gallery gamble, his favorite painting so far, and which artist he hopes to get before he becomes famous.

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**CHIC COMPASS:** How did you get involved with Palms and its one-of-a-kind art program?

**TAL COOPERMAN:** I was having dinner with Patrick Lewis [in 2016], who works for the Fertitta family, and he was telling me about everything that Station Casinos was about to do with the Palms...about the team that they were assembling and some of the ideas that were floating around. I was about to sign a deal with another Las Vegas company until I got the call to become a part of one of the biggest projects in Vegas history. Originally, I was brought in specifically to work on marketing for the nightclub. A couple months into the project, after being invited to a few meetings with Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta, I was asked to help curate art for the entire property.

**CHIC:** Describe what makes up the collection?

**TAL:** I had presented a bunch of artists to the [Fertittas] who were making some noise in the street art world [REVOK, Eric Haze]. Frank and Lorenzo have tons of art that they own and I was able to go



through those with them and help pick some of the pieces that are displayed throughout the property now [Hirst, Basquiat, Warhol, Dustin Yellin]. In addition to all of that, we also had some artists create art specifically for the property [Benedict Radcliffe's wire-frame Lamborghini "Twin Turbo" Contact sculpture] and pieces that we purchased [KAWS].

**PICTURED ABOVE:**  
**NAME:** Demon with Bowl // **By** Damien Hirst, 2014 // **MATERIAL:** Bronze // **LOCATION:** Kaos Pool

*The nearly 60-foot sculpture of a headless demon that first appeared in Hirst's "Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable" exhibition in Venice, Italy, is showcased in the hotel's new pool.*



**CHIC:** How does the art collection fit into the overall marketing strategy and rebranding of Palms?

**TAL:** In my opinion, the art is what the property is all about. Yes, we have amazing restaurants, cool bars and an incredible brand new nightclub and day club, but we have put so much thought into every angle of the property and where the art goes and how it fits in. From the moment that you pull up to valet and see the 'Palms' letters by Adam Parker Smith, you can't go more than a few feet before you see another art piece. The goal was to make people want to take pictures and share it on their social media and I think we accomplished that with pieces like the "Unknown Bar" designed by

Damien Hirst and the "Wish You Were Here" neon installation by Keegan Gibbs and Olivia Steele. Our rooms also have incredible art in them and even all of the in-room amenities are designed by DabsMyla. Everything was thought out to be a part of our collection.

**CHIC:** How did you decide where to feature the artist's work?

**TAL:** Literally building out mini-models of the restaurants and rooms and seeing how it would all look. We would have ideas of certain artists and print out existing art and mount it on the models or build it out on the computer.

**CHIC:** Are the pieces more or less permanent or will they be revolving?

**TAL:** We are always switching out pieces. We just took out some Andy Warhol pieces in Scotch 80 and replaced them with a new Basquiat.

**PICTURED BELOW:**

**NAME:** Tonight // **By** DabsMyla, 2018 // **LOCATION:** Vetri Cucina

*DabsMyla, the Australian husband and wife duo, have debuted their newest mural in Las Vegas. For the project, the famed street artists took over a secret stairway and covered the multi-floored passageway with their colorful and whimsical pop-art paintings. Guests heading from Vetri Cucina to APEX Social Club will be surprised as they enter the seemingly nondescript stairway into an imaginative pop-art landscape.*





**CHIC: What is your favorite piece and why?**

TAL: My favorite artist has always been Jean-Michel Basquiat. Lorenzo actually just lent a new one to the hotel and it's probably now my favorite painting on property. It's the "Sugar Ray Robinson" in the Basquiat private dining room at Scotch 80 Prime.

**CHIC: How was the The Demon at KAOS transported and assembled? (Verrrry carefully ha!)**

TAL: The installation took over a month and was carefully assembled in pieces by the Damien Hirst team.

**CHIC: What is the market value of the art now at Palms?**

TAL: We don't comment on the value of the art. For an estimate you can look on public records and see what pieces similar to

these go for at auction. It's a world-class collection that includes some of the most notable and unique art pieces rarely displayed publicly in one setting.

**CHIC: What plans do you have for the future?**

TAL: I would love to have scheduled art tours for the property and talk about doing some kind of art show on property. If I were to come across a local artist who stood out to me, I would definitely bring that to the table.

**CHIC: Is there one piece of art on your bucket list that you would love to have?**

TAL: I feel like I've seen anything and everything that I could have asked for with this project. Art is an amazing thing, and I've loved it and collected it since I was a young kid. Artists pop out every

week! Literally, every week there is a new artist that people are talking about. So if you're asking me RIGHT NOW which artist I would love to have a piece from, it would be Matt McCormick. I think he has a crazy ride coming and is next in line to be the most talked about.

**PICTURED ABOVE:**

**NAME: Speaks for itself // By Jean-Michel Basquiat, 1982 //**

**MATERIAL: Triptych: acrylic on oil stick on press board // LOCATION: Scotch 80 Prime**

*Speaks for itself will also be housed in the "Basquiat Room." Each of the artist's five eclectic pieces will bring free-spirit style to the fine dining experience. Jean-Michel Basquiat was an American artist. Basquiat first achieved fame as part of SAMO, an informal graffiti duo who wrote enigmatic epigrams in the cultural hotbed of the Lower East Side of Manhattan during the late 1970s where the hip hop, punk, and street art movements had coalesced.*



**PICTURED ABOVE:**  
**NAME:** Smiley Coppers Panel I // **By**  
**LOCATION:** Greene  
**St. Kitchen**

*Greene St. Kitchen is now home to Las Vegas' first permanent work by elusive street artist, Banksy. The spray painted depiction of two heavily armed police officers with neon yellow smiley faces hangs behind the DJ booth and the art-packed restaurant.*

# DEBORAH PITTMAN

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## *The Ultimate Artist*

By Joan S. Peck

The first time I met Deb Pittman, I thought of a sprite because there is a mystical quality about her that shows up and becomes evident in her creations. She is a shy and thoughtful person whom I found intriguing because there seems to be no end for what she's able to create. She loves trying new ways to present her art, and her creations are always evolving and expanding. In addition, when she has completed a painting, oftentimes, she'll go back over it time and again to give it a different look. "My creations are never done."

Deborah's work is varied, giving testimony to her ability as a fine artist. I was drawn to some of her art creations representing a time gone by with her vintage fishing floats painted with Japanese geishas, as well as portraits of geishas on traditional canvas.

**Deborah, tell me about these wonderful creations.**

DP. "I lived for seven years in Northern Japan and painted Japanese landscapes and people on the fishing floats (pictured be-

low). Each year in Japan, I had two successful sold-out shows with hundreds of art pieces sold. Over six years, I've sold thousands of pieces going to buyers around the world. Japan is one of my favorite subjects to paint—the people, culture, and surroundings—and I'm ever grateful for the opportunity to have lived in Japan and have the experiences I did. The love of Japan is now in my blood."

**What are your earliest memories of creating?**

DP. "As young as I can remember, I was always looking for pens and pencils to draw on anything I could get my hands on. I was born in London, England, to a single mother, and I was a happy child, often called an 'old soul' by neighbors. We didn't have a lot of money, and my mother regarded art supplies, even drawing paper, as an extravagance. But I was resourceful. I would take my mother's



old magazines and I'd draw in their margins or draw on anything else I could find. At school, I got into trouble each time I was caught drawing in my textbooks.

There are two distinct memories that I remember from my childhood creations.

One was a drawing of a tiger. The kindergarten teacher asked the class to draw a tiger using a black and orange crayon. I got five gold stars! I'm sure she gave all the kids five stars, but my memory is that I got five stars! She made me feel like Picasso! Such a memory. Isn't that amazing?

The other thing I remember clearly. It was raining outside and I don't recall how old I was. Remember the Bic pens that just wouldn't work and you had to keep scribbling until they did? While I was scribbling away trying to get the ink to work, out from the pen popped a perfect detailed eye—a fortunate accident, if you will. After that is when I became obsessed over the years with trying to repeat that perfect eye.

My circumstances were a blessing in disguise because I developed the discipline to draw the smallest, finest details."

### Did you go to art school?

DP. "No, I'm self-taught. I lived in the libraries to learn how to mix paints. I used to be so envious of anyone who went to art school. Like most everything, things worked out for the best. By not having gone to art school, I had no one limit my belief



or idea in what I was creating. I had the freedom to create without being held back. I never got it but we get what we need, not always what we want."

However, I grew up with the mindset from others that if I didn't go to art school my art wouldn't be taken seriously. So I've felt fortunate to have my artwork appreciated and valued."

I have seen your work evolve from you painting geishas on fishing floats, to portraits of geishas and portraits of living persons on traditional canvas, to your wearable art (pictured above). I am fascinated by how you have continued to expand your wearable art of painting on leather to produce awe-inspiring necklaces, bracelets, ties, and handbags. You also paint on silk scarfs and now have leggings



printed from your original art work. I love that your creativity seems to have no limits. Much of your newer work has your painted art work adorned with crystals, pearls and other embellishments that are stunning creations! I understand that Duet Boutique in Laguna Beach now sells your wearable art.

**Are you selling your art anywhere else?**

DP. "It will be available in Las Vegas stores sometime this year. For now, my work is available on my website, and it will be updated to show other places my work can be purchased."

**As a fine artist, what mediums do you use?**

DP. "Sketching ink, charcoal, watercolor, acrylics, oils and spray paints. Anything I can get my hands on just to try it."

**What medium do you like best?**

DP. "It depends. If it is a portrait, it has to be oils so it's a very natural look but they take a long time to dry. I also love acrylics because they are fast drying and have much brighter colors. They're fun. Acrylics are what I use on wearable art because it's permanent and flexible."

**Is there a medium you don't like?**

DP. "Although fun to work with, spray paints are too toxic."

**Are you a perfectionist?**

DP. "Mistakes are really the most



beautiful thing because you can discover different techniques. The worse that can happen is that you can cover the old paint with new paint."

**Do you do commission work?**

DP. "Yes. I'm fortunate to have many VIP and celebrity clients in

addition to art lovers."

**Have you won awards for your work?**

DP. "The first two years in Las Vegas, I participated in the Boulder City Art Show and won first place both years."



**How do you feel about creating your art in Las Vegas?**

DP. "It's been very interesting. In England and Japan, the colors are more muted, and Las Vegas is known for its bright vibrant colors, so I have fused them together. I have to tell you that I wasn't excited about moving to Las Vegas but I have found Las Vegas to be an unexpected fabulous place with artists around every corner. I have found so many beautiful, amazing, spiritual people here."

**What do you like about being an artist?**

DP. "Everything. I wouldn't want to do anything else. If you're chasing money for money's sake, forget it. It only works if it's a passion and you keep at it. It's about persistence and a love of what you're doing. It's also about not allowing yourself to be stuck but to keep yourself constantly moving and evolving. If you keep an open mind and don't box yourself in, your creativity won't be confined to any one thing."

**Are you happy with where you are in life today?**

DP. "Yes! Contented and grateful."

**How do you want viewers of your work to feel?**

DP. "If it's a portrait, I want them to feel something. Wearable art is simply an expression of your personality that day and what you choose to wear—and how to choose to communicate and show yourself to the world. It's about art meeting function."



**What are you doing now that excites you?**

DP. "I've been commissioned by Siegfried & Roy to design limited edition pieces for their new collection which will be featured in their Secret Garden store at the Mirage Resort & Casino. I'm very excited for the opportunity to work closely with them to create images of their famous tigers on beautiful art wear."

**What do you want your legacy to be?**

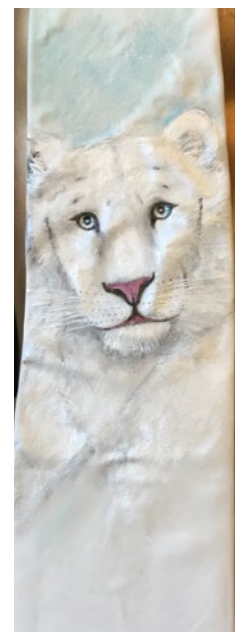
DP. "I follow my heart with my creations and I want to encourage others to do the same. I want children to just DO IT—create! Make mistakes because they are only learning curves. There are no rules so don't let anyone restrict you or stand in your way. Have fun with whatever you want to create!"

When I view Deborah's art work, it instills in me the sense that we're never alone. That the beauty of what she creates is all around us if only we take the time to absorb what surrounds us. There is an ethereal quality in her work which moves me and makes me aware that there is so much more to life than I know. I leave Deborah knowing she has much to do and many places to go, always leaving a trail of infinite beauty behind her. I am grateful to call her my friend.

Deborah can be reached at:  
Email: [dpittman@hotmail.com](mailto:dpittman@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.iaimiai.com](http://www.iaimiai.com)



20" x 16" Mixed media on canvas (above). Leather Cuff & Necklace (at left), scarf (bottom left), and silk ties (bottom right), designed and commissioned by Siegfried & Roy. Leggings reprinted from paintings commissioned by Siegfried & Roy. All artwork by Deborah Pittman.





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# AVADORA MIMOUNI COLLECTION



Avadora Mimouni was born in the Azores archipelago of Portugal. As a child, Avadora expressed her artistic interests with involvement in theater and fashion shows at local boutiques. In 1994, she relocated to New York City to pursue her modeling career.

When she returned to the fashion scene in 2016, she found it to be a life-changing experience. The fashion world is ever evolving and has found a spotlight in social media. Avadora has graced the covers of magazines, walked prestigious runways, and enjoyed acting roles, but she always felt as though something was missing.

Photo of Avadora Mimouni courtesy of Mark Gunter  
Avadora wears a dress designed by Ionica Moldovianu



In 2017, she attended a fashion event wearing a purse that she had made years prior and was amazed by the incredible attention and response that she received. On her return home from that fateful event, she reflected on the treasure that she had made and determined that she would make others. By the end of 2017, she had launched the Avadora Mimouni Collection and the entire line sold out.

2018 found Avadora creating a new collection in partnership with Ivonne Camacho of @Abosolut-Moderne. They began offering private viewings and intimate events across New York City. By the fall of that same year, the collection was presented at the World Bar during New York Fashion Week.





Avadora's collections are inspired and each is hand-crafted with a mixture of new and vintage elements to ensure that every piece is unique. She also has been able to offer custom purses for select clients using jewelry and family heirlooms.

You may have seen items from the Avadora Mimouni Collection featured around the world in fashion magazines, blogs, and red-carpet events such as the Oscars.

Learn more about the Avadora Mimouni Collection online at: [avadoramimounicollection.com](http://avadoramimounicollection.com)



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# CHRISTOPHER TODD



## NEW YEAR'S EVE SURPRISE IN NEW YORK CITY

BY ROXY JONES

There are 12,116 parts in a Steinway piano. It takes all these parts plus one pianist to journey through the music universe to create sound. As an aspiring pianist, I am fortunate to have had two tours of the Steinway & Sons factory in the last six months.

While visiting New York City on a family holiday vacation, walking along the Avenue of the Americas, I discovered the Steinway & Sons showroom and fell in love with a limited-edition Model B Steinway which had that rich sound only found on a Steinway. I asked if we could visit the factory but to my disappointment, the

salesman told me the factory was closed that week. I revisited the showroom several times to play that piano and I asked my dad if we could return to New York to tour the factory someday.

A few days later on New Year's Eve, my dad woke us up early with a surprise for me—he had arranged a private tour of the factory for us with Adrianna Stoiber, the Selection Room manager at the factory. A short drive to Queens, and we found ourselves in front of the Steinway & Sons New York factory. We were warmly greeted by Adrianna, who made it possible for us to visit that day. During the week of Christmas

to New Years, the factory is closed, and all the workers are on holiday—making the entire experience quite unique and enjoyable. I felt as if we had the entire factory to ourselves. Walking the quiet factory floor, seeing the empty work stations of the craftsmen, their tools laying idle, made me imagine how much work is involved to bring those thousands of parts together to create a fine instrument.

A few months later I was participating in the 10th Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford, CT. We arranged to return to the factory with my piano teacher, Natalya Panchenko. Adrianna was away and so she connected us with her colleague, Cameron, to escort us through the factory to share this experience with Ms. Natalya. My second visit contrasted my first, because this time, the factory was alive and bustling with action.

**The factory is comprised of many levels, each housing an area to complete a designated task in crafting these fine instruments—nearly everything is handmade, and it takes about a year to build each piano.**





From watching the strong men glue and bend the long, laminated wood into the press for the curved piano case, to seeing the fine detail work that goes into the action, learning about how this magnificent instrument is built and how it functions helps me to play it better.

Now, as I play the piano, I think about those 12,116 parts, coming together, each one connected to another to create beautiful music. The rich sound of that piano in the Steinway & Sons New York City showroom comes from generations of craftsmen, using their hands, producing pianos for our hands and ears to enjoy. No wonder 98% of professional pianists prefer Steinway!

Roxy Jones is a 12 year old classical pianist from Las Vegas, NV. She recently won first place in the Steinway & Sons Junior Competition in Las Vegas, and she has won several other awards in local, national, and international competitions. She is a 6th grader at Hyde Park Middle School, and she studies piano under Natalya Panchenko. Tours of the Steinway & Sons factory in NYC are available on their website.



# DAY TRIPPIN'

## FROM HENDERSON TO PAHRUMP

BY ANN PARENTI

This past St. Patrick's Day, my husband, Curtis, and I took a little trip to Henderson, Nevada, to celebrate the day in a jazzy way at the E-String and to watch Woody Woods and his Big Band perform there. The place was packed, and due to a communication error in booking a table, we were without seats. Woody graciously offered us to join another couple sitting in a large booth. We only had a few moments for a polite introduction to meet Lynn and Erik before the festivities began.

It turned out that Lynn was one of the featured vocalists, and when it was time for her to perform, she removed her jacket to reveal a stunning gown. She stepped onto the stage and belted out a beautiful song. After her performance, we discovered how many of the same musicians we both knew over the years and then Erik told me that Foster Brooks, the beloved comedi-

an, was Lynn's uncle! As always, with Woody on the piano, and his band filled with wonderful musicians, they gave a fantastic performance and filled the day with beautiful music.

During the break, Lynn and I chatted a bit and I found out that she is a tour guide and wine tasting hostess at the Pahrump Valley Winery, in Pahrump, Nevada. Pahrump is a little more than an hour outside

Las Vegas, and it's an easy getaway from the city. I had been hoping to do a story about the winery there, and now after meeting Lynn, it seemed like a great opportunity to do so.

A few weeks later, the day trippin' was on! Curtis and I arrived at the winery when Lynn had just begun a tour of the vineyards with a group, and we joined them to learn the history of the winery. Ironically, it





was on St. Patrick's Day that the winery opened in 1990, and I thought it was very apropos that we'd met Lynn and Erik on St. Patrick's Day this year. I was thinking that perhaps the leprechauns had a role in our opportunistic meeting.

The winery was created as a destination for visitors to enjoy something other than gaming. The original owner bought the property, built the original tower and restaurant, and proceeded to try growing vines. Try was the operative word because, unbeknown to him, there were a lot of four-legged neighbors, the burros and wild horses at that time who came in and destroyed the vines. As time went on, those neighbors moved to the foothills of the valley and he began to attempt to grow his vines again. Fast forward to 2009 and the vineyard had 250 Zinfandel vines. Now, in 2019, those vines are 28 years old and counting, and with the rest of the Zinfandel and the estate Syrah vines added, they now total 1200. The facility has grown to over 20,000 square feet and 20 acres.

You may wonder how they get their water for such a feat. Pahrump sits on the largest artesian wells in the valley and got its name by the

Paiute Indians. The original indigenous name Pah-Rimpi meant "Water Rock."

The winery has several other vineyards across the state and a few in California to add to their collection of wines. Some new and exciting things are happening at the property. Although it still has a charming feel and appearance when you visit, behind the scenes there is a modernization taking place. With their sister company, Moody Creek, they have taken the winery to new heights in production capabilities. There is now state-of-the-art equipment to create and house the wine, and they have plans on expanding their footprint for distribution of their wines. Moody Creek has some fun artwork on their bottles of wine—a tad cheeky, but it's Nevada!

The winery started making Zinfandel in 2005. After the first bottling in 2008 the Zin, called "First Crush", was entered in a blind competition and the winery won their first of 7 medals including gold. Since then, the winery has accumulated 450 medals for all the varietals of wines produced at the winery, including 100 of those awards representing the Nevada vines.



After the tour, we had a chance to feast on an elegant lunch in their Zagat rated restaurant that has an old-world charm and a very attentive and friendly staff. The food was exquisite, and the view of the vineyard as we sat there was calming. I asked about their current outdoor entertainment and discovered they still have the yearly Grape Stomp that started in 1992. This year's celebration will be the first weekend in October and it is promised to be the biggest event yet. There will be something for everyone, costumes, live music, food, artists and of course a grape stomping competition. They are considering expanding more opportunities down the road for outdoor concerts and movie nights as they continue to grow. I'm sure to return for another day trippin' visit when that happens. Well, I want to thank the leprechauns for bringing us together to give Curtis and me an opportunity to experience one for our neighboring towns in Nevada for a lovely afternoon of wine and dining.

You can visit Pahrump Valley Winery at [www.pahrumpwinery.com](http://www.pahrumpwinery.com) or call 775-751-7800 for more information.



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# Dancing Fire Art

## AN INTERVIEW WITH STACEY JACOBSON

By Joan S. Peck | Artwork by Stacey Jacobson

I was fascinated by Stacey Jacobson and her story the first time I met her. We were at a social event and upon learning she was an artist, she was asked how she got her start in creating her beautiful clay pieces. She smiled and chuckled. "I grew up the daughter of an Air Force fighter pilot and a proud English mother. We lived and traveled all over the world, and often we'd go camping in the summer months. When I was just four years old, we took a camping trip to Lago di Garda, Italy. It was there that I clearly remember spending many pleasurable hours mixing dirt and water to make different shapes and mud balls with my hands."

We all laughed at that happy memory because who doesn't love mud pies? "Of course, as my shapes dried they would fall apart and I would try to repair them. Those early days provided me with the beginnings of my understanding of structural integrity. By the time I graduated from dirt and water to Play-Doh, and then real clay, it was all over. I was hooked."

Recently, I met with Stacey again for this interview. She's always fun to be around because she has an upbeat personality and we easily laugh together. It is when I talk with her about her work, that she becomes more serious and thought-provoking.

### What is the medium you work with most?

SJ. "My signature mediums are clay and warm glass. I enjoy combining the two mediums when the project lends itself. I embrace the challenge of sorting out the logistics of transforming something in my head into a real object of beauty to share with others"

### Do you use a special type of clay?

SJ. "I use several types of clay, but predominantly I use Raku and low fire white clay."

### Where do you get your inspiration from? What inspires you?



*DRIFTWOOD - Hand built male torso textured with brain coral and glazed in creamy light gray with mother of pearl over-glaze.*

SJ. "It literally comes from the environment around me. I find my imagination is stimulated by other art and artists, of course. But a beautiful color, textures, patterns in nature, a piece of furniture or jewelry, a silhouette, people, and animals can trigger my creative process. Also, I never tire of the human form."

**You create stunning female torsos from clay using many different colors and textures with strings of beautiful beads for their skirt. How did you come up with that idea?**

SJ. "I have been hand building clay for decades. I am also a bit of a rock hound and love to collect and use gemstones and other organic materials in my creations. I suppose it was only natural that the two would cross paths in my head one day. All my torsos' beaded skirts are hand strung and take an average of eight hours to string. Combine that time with the time to create the torso itself, the drying time, multiple firings and glazing time, each torso has an average time of one month in creation."

**What kind of stones do you use for the skirts of your torsos?**

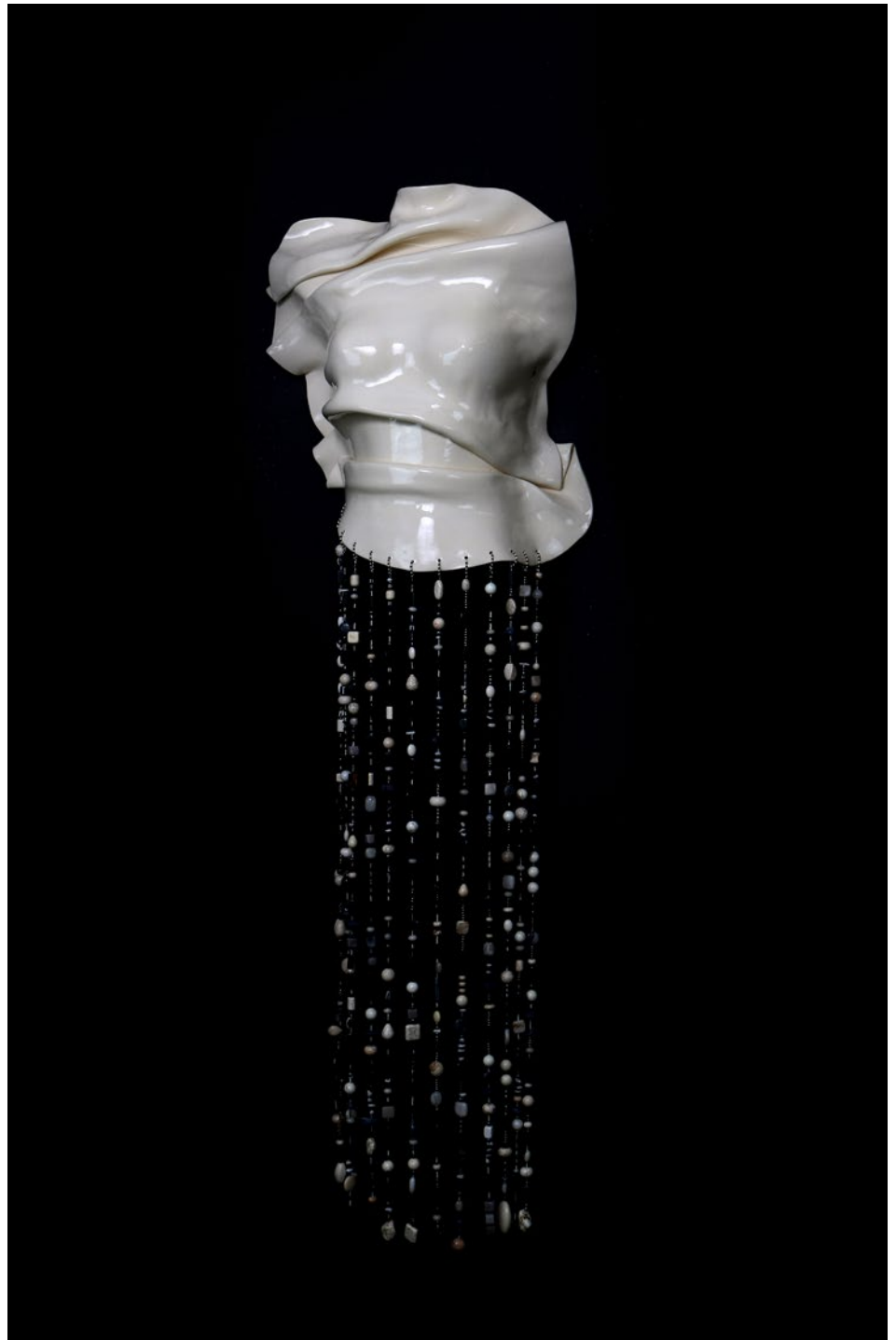
SJ. "I use semi-precious gemstones, like amethyst, amazonite, turquoise, obsidian, lapis, malachite, etc., in addition to faceted crystals, freshwater pearls, glass and seed beads, fossils, re-purposed items like vintage chandelier crystals. Really anything that pleases my eye and works with a piece is good. It's really fun to be able to combine two of my favorite things into one piece of art—clay and beautiful stones."

*CLOUDY – Hand built free from ceramic torso with bone glaze. Beaded with onyx, hematite, agate, jet, and assorted crystal and glass beads.*

**I've seen a few of the male torsos you've created. Do you still make them or is it now limited to the female torso?**

SJ. "No, I still make both female and male torsos. The females are a bit more fun because of the elaborate skirts. But I have many male

clients, and I tend to hear complaints when I do not have enough male torsos available. Without the skirting on the males, I really stretch my imagination a bit more to come up with something I think is worth hanging on a wall in someone's home. I tend to do more carving and texturing, and I use interesting





*SUNNY – Hand built cut out design with yellow glaze. Beaded with yellow jade, green turquoise, heart crystals, fresh water pearls, and assorted crystal and glass beads.*

subject matter with the males, which can go organic with the design or industrial, making it a lot of fun.”

**How do you feel when you finish your creation? Are you a perfectionist and destroy anything that is less than perfect or do you let art be art?**

SJ. “Well, I’m a perfectionist, and so have to own that. I make perfection work rather than allow it to take a negative journey. For sure, I like some pieces better than others when they are finished. But each piece must meet certain criteria before I will allow it out the door. It must be structurally sound, as well as something that delights the eye and heart. Imagination, quality, and finish work are everything when it comes to art, in my opinion. There are pieces that I have finished and eventually have destroyed because they did not evoke that feeling I need to have before I can send one of them out to be enjoyed by others. Art is subjective, though, and what does not please me, may please someone else. That being said, I can only adhere to the standards and emotions that work for me when it comes to releasing my art.”

**Did you study art or are you self-taught?**

SJ. “What fun it would be to turn back the clock and be in school again going for a BFA and MFA! Alas, I did not study art in school. I’ve taken many classes over the decades from amazing ceramic teachers and clay masters. The knowledge these creative people have shared, along with many

hours of solitary work, are what have shaped the skills I have. The thing I love about this medium is that you never stop learning. The old cliché ... “you are only limited by your imagination,” rings true. When it comes to imagination, I am a “no limits” kind of girl! It took quite a bit of trial and error to master my torsos, both technically and creatively, but it has been a great learning experience. One must be fearless and unafraid to make mistakes in order to create something you know in your soul is good.”

**If someone wanted to learn how to create using clay, what would you recommend them to do?**

SJ. “Most towns and cities have art programs available. Start searching your local area and look for classes in sculpting, hand building, wheel throwing, or whatever medium strikes your fancy. Then, jump in and sign up!”

**Why do you think Las Vegas is a good place for artists and other creative types?**

SJ. “Las Vegas is such a unique place with an incredibly wide spectrum of culture and art. From the burgeoning Art District down on Main Street to the glitz and glamour of the shows and galleries on The Strip, you can find just about anything you might be looking for in this city. All you have to do is walk around the resorts to be inspired by architecture, art, colors, and vibrancy that is everywhere. Las Vegas also is a city that pushes boundaries and you will find an open-mindedness toward art that

is totally unique. For creatives, it is a place of infinite resources. All you have to do is go for a walk for inspiration."

**What does your art mean to you?**

S.J. "I make art because it is my meditation, my therapy, and my bliss. It has been since I was a child. When I am creating a piece of art, I am in my favorite place. The pleasure derived in watching a concept evolve from a whisper in my mind to reality is extremely fulfilling. I enjoy the challenge of sorting out the logistics of transforming something in my head into a real object of beauty to share with others."

**If someone wants a piece with a special color or design, do you do special orders?**

S.J. "I work with several designers on high-end homes and have created some lovely "custom" pieces. I'm willing to work with a designer

***"When I am creating a piece of art, I am in my favorite place."***

*BETSY – Hand built free form ceramic torso with brown speckled glaze. Beaded with carnelian, raw citrine, mother of pearl beads, and assorted crystal and glass beads.*





any piece of art, it boils down to which one moves you emotionally and spiritually. Then when you find the right one for you, it's magical!

**Stacey can be reached at:**  
 Email: [dancingfireartco@gmail.com](mailto:dancingfireartco@gmail.com)  
 Website: [DancingFireArtCo.com](http://DancingFireArtCo.com)

*LeMAR (Below) – Hand built textured ceramic torso with metallic glaze. Beaded with amazonite, raw quartz, and assorted crystal and glass beads.*

*TRIBAL (Left) – Hand built textured and carved male torso. Glazed with red and metallic glaze.*

on a general color range and general style. However, I have found that what is in my head and what the client's expectations are can be very different. What I have found to be best is to keep the parameters very general and then just go for it and make the piece. I've never had anyone not be delighted with the end result, which is very rewarding for us both."

**Where is your work being shown?**

S.J. "Right now, my work is in Elena Bulatova Fine Art Gallery. Locations in Las Vegas, NV; Palm Desert, CA; Palm Springs, CA and Laguna Beach, CA. You can also find my work on my website."

What amazes me most about Stacey's work is how she uses the basic form of a torso and enhances it by how she drapes the clay, what texture and color she applies, and her choice of beads and other embellishments she uses so that no two pieces are the same. That is what made it so difficult for me when I went to purchase a piece for my home. Each piece was so unique and beautiful in its own way that I wanted them all! But like





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# EUROPEAN LUXURY

BY BRIAN G THORNTON, IIDA  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LYDIA CUTTER PHOTOGRAPHY



**E**UROPEAN BATHS. The name alone evokes so many images and thoughts. With the advent of indoor plumbing, the flushing toilet, overhead showers and bathing tubs, the modern bath has come a long way. Centuries, in fact. It may be sparsely known yet archaeologists have unearthed evidence of water pipes dating back from 3000 to 4000 BC; Egyptians had copper piping around 2500 BC; the first known flushing toilet was invented in the Richmond Palace in the 16th century. The 1800's brought us our first hotel in Boston with 8 indoor water closets. It is only fitting that the history of plumbing and luxury plumbing related products have their own roots in Las Vegas dating back to the 20th century.

Enter European Las Vegas with all its history. It's safe to say 21st century plumbing and tile needs are just a short drive away at the Las Vegas World Market Center. On February 22, European Bath Kitchen Tile and Stone's sparkling new location was unveiled. Situated on the ground level of Building A, EBKTS has two separate spaces to accommodate all the product they now offer. The result is a massive step into the luxury pool. So, to whet our design acumen a bit more, the European luxury experience begins here.

**PICTURED AT LEFT:**

**CENTER:** MTI S185 Juliet 1 Sculpture Stone Free Standing Soaker Bathtub.

**LEFT:** Robern Cartesian Vanity with Robern Uplift Medicine Cabinet

**RIGHT:** Duravit Vanity with Duravit Lighted Mirror



So why would a savvy contemporary consumer opt to go into the showroom versus shopping on line? The answer is you cannot replace the tactile experience of something so personal for the private quarters of your home. The bathroom is usually the first space visited beginning and last stop ending the day. Touching the hardware and fixtures, how it feels in hand, seeing the product materials and finishes in proper light all contribute to the showroom experience. You cannot get that online.

After its opening in 1987 and 32 years in one location, EBKTS has made the move. Over two

years in the making, the decision was twofold as I learned from Camille Herd, Showroom Manager. "Our desire to move coupled with World Market Center's goal to create a complete design resource came to a head and aligned at the perfect time. With this collaboration, we are excited to be part of creating a complete bath and kitchen resource for designers." As Las Vegas is gearing up to take on more upper-end clientele and an influx of new homeowners in the valley, local designers and consumers alike wanted resources a bit more centralized. Ultimately, when the trigger was ready to be pulled, the synergy between Lee

**PICTURED ABOVE:**

Slik Portfolio Mirrored Cast Iron Double Slipper Tub with Newport Brass Tub Filler and New Ravenna Orion Mosaic in Nero Marquina and Aluminum Inlay in the background.

Hershberg, Vice President with International Market Centers/World Market Center and Camille Herd exploded in the best way possible and thus this partnership was born.

Market trends absolutely influenced the move as well. Luxury is the key word and their opening brand mantra was "Luxury Is Arriving" a clever countdown campaign to build excitement and

awareness. In addition to luxury, another trend is “For companies across all industries, the focus is giving ‘her’ the best experience possible; Her meaning that the purchasing power is in the hands of the woman of the household”, said Herd. Making the best of the decision to move was taking two spaces on the ground floor. The larger showroom space is a high-end bath and kitchen showroom. While the latter offers a variety of unique, artisanal, and exclusive tile & stone lines. The latter actually has a boutique atmosphere with a storefront right off the entry plaza. The Tile Gallery is welcoming to the public right off the main campus plaza.

Beyond showcasing the broad range of lines offered, the stylish product vignettes brilliantly deliver design solutions and inspiring dream spaces under one roof. There is the long passage they refer to as Inspiration Alley that draws you into the larger open showroom. Andrea Miranda-Hall of Inspired Designs was engaged to create unique vignettes featuring some of the best products offered. “At the end of Inspiration Alley, we had a custom mosaic designed that is called European Flora which has become a standout for everyone that’s seen it,” according to Herd.

After being wowed by the space, the product does not take a lesser role in the experience. With the

**PICTURED BELOW:**

**LEFT:** New Ravenna Ombre Jewel Glass Chevron Mosaic with Free-Standing Alape Sink.

**FOREGROUND:** Bain Ultra Free-Standing Bathtub with Dornbracht Free-Standing Tub Filler.

**BACKGROUND:** Dornbracht Horizontal Shower. The Horizontal Shower is modeled off the original Vichy Shower which was invented in Vichy France in the 1800’s. The slab that you lay down on is heated. There are three sets of two shower heads in the slab above which can act independently of each other to create a pulsing massage feature.

**TILE:** The floor tile is Black Travertine by Elysium Tile. The wall tile is a dimensional tile called Diamante from the Stellar Collection by Sonoma Tile-makers.





luxury of more space comes an opportunity to expand the brands, as well. "On the plumbing side, we are bringing on a new company called Franz Viegner which is a German designed product coming out of Argentina. We're excited

to receive our new displays and will be available for everyone to see soon. On the tile side, one of our favorite things is the Fornasetti "Faces" tile by Hastings Tile imported from Bardelli," said Camille.

What is luxury without great service? Terry Mosman was the original founder of EBKTS before it became part of the Hajoca Corporation. In addition to the Showroom Manager, and Mosman, key personnel including Susan Row-



land, Jojo Davis and Kyle Beltran are available for personal service to round out this new experience. So, if you're planning a new bathroom or a kitchen renovation a visit to EBKTS is essential. The entire remodeling or building process can

**PICTURED ABOVE:**

The faucets you see displayed in the photo are a mixture of faucets from various different brands. We wanted to display the faucets on a simple white background to let each one shine in their own light.

**RIGHT:** This is a Bain Ultra bathtub with a Blue Bathworks Free Standing Tub Filler. The tile behind is a striped mixture of Realstone LedgeStone in Arctic White with the Realstone Tempered Glass in Gunmetal Glaze.



be intimidating and a path down the unknown. These strategic stylists and designers are available to help make the transition from renovation dreamer to luxury bath and kitchen owner a reality.

**PICTURED ABOVE:**  
Reed and Ribbon faucet from Phyl-rich which is more suited for the traditional leaning consumer.

**PICTURED AT RIGHT:**  
Custom European Flora Mosaic Tile





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# BEHIND THE SCENES AT UFC

By Carolyn Muse Grant

*U*FC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) is a Las Vegas-based mixed martial arts promotion. Locals have heard of UFC but may not be sure what it stands for, or exactly what it was. I initially thought that it was boxing, but after taking a visit to their Corporate Campus, I learned differently. The sport of MMA allows athletes to use techniques from various combat sports and martial arts that includes both striking and grappling. UFC, a globally popular enterprise, produces worldwide events that “showcase twelve weight divisions and abide by the Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts.”

“UFC is a premium global sports brand and the largest Pay-Per-View event provider in the world. It boasts 278 million fans worldwide and produces events in 25 countries. Programming is broadcast in over 165 countries to one billion TV households worldwide in over 40 different languages.” Wow!

So, that tells us a little about it and





Photo of UFC Corporate Campus courtesy of UFC/Zuffa LLC.

I was quite surprised when a very good friend of mine, Justin Liming, went to work for UFC. Justin started there close to four years ago and serves as the Senior Equipment Manager. In this role, Justin is responsible for the outfitting of athletes by shipping Fight Kits, ensuring all equipment arrives, and traveling to each event around the world to tailor the athletes clothing. All of the uniforms worn by UFC athletes are provided and sponsored by Reebok.

Justin explains, "I work under Consumer Products on the Equipment Team as the Senior Equipment Manager. There are 11 of us, and we outfit all of the athletes during fight week. We contact the fighters by email to confirm their sizing so

the uniforms are made correctly. Typically, there are 13 fights in one night, which means we are responsible for outfitting 26 athletes."

Before each event, Justin and his team ship all necessary equipment and outfits from Las Vegas. There is usually a team of five or six at each event. Once the athletes arrive, the team makes sure everything fits correctly.

"Unlike any other sporting event, we don't have an off-season – we work year round. Our work here in Vegas is usually two to three shows in advance. We concentrate on shipping, travel, and everything else we need for the fights. Prior to the actual events, the athletes have to wear their "uniforms," all

sponsored by Reebok, meaning there can be no competing logos. For anything that is press related, the athletes must wear their uniform. And if there is a time lapse between fights for an athlete, we have to make sure that the fighter's height, weight, and size remained the same or we make the proper adjustments."

The sport of MMA also differs from boxing in regard to outfitting. In boxing, during the athlete debut, the boxers walk through the seating areas to the ring wearing robes. In UFC, which promotes the sport of MMA, the athletes wear hoodies and a jersey provided by Reebok. Their gloves are already on, which are not provided by Reebok.

As UFC is a global entity, members from Justin's team are present at every event. Justin and team arrive several days before events, which take place on Saturday nights. Justin says, "Our team arrives Sunday or Monday morning; we meet with shippers, hotel staff, and unload boxes and appliances. Due to the amount of equipment and clothing, our team requires sufficient space to work out of. It depends on the hotel and what's available. By Monday, we are loading in. Three of us go early, a fourth team member arrives in the middle of the week (usually Thursday), and on Friday the fifth one arrives. We make sure that everything is there. Tuesday, we check in all competing fighters with their Fight Kits. The kit contains all of their gear. We inform them what they will wear out on Fight Night (gloves, shorts, and shoes). We also check to make sure clothing fits and that everything is correct. Some athletes prefer a certain design, or fit, and if it's different, they can ask, and we create it."

UFC boasts around 570 athletes on their roster, which includes both male and female fighters. All events feature both male and female bouts. And this was interesting news - after the fight, Justin and his team will collect the fight gear, which includes gloves, jerseys, and hoodies, and sometimes it is sold or donated to charities. Fighters do not keep their outfits.

When the fights are over the team packs up all of the equipment and takes inventory to make sure it's all there. They finish up a report and send back here to Las Vegas. In some countries, the equipment stays in the country until the next fight.

Before his career with UFC, Justin had an exciting and interesting fashion history. He received a four-year degree from the International Academy of Design and then transferred to Sanford Brown to study pattern making and fashion design. He was always interested in

fashion and music as it was always in his family. He loved fashion and how things were made, and as he said, "if I were to create this, how would I do this differently?"

Justin's diverse background also includes classical opera and piano. "Before I got into fashion design, I toured on cruise ships as a singer and dancer. After, I moved to Las Vegas and worked in the food and retail industries. I wanted to do shows. Oddly enough, I started female impersonator shows and for 11 years headlined a show here in Las Vegas. I didn't really know how to sew, but I started being creative and making my own costumes. At first, I would ask others if they could make me this or that, but then I started making them myself. The more I did I thought to myself, 'should I go to school...' and so five years ago I graduated from fashion design school with a degree in fashion design."

Making sure everything fits, or if an outfit needs to be repaired minutes before a fighter makes their debut, makes it all quite stressful. Justin makes it happen and has thrived in it.

"I also have a retail background. I was getting back in the show business industry and started designing wedding gowns, and work suits before I was asked about coming to UFC. I told them, sure I can come and chat with you - and four years ago I took the job. They asked me: Can you sew? Do you have a passport? Are you willing and able to travel? I answered, yes - and here I am!"



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By Carolyn Freeman / CD artwork for *Las Vegas Suite* by Jerry Blank

The release of the *Las Vegas Suite* has arrived, and it is even more fabulous than I imagined. Nathan Tanouye, the composer, Clint Holmes, the lyricist, and the incredibly talented Las Vegas Jazz Connection have put together a tribute to our city, Las Vegas. They have captured the aura that encompasses a city such as this. We reached out to Jerry Blank, a highly sought-after artist who calls Las Vegas his home and asked him to give us an interpretation of the music on the album. I think you will agree he did an outstanding job on the layout and cover of the album.

"Springtime in the Desert" is the first cut on the CD and it will have you humming along and envisioning the beauty of our desert. I dare you not to be smiling after hearing this song. Next up is "Boulevard". Everyone does a fantastic job on this song, it has an upbeat

tempo and Clint did a terrific job on the lyrics to keep up with Nathan's very inventive composition. Then there's "The Hustle", an instrumental, that has a cool beat and rhythm and will hold your interest to the very end. "After" is a beautiful ballad that Clint performs that has haunting lyrics and melody. Finally, is "Heat" and let's just leave it at that! You will have to hear it for yourself. I would not want to ruin the surprise of such a fun song as this. Let's just say it is true to its name. It indeed has some heat to it, in fact it is HOT!

It's hard to believe that this is our fourth CD release. The first was *Crossings* then *Remembering Russ* and after that the unforgettable *11*. All of these previous albums were stepping stones to *Las Vegas Suite*. Each album is uniquely different and each time the Las Vegas Jazz Connection musicians deliver their one of a kind personal

stamp to every song. The incomparable Clint Holmes, a two-time Grammy nominated artist, is the perfect blend to this project. His voice lends to each tune a unique song styling that mirrors the lyrics he wrote for the compositions. Then there is Nathan. His talent is without boundaries and he can draw the listener into the world he is painting with every note he writes. We are fortunate to have such a creative and talented group of musicians on this album and I promise you will enjoy every single song. We have big plans for this album this year. We will be submitting it for Grammy consideration this summer and are looking for a venue for a live concert.

Until then, stay tuned and check out this incredible grand suite, the *Las Vegas Suite*! To locate this album, visit [www.CD.Baby.com](http://www.CD.Baby.com) or [www.forottensongmusic.com](http://www.forottensongmusic.com).

# ABOUT TOWN



## Forgotten Song Foundation event at Eccoci

**Above:** Gabby Acton, Leana Griener, Chrissie Barrett, Janice Wilson, Rosemary Ernst, Randee Winder (photo by Bill Diehl)

**Left:** Gabby Acton, Rosemary Ernst, Chrissie Barrett, David Tupaz, Randee Winder, Leana Griener (photo by Gerand Photography)



## 16th Annual UNLV College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame (photos by Cashman Photo)

**Above Left:** Lorna Wojciechowski, Luis Velazquez, Diane Zapach, Renee Franks, Arolyn Rohac, Patrick Duffy, Ann Parenti, Andrea Thomas

**Above:** Andrea Thomas and Ann Parenti



## Paint the Town

**Left:** Paintings by Niki Sands



**Opera Las Vegas** (photos courtesy of Richard Brusky)

**Above:** La Sirena Ballroom, Love Potion No. 9

**Above Right:** Trustee and Co-Chair Chris Murray presenting Special Award to Jerry Nadal

**Right:** OLV Youth Chorus

**Below:** General Director Jim Sohre, Sustaining Trustees: Roger Galizzi and James Willey



**Opera Las Vegas cont.** (photos courtesy of Richard Brusky)

**Right:** Sin City Opera Executive Director Ginger Land-Van Buuren and General Director Emeritus Luana DeVol

**Below:** The Cocktail Cabaret

**Bottom Right:** Rebecca Morris







**Amy Crosley Junior Recital** (photos courtesy of Amanda Ketterer)  
**Left:** Nathan Tanouye, David Loeb, Amy Crosley, Jose Pepe Jimenez, and Adam Schroeder

**Below Left:** David Loeb, Kailyn Richards, Samuel Ramirez, Peter Goomroyan, Ruben Van-Gundy, and Amy Crosley

**2019 VIVA Awards** (photos courtesy of Talbot Snow)

**Below:** David Tupaz listens to music performed by Roxy Jones

**Bottom Left:** The Hot Club of Las Vegas: Mundo Juillerat, Noybel Gargoy, Johnny Miles

**Bottom Right:** Dan Hernandez featured with his interactive art installation



# The Las Vegas Arts District

By Carolyn Muse Grant

The Arts District in Las Vegas has been around for many years and over that time changes have been made and local artists have come and gone. We have been so fortunate to have so many wonderfully talented artists in the area. And, we feel lucky to share four extremely talented ones with you in this edition of Chic Compass. You get to meet Deana Khoshhaba, Alexander Huerta, Phyllis Pezzella and Dray Wilmore. Phyllis invited me to come down and meet her and the other artists and it was a most wonderful experience.

As I met them and the stories came out I realized I had met Dray years ago when he was a participant in other galleries I had known with several other artists. Twenty years ago he moved here from Los Angeles and got established as a local artist. He did move around with some other talented folks but is settled in the Arts District now. Of this group, he was the first to be a Las Vegan!

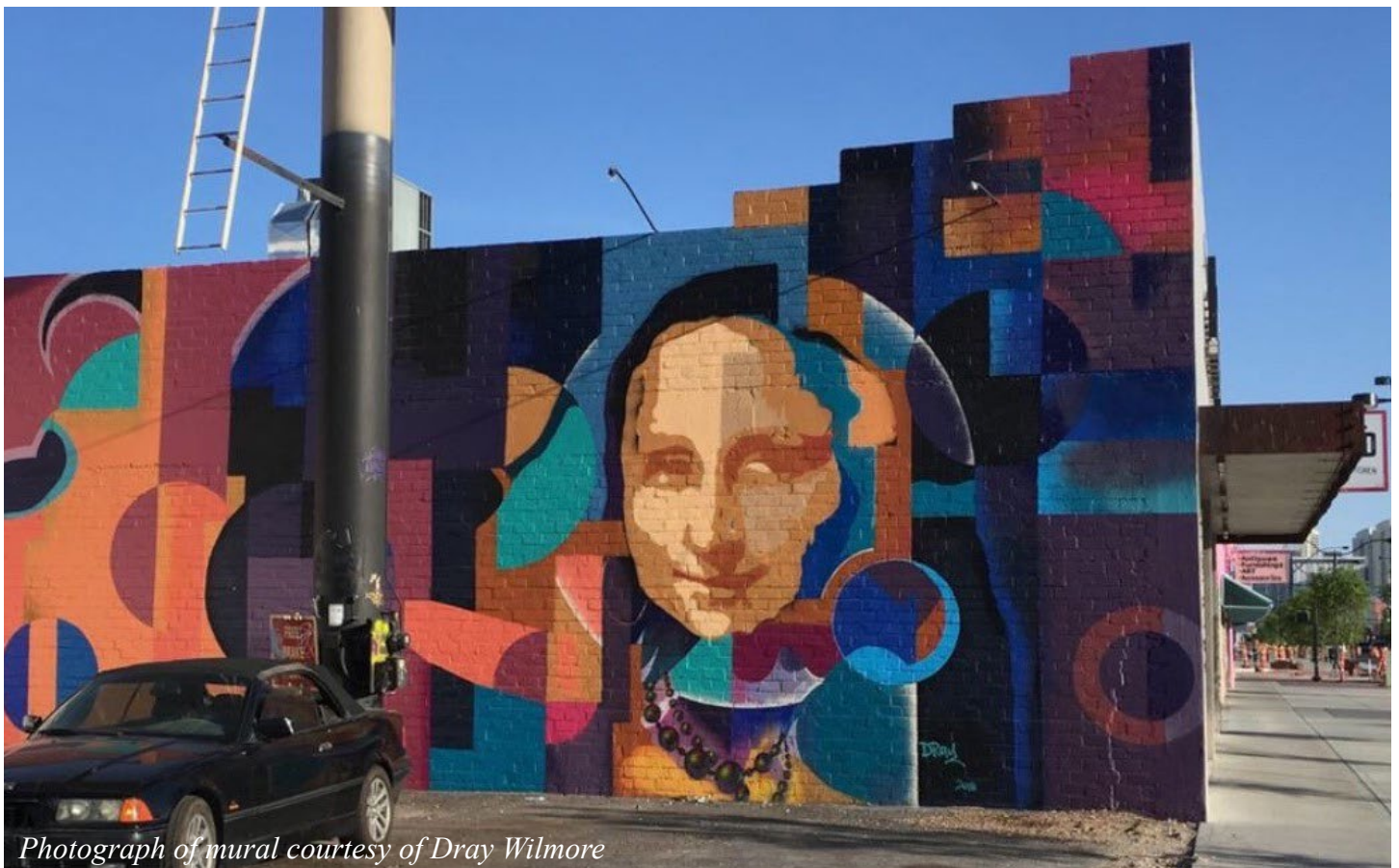


Artwork courtesy of Dray Wilmore

## DRAY WILMORE

Dray (pictured at right) is an internationally recognized and published painter best known for his large scale murals, musical themed abstract canvases and colorful portraits of beautiful women. His work has been exhibited at the Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV and is in the permanent collection of Nevada State College and the Historic Museum of Nevada. His art has been featured in music videos and documentaries.

He was one of the first local artists to live and work in the Downtown Las Vegas Arts District. Highly regarded by veterans of the Vegas Visual Arts scene for his efforts in helping cultivate the cultural zone that now plays host to the monthly

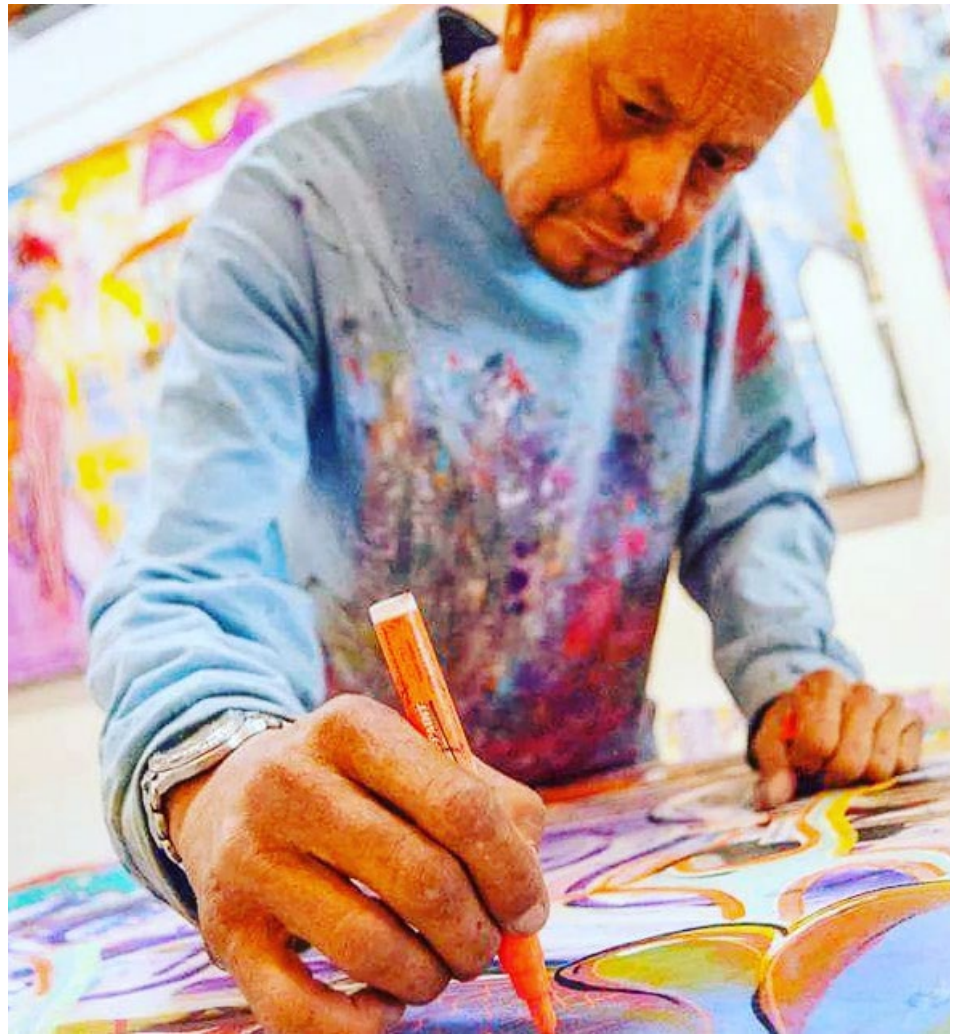


*Photograph of mural courtesy of Dray Wilmore*

First Friday festivals. He has served on the First Friday advisory committee. He moved here from Los Angeles. (draystudio.com)

## ALEXANDER P HUERTA

Alex (pictured at right and below) is a "mixed media artist", and is seen around town at a lot of events promoting his work and ideas about our great artists. He's been a resident of Las Vegas for 35 years and started working at Harrahs Casino for his first 13 years. His first real exposure to art was through Picasso paintings. It inspired him to begin his new life. He began painting in 1996 and started his studio, PeaceNart Studio in 2008. He is now a long term "resident" of the Arts District. Alex also wanted to say that he considers Dray his mentor, and that Dray helped him get started as an artist. (alexphuerta@yahoo.com)



***“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”***

**-Pablo Picasso**



## PHYLLIS PEZZELLA

Phyllis, known to some as Tizzeey, (pictured at bottom right) has been inspired by the arts for her entire life.

"I was a shy child attempting to connect, with the outside world and it was father's youngest sister who happened to be an Illustrator for Hallmark cards that I quickly bonded with at any early age. And through her instruction, painting I thought at that time was more

than a form of "creative expression" but a "need."

She lived in Boston and moved here to Vegas several years ago. She does not have a gallery in the Arts District but knows the artists and does participate in events. "I have been inspired by many artists over the years, but it is "Frida Kahlo", who humbles me the most, with her uncanny ability to paint and question "truths," and "identity." She inspires me to never question my artistic expression, which is not only to just paint a picture, but to go beyond the unseen and paint to express my "inner child" and that of my subject as well."

In 1983 Phyllis graduated from Northeastern University with a degree in none other than, Business Administration. As she said, "I never lost interest in arts, I just thought it would only, be my "hobby" and I would never develop it into, a "life" purpose." ([www.tizzeey.com](http://www.tizzeey.com))



*Artwork on this page courtesy of Phyllis Pezzella*

## DEANA KHOSHABA

Deana (pictured below and at right) moved to Las Vegas from Chicago. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology but after personal experiences, she decided that art was what she wanted to do. "It was more a spiritual imperative than a choice. I needed to paint. After years of meandering, I surrendered to my calling and delved headfirst into painting. I have been painting seriously for about six-years and continue to study."

So for the last six years that has been her "life". And three and a half years ago she moved here to Las Vegas and has a great studio here in the Arts District. She considers her true self an artist - born as an artist but she said, "you can get side tracked or diverted from your true path - then you find it - like a homecoming - like a pair of shoes and it fits comfortably." ([www.deanakhoshaba.com](http://www.deanakhoshaba.com))



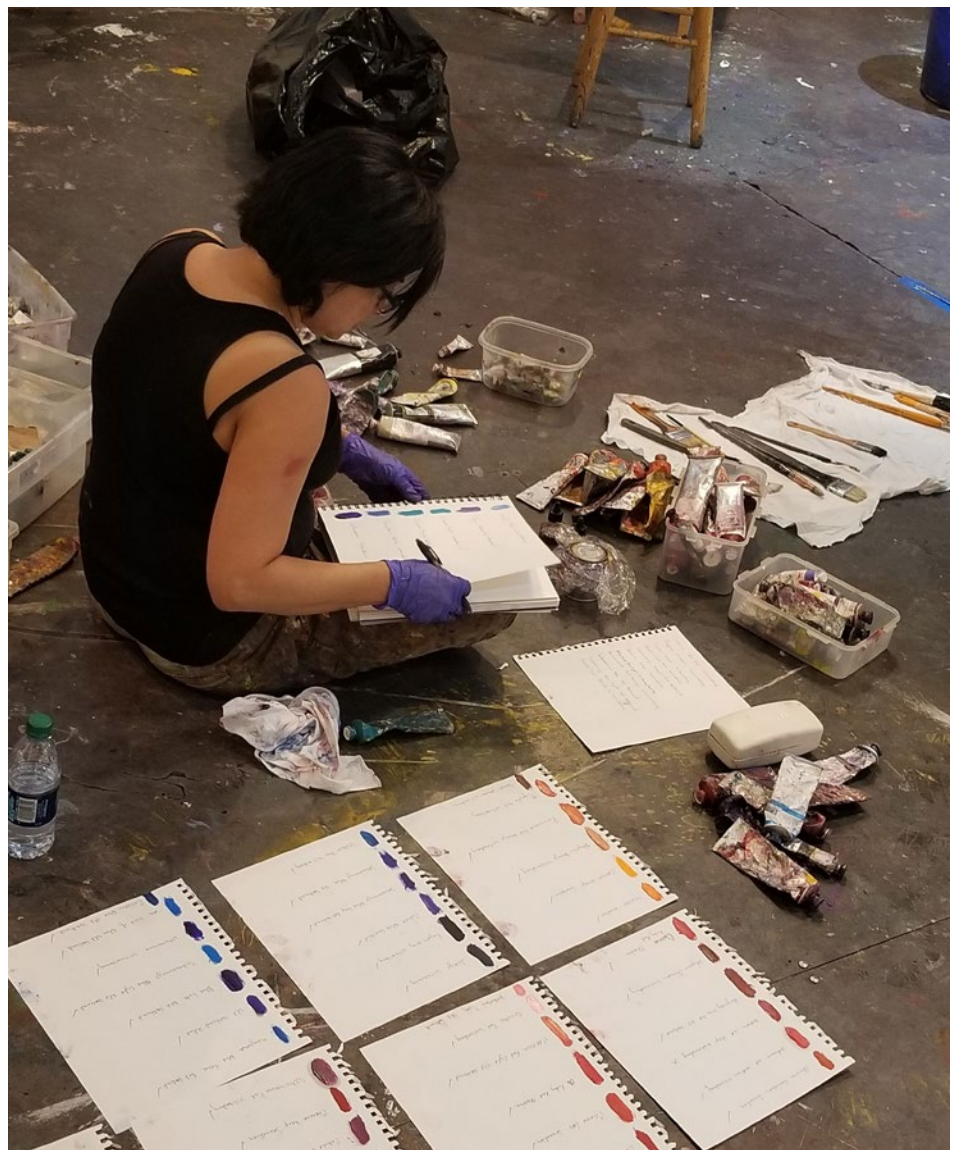
In my conversation with all of the artists, it was evident to them that Las Vegas is changing. Deana added, "it's about relationships - for a moment or a lifetime. Anytime you converse with someone - every time you're in an interview or if someone is making a documentary - here at the Arts District is like a store for everyone to see. "

All of the artists agree that people come to Vegas for Vegas, but they are looking for other things. As Alex said, "People who love art know it's here, and they come to find it." They all agreed that it

allows them to send their work out into the world, and that a lot of people are coming in to see what they provide.

Dray, Alex and Phyllis all agree with Deana and express that there's more than gambling in Vegas. "We all try to let people know we're here." And while Phyllis doesn't have a studio at the Arts Factory she is still very involved with the artists.

They were all very excited about a new adventure. First Friday, of course, has been around for many





*Pictured above from left: Dray, Deana, Phyllis, and Alex*

years, and Dray was very involved in its start. But the artists have started a new event. Every Sunday they have an art event at the Arts District outside at the entries. They provide a DJ and invite artists to come and paint. They believe that artists cannot disappear and being right here keeps it creative.

Everyone is invited - complete novices - seasoned artists - established ones - and they have all previously participated. They all season and

mentor new ones - enabling them to find their passion.

Alex and Dray did mention that there are several galleries on the Strip, featuring local artists.

"It shows how much of a community we are and how much less competitive we are than artists in New York."

They all agreed also that as close as the Arts District is to downtown,

they love to have people come any time. They all say they can be there painting until around 10 at night and love to have people come in and "watch them paint".

It was a wonderful experience getting to know these very talented artists. It makes us all appreciate how much talent we have here in Las Vegas, and how lucky we are to have them. They are a great asset to our community.



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