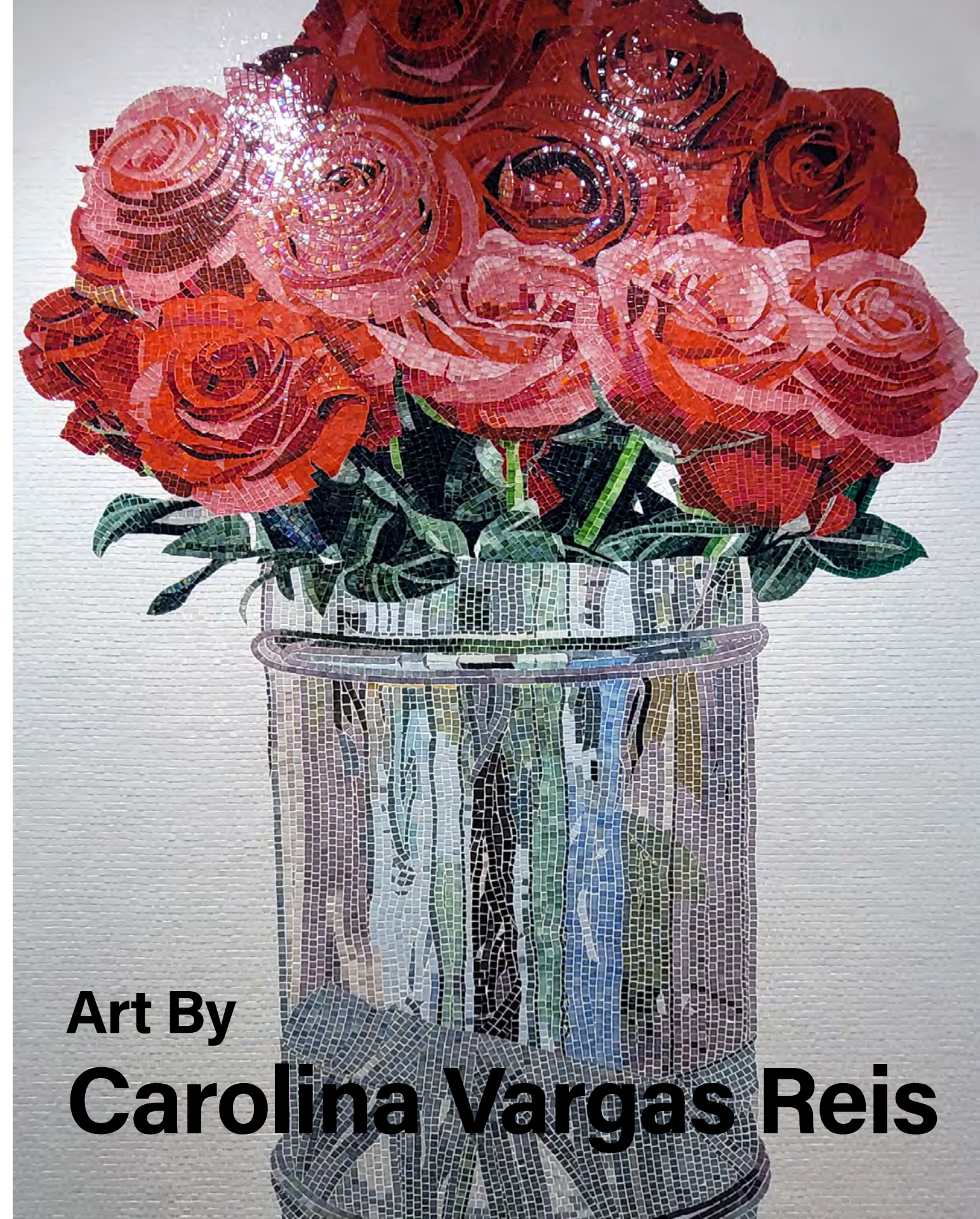


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2022



Art By

Carolina Vargas Reis

Artist Statement

01 I was born in Colombia, the daughter of a large family where the only professions allowed were engineers, doctors, financiers, teachers and lawyers. I was born an artist, an artist who became an engineer and a banker, an artist who moved to Canada, an artist who came to realize a few years into her professional life she could not fight the urge to create art.

And so my heart went where it felt it belonged, and I traded excel models and my successful career in finance for paint tubes, enamel jars and sable brushes. Now I aim to make my contribution to the world by painting the magic of my own reality...



“Art was calling, so I left my career in high finance and traded it for brushes and paint tubes.”

“I paint the magic of my reality.”

02 My work offers an unconventional view of common daily life... a compilation of emotions and life experiences based on a contemporary perspective.

Through my art, I explore my own experience with social, political and emotional issues in the form of paintings and photographs. I consider my art a visual diary, my life through my hands.

My work is colourful, bold and in some people’s words: “unapologetically heart-warming”. I use large surfaces incorporating vernacular designs in modern settings. The result... texturized aesthetic “glitches” that aim to connect viewers at an emotional level.

Within my art, a variety of characters interact amidst an eclectic array. These people, animals, places, shapes and objects have influenced my life, some more than others. It is from their inner drama, their passions and beliefs, or better yet, it is from their own being that my soul feeds off to give life to my characters.

Carolina

Metamorphosis

This painting contains several fantastic elements including a paradoxical combination of day and night, which intends to upset a fundamental premise of life.

The darkness of the sky and the lake become unsettling as the yellow trees shine bright during a sunny fall day. In turn, the light of the trees render the darkness of the mountains even more impenetrable, cold and harsh. The same light and darkness create a seductive air that makes trying to conquer them irresistible.

In the midst of this paradox, a woman vanishes into time and space - a metamorphosis into nature.

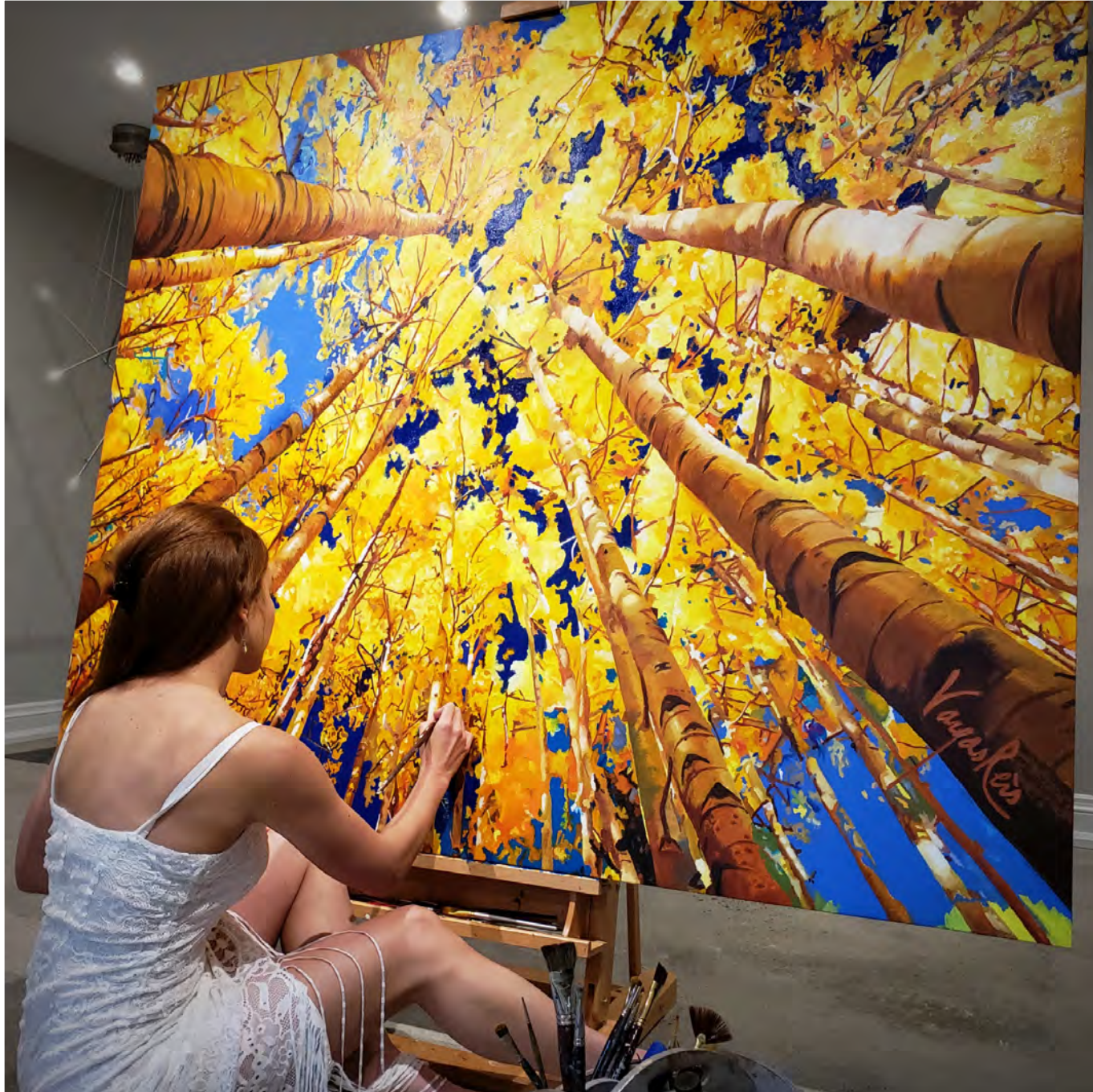
She is one with nature and nature is one with her.

The reflection on the lake accentuates her presence as her out-of-sync shadow explodes before becoming one with the trees.

Enamel on Wood

72 IN x 84 IN





10 Little Birds

10 Little Birds takes place in a magical forest where day and night coexist simultaneously. The sky has no boundaries playfully meeting into the tree trunks.

Standing only at 0.5 to 1" tall, the little birds are minute!

Unwillingly, they play a game of hide and seek. Their feathers camouflage into the tree leaves or with the colour of sky. Their voices are only heard in the imaginations of children. Their feathers are made of cotton.

Each little bird has its own story... There is a tiny little blue one which flew from another of my paintings as he grew bored of white sandy beaches. Another is simply an angry bird.

Oil and Enamel on Board
60 IN x 72 IN



Rubix Gold

The painting is a representation of one's life. The cube is colourful, complex... mysterious. And much like real life, some love it while others cannot stand it. For a few, the game is met with indifference, for others it is an obsession.

Silver is being poured into the Rubix Cube, with liquid Gold seeping out the other end... It represents a person's ability to transform silver into gold throughout his/her own life.

Enamel on Board
48 IN x 48 IN



Mizaru

“Looking not at what’s contrary to being right” is one of the pillars of Confucius Code of Conduct. It is also only a portion of the full proverbial saying “See no evil. Hear no evil. Speak no evil” which is commonly represented by the “Three Wise Monkeys”.

The proverb originated in ancient China, then found its animal representation in Japan, and eventually became popular in the West.

In Japanese language, the proverb is translated as “mizaru, kikazaru, iwazaru,” meaning “see not, hear not, speak not”. The suffix -zu or -zaru is commonly used to negate a verb or express its opposite meaning. However, the suffix -zaru can also be the modified word for saru that means monkey in Japanese, so the proverb is illustrated by monkey images.

Glass and Stone Mosaic Tile
110 IN x 63 IN

The Time Machine

1492. What would've happened if Columbus had turned south? Or was his trip the definition of "going south" for the aboriginal communities?

What if the Corona 3 were actually a time machine? What if you, or me, or the aboriginal communities could type.. **"Columbus turns around without finding land."**?

In fact, the history of this typewriter is itself a time capsule that marked the 20th century. The Corona 3 was launched in 1912 becoming one of the most successful machines in history.

In the late 1920s Corona introduced a range of Corona Specials, in different bright colours, such as red, green and blue. In 1926 the Corona factory merged with the L.C. Smith Typewriter Company to form the Smith-Corona company. Smith-Corona expanded aggressively during the 1960s, going on to become a broad-based industrial conglomerate.

Yet another part of the puzzle, Smith-Corona also briefly produced military weapons and parts. Perhaps, someone could also re-write that part.

And now, in the 2020s, the name **"Corona"** continues to make history again... If only we had that Time Machine.

Mixed Media on Board

36 IN x 36 IN





Oh Canada, In Partial Reflection

“Oh Canada, Our home and native land! True patriot love in all of us command. With glowing hearts, we see thee rise, The True North strong and free.”

With fantastic elements and using reflections that only partially appear on a turquoise lake, “Oh Canada” merges Canada’s beauty from coast to coast.

It depicts Ontario’s autumn leaves, Newfoundland’s houses and fishing life, a vibrant Quebec maple leaf, a Moutie on his horse, a West Coast seaplane, an Inukshuk and a Nova Scotia lighthouse. The elements are framed by the Canadian Rockies at Lake Louise.

In partial reflection... as missing from this masterpiece is the beautiful people from Canada.

**Mixed Media on Board
74 IN x 72 IN**

Parallel World

This painting is full of magical realism symbolism that aim to encapsulate some of the essence of the life of a remarkable lady.

The main scene takes place outside of a plane's window where her inner child can run freely and jump onto clouds made out of cotton.

The girl is wearing red boots. Red is associated with passion. It is impulsive, explosive and bold. Red shoes, especially red boots, is the sartorial equivalent of shouting "I am a woman, hear me roar".

The sky is made out of waves, representing the many oceans she has conquered throughout her life. The sky takes the shape of an erupting volcano, a reminder of her last trip of Southeast Asia.

A lion head sits vigilant on the upper right corner. In the kingdom of spirit animals, the lion wins the prize for most relentless fighter in the face of life challenges.



Enamel on Board
72 IN x 60 IN



Children of War

In four panels, each representing a season in a year, "Children of War" depicts the struggle children face as war comes to an end.

Using a monochromatic colour scheme, an array of clouds mimic the evolution of conflict. From right to left, winds of peace struggle to blow away senseless strife.

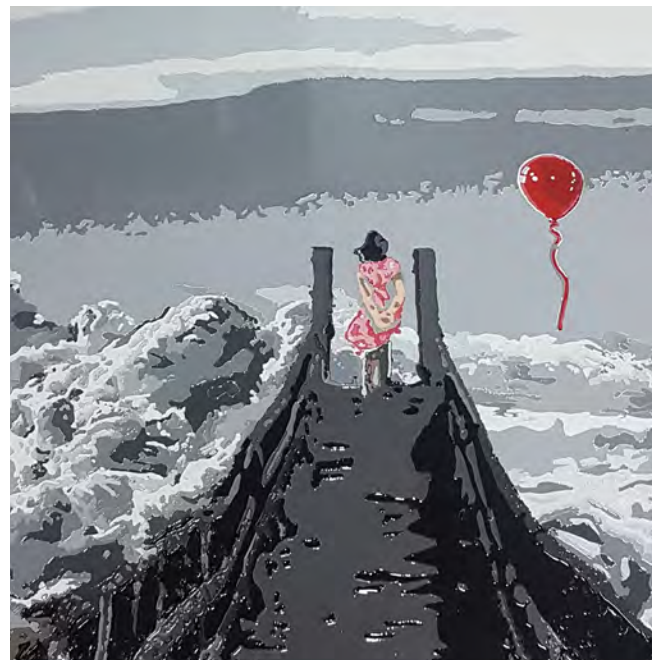
Standing at crossroads, children and young adults struggle with what to do with their lives. Here, this fundamental inflection point in their lives is represented by a bridge that appears to abruptly come to an end. Children are forced to choose between turning back to a dismantled society or jumping into the abyss... hoping that in fact the bridge continues under the clouds.

I have experienced war in my beloved Colombia. My story, however, would never compare to that of the children whose childhoods were robbed by a war they did not understand. My story is far from that of those recruited into armed groups, far from extreme poverty and from a society that simply stopped caring about its young. And yet, I was one of the lucky ones able to find the path on the other side of the bridge to my new home called Canada.

With this painting I honour the little warriors who have survived and found their way. I also honour the less fortunate children whose spirits have been forever crushed by war... a red balloon with a broken string, finally, soars freely into the sky...

Enamel on Board

144 IN x 40 IN



Human Touch

This work highlight the beauty of the human soul.

We constantly focus on the wrongdoings of humanity. But there are so many beautiful humans on this planet who have the ability to transform black and white into colour, to give life, to make it a better place.

Enamel on Board
60 IN x 48 IN





52 Weeks of a Beating Heart

52 roses. One for each week in a year of my life, in a year of your life, in a year of your mother's, father's, son's, friend's life...

Like a symphony of shades, from dark to light, from pain to happiness to pain again... a roller-coaster of emotions, illusions, desolation and eternal hope.

One stem for one life, a life that will carry 52 roses every year until the end of time.

Enamel and Silver Leaf on Wood

72 IN x 78 IN



Eternal

In a swirl of light, she emerged from the darkness bringing light to the earth. With her eternal dance, her dress spreads the smell of roses, the perfume of life. She gives colour to nature and peace to the loving hearts. He has been forever captivated by her beauty, loving her eternally.

Mixed Media on Board

78 IN x 78 IN



Dreams for Sale

The morning heat had already soaked through the walls rising up from the floor like a ghost of summers past. Escaping from the stupor, I strolled down to the old, abandoned county fair.

The grounds were so quiet I could hear my steps touching down on the hot cobblestone.

Like the siren's song enchants sailors in the open sea, as I turned the corner, an oxidized red colour mesmerized me. I then, realized that the fantastic red belonged to a gum-ball machine that looked a hundred years old.

It had no candy though. Rather, imperfectly round balls were crowding its inner space. Its label read:

Dreams | pure | one cent

I still have my eye on that little red one in the middle of them all. Maybe one day I would gather enough cents to finally get my dream...

Mixed Media on Board
48 IN x 36 IN

Dis.Re.Integration

This work aims to speak at a personal level to the uniqueness of your situation.

What do you see in the picture? A rose? A life? Is it disintegrating or reintegrating?

Do you see a representation of the tragic path of a life spiralling out of control? Is there any hope to make it whole again so the parts flow, fit and work together harmoniously?

This too shall pass...

Enamel on Board

36 IN x 36 IN



Wilted Flowers

At his eighty something years of age, he sat pensive in his gilded cage.

Holding in his hands three roses: fame, fortune and love.

The cage is unlocked. The only thing he has to do is drop his flowers, push the door open and be free...

**Acrylic, 18 Karat Gold and
Silver Leaf on Board
36 IN x 36 IN**



#PlayLikeAGirl

Just do it. Just play like a Girl.

Mixed Media on Board

36 IN x 36 IN



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