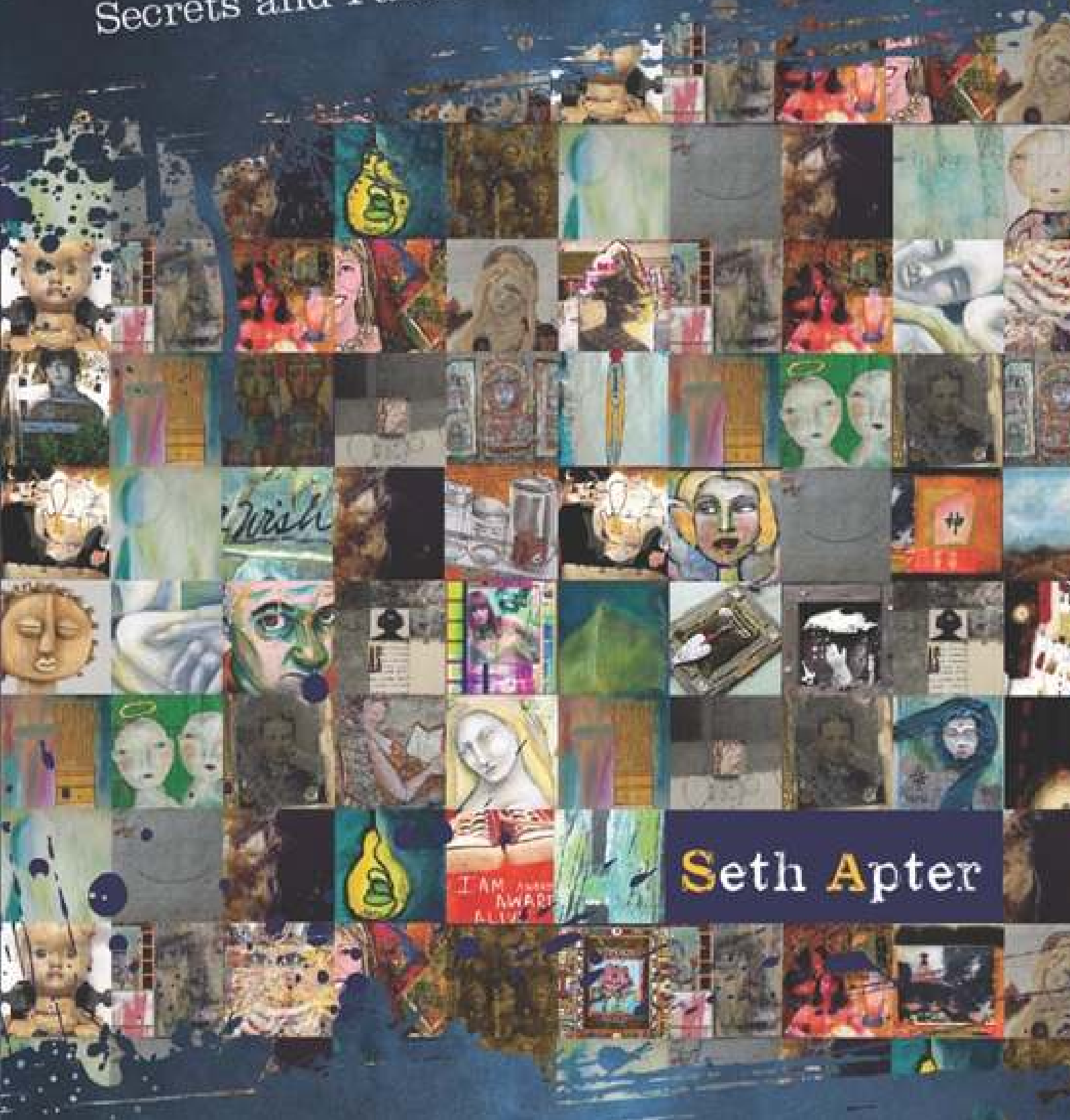


The **Pulse** of Mixed Media: Secrets and Passions of **100** Artists Revealed



Seth Apter

The Pulse of Mixed Media

Secrets and Passions of 100 Artists Revealed

Seth Apter



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www.createmixedmedia.com

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Section One: The Artistic Ingredient

If your artwork could talk, what would it say?

What three words *do not* describe your artistic style?

What shows up from time to time in your art that surprises you?

What art material or genre have you been hesitant about but have always wanted to try?

What is the one secret ingredient that makes your artwork uniquely yours?

Do you deliberately hide messages in your artwork?

Is there a color that rarely shows up in your artwork?

What is your current art obsession?

What is your biggest pet peeve in terms of art?

Is there one art material you couldn't live without?

Section Two: Passion in Action

Who has had the most impact on your creative life?

How do you express passion in your artwork?

If you had your choice of fame versus income as an artist, which would you choose?

What is your most quirky creative habit?

What is the one choice as an artist that you regret having made or not made?

Is there an emotion that shows up more frequently than others in your artwork?

What obstacle has stopped you from achieving an art-related goal?

How do you express anger in your artwork?

If you could sell one piece of art to anyone, who would you want to buy it?

How do you express vulnerability in your artwork?

Section Three: Secrets Revealed

What is one thing you've never shared with the creative community?

Can you share a secret?

Do you enjoy working more intuitively or by carefully thinking through your process?

Do you think creative types are moodier than those with less artistic inclinations?

Have you ever lost a friendship over art?

What is one current trend that you wish would go away?

What expresses the innermost you?

Do you create art to work through inner issues, or is studio time more of a distraction to keep you from facing your problems?

Is creativity built-in, learned or both?

How has the Internet changed your artistic practice?

What is your biggest fear?

Have you ever received artwork from others and reworked it as your own?

What do you think your preferred art medium says about your personality?

What is your secret dream as an artist?

Over 100 Artists

Dedication

Acknowledgments

Seth Apter, Revealed ...



Taking the Pulse

If you gave one hundred artists the same set of art supplies and asked them to create, you would end up with one hundred unique works of art. This is because the magic ingredient in every artwork is the artist. All artists bring their own history, personality, creativity and personal perspective to the pieces they create. They bring their joy and their pain, their successes and their failures, and all the quirks that make them who they are. Knowing the story behind the artist elevates a viewer's appreciation of the art and brings the understanding of the work to a completely new level.

With this idea in mind, in 2008 I started an online artist survey called The Pulse. The goal of the project was to provide a window into the creative hearts and minds of the artist community. Much like an archeological dig, I wanted to go below the surface and uncover the inner workings of the artist. There have been four online editions of The Pulse to date, and it has grown from 35 participants to nearly 150. This book has grown out of the online version and expands on the original premise in many ways.

This book is not your typical how-to guide. Instead, you will be taken on a journey deep within the soul of the artist. Imagine that you have been invited to have an intimate discussion with all of your favorite artists: a one-on-one show-and-tell. You can ask them anything, no holds barred. You can learn their secrets, feel their passion, and experience their vulnerability. You can hear firsthand the personal stories behind their artwork. This is what you will find on the pages of this book.

In the first two sections, you will be introduced to thirty-one spotlight artists, some of whom you will already be familiar with and others who will be new to you. Threaded throughout the pages are their answers to a series of personal questions. Some of these questions focus on their art; for example, the art material they could not live without, their art-related pet peeves and the colors they avoid. Other questions focus on the artist; for example, their art-related regrets, the obstacles they have faced and the one person in their life with the most creative impact.

But what is an art book without art? You will also find new artwork created by the spotlight artists in response to a series of twelve prompts. See how they use their artwork to express anger, passion and vulnerability. Find out about the artists' obsessions, secret ingredients and hidden messages, all of which find their way into their completed pieces. Discover how they see themselves in their self-portraits. And for every image, each artist shares in-depth the personal meaning behind their creation.

In the third section of the book, you will meet 103 additional artists who are representative of the larger art community. Each of these contributors has also generously shared their most intimate thoughts and feelings. You will find their answers to a different series of eleven questions and will learn about their secret dreams, their friendships lost as a result of art, and the one trend they wish would go away. You will learn about the inspiration behind new artwork created in response to prompts about their secrets, fears and innermost self.

Join me and all the artists on an adventure that will make you a true art insider. After reading this book, you may never look at art or the artist the same way again. It's time to take *The Pulse of Mixed Media*.

Spotlight Artists



Orly Avineri

www.oneartistjournal.wordpress.com

I am a gatherer. While on my tracks I find sky-kissing mountains and deep valleys, barren deserts and lush rainforests, wandering nomads and firm settlers. My tracks take me places. At times I get lost. Enchantingly, as soon as I gather my findings, lay my images and words on a physical or virtual canvas, I get found.



Nina Bagley

www.ornamental.typepad.com

Nina Bagley has been a professional jewelry designer since 1987, a mixed-media artist for as long as she can remember (thinking here of a little clay mushroom “ensemble” that was created in perhaps the third grade, for starters), and has been teaching mixed-media/jewelry workshops worldwide since 2000. Her artwork is featured in many books and magazines, and has been carried in multiple boutiques and museum shops across the world.



Vivian Bonder

www.vivianbonder.wordpress.com

I create from a space of silence and solitude ... A space where at times emotional turbulence and noise are ruling ... Where intense happiness and suffering meet face to face ... A space where I am balanced within myself, between extremes and feeling grateful to be alive.



John Borrero

www.johnborrero.com

You may have seen me walking ahead of you on the street, looking around to see who is watching, and bending down to retrieve metal from the curb. You may have passed me at the book store, investing in mythology and folklore, smiling with a childlike enthusiasm as ancient stories speak to me. Maybe you've noticed me at the antique shops, buying photos of faces of people forgotten to lovingly give my creations their grace and humanity.



Pam Carriker

It is both my personal goal, and my artistic goal, to have my life and art reflect my true self. Some days my “true self” has paint on her elbow for more than one day at a time, and can’t find the TV remote under the pile of socks that have lost their mates, but there are days when her skinny jeans fit and all is right with the world. I strive to convey the importance of the things in my life that matter most to me through my art.



Angela Cartwright

www.acartwrightstudio.com

I am an unruly artist. I feel naked without a camera in my hand. When you are a photographer I think it trains you to see life differently. I can’t imagine a world without art.



Alicia Caudle

www.alteredbits.com

I paint. I collage. I assemble. I sew. I’m a “mad eco-scientist” of sorts in that I devise natural earth-friendly recipes for dyes, stains and inks to use in my art (largely due to annoying allergies to chemicals), and I like to make light-up and mechanical art from scrap electronics.

bits. This is my husband's fault as he teaches me things such as which value of resistor is needed to power an LED light.



Karen Cole

www.karencole.blogspot.com

My artistic process is a bit like a journey without a map. I look at every piece as an experiment, an exploration and also a collaboration between my artistic journey and the mixed media. I am going to continue this wandering forever. Just hand me a crayon in the nursing home, please. I will help you reach your destination.



Jen Crossley

www.amarkintime.blogspot.com

Hey I'm Jen Crossley from the Land of Oz (Australia). A woman of many talents, and a master of none—I'm all smoke and mirrors. Dazzle them with big words and techniques I say and most importantly have fun with what you do. Love what you do and it will show in your art and your life.



Sarah Fishburn

www.sarahfishburn.com

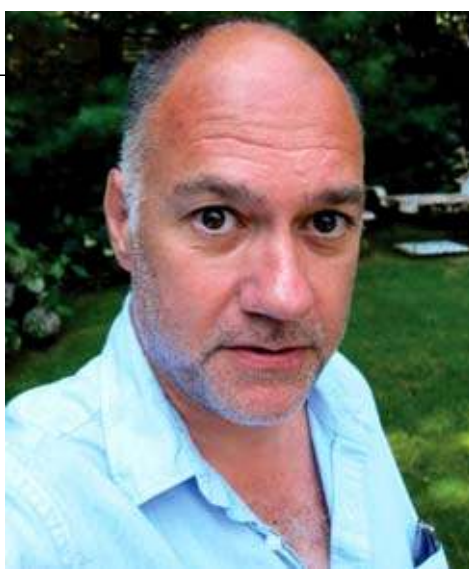
Once upon a time there was a red-haired girl who loved to read and write, and felt that art should be for everyone. She made this and that (and called it all ragtags), in a little house where the prairie ends and the mountains begin and the skies are the bluest of blues. And she thanked her lucky star, for every single day.



Robyn Gordon

www.artpropelled.blogspot.com

Since commandeering my mom's unused chisels way back in childhood, it seems that I have been carving forever. A hobby that was once used to fight boredom on lamplit evenings on the farm has now become a form of meditation. There is nothing better than spending the first few hours of every day carving in the courtyard with a troop of wild monkeys for company.



Danny Gregory

www.dannygregory.com

My art is an opportunity to reflect on the everyday, from the clutter on my desk to my neighbor's fruit stand, from what I ate for lunch to my unfolded laundry. I find beauty and significance in the things I do. I work exclusively in books, so the progression of my days unfolds with each page. I love the look of juxtaposed images and calligraphy, so my journals are diaries as well as sketchbooks.



Lisa Hoffman

www.lisahoffman.typepad.com

After living in close proximity to very competent people from all walks of life, my goal as an artist is to do everything that I can to make people raise their right hand and swear to never take themselves or anyone else too seriously ... And no, I'm NOT kidding.



Lynne Hoppe

www.lynnehoppe.blogspot.com

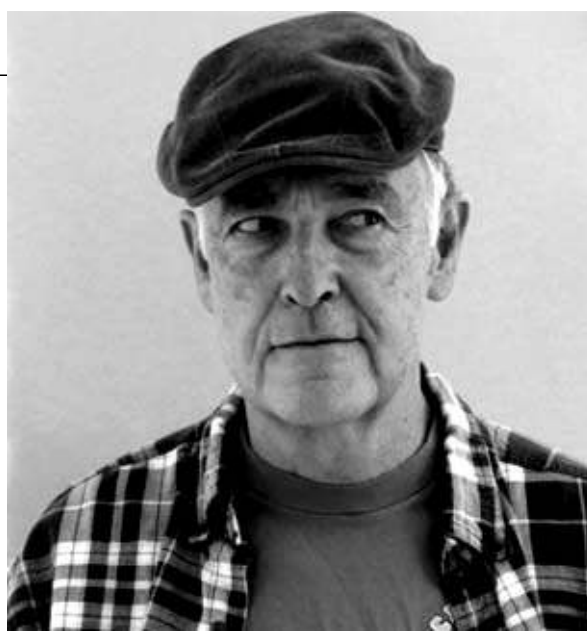
I paint what's inside of me without a thought of "what it might mean." I like to see what one color looks like next to another; how the presence of a line here or a shadow there changes everything. I like to experiment.



Patricia Larsen

www.patricialarsen.com

I drawwrite. I paint. I find. I lose. I draw. I paint. I glue and stick things in2 empty spaces.



Don Madden

www.donmadden.blogspot.com

I'm running out of time. I should have been an artist all my life. Actually, I always have been an artist but it was just hidden under my corporate three-piece suits. Now I have ideas of pieces I want to make, of art I want to create, of techniques I want to try, and, based on my age, I need to be working at a much faster pace. Don't ask me to chat or to share my feelings or talk about my art—I'm busy and don't have time for all that. And no hugging!



Robert Maloney

www.robert-maloney.com

My work focuses on the elements of modern life that often go unnoticed. That hand-painted sign on the side of an old building; the pipes that poke in and out of just about every structure we see; the boarded up windows of an abandoned factory; the billboard that advertises a discontinued product; the scaffolding grid work of an old bridge. What history do these structures hold? What lies inside of these vessels? These are the things that go through my mind in a normal day.



Leslie Marsh

www.snipsandsnailsandpuppydogtails.blogspot.com

There are boxes and bags of family photographs sitting on a shelf in my house. Some of them simply make me smile, while others make me curious about the stories. This becomes art when I take the hidden, the forgotten, the sometimes damaged, and bind them into books people may be compelled to pick up. My shoebox inspirations become bound expressions of life. I'm a photographer too, and I've got my own shoebox.



Leslie Avon Miller

www.textureshapescolor.blogspot.com

Begin. Fling paint, make marks, rip and tear. Use sticks, palette knife, brush and tools. Rags, papers, spray, move paint around. Explore, experiment, discover. Build layers of dark and light. Scratch, scrub, sand to reveal. Contemplate, integrate, design, adjust. Express, connect, communicate, be content. Begin again.



Bridgette Guerzon Mills

www.guerzonmills.com

I am a creator of things, a maker of images, a weaver of words. I seek peace and stillness in the worlds that I create. Memories and experiences are sewn together, bound with thread, painted and layered with fire and wax. My work is a vision of where I have been, who I am now, and a vision of what I am becoming. The rest will be written as the story unfolds.



Lynne Perrella

www.lkperrella.com

Within the open unguarded moments of childhood we discover what we truly resonate to. As long as I can remember I have enjoyed working with paper, glue, paint and found objects. My goal is to maintain the same excitement and uncluttered instincts about making art that I felt in childhood.



JoAnnA Pierotti

www.mosshill.blogs.com

Some very early mornings you will find JoAnnA jumping out of bed, slapping on a tinge of makeup and forgetting to comb her hair. She heads to a dusty flea market where the local flea market is held. She'll move through the crowd and then suddenly stop in her tracks, eyes opened wide, as she finds the box of treasure with her name on it. She heads back to her studio where she hoards her vintage finds and creates from her heart, unique found object assemblages.



Julie Prichard

www.julieprichard.com

I gravitate toward analogous colors, darkened hues, and monochromatic palettes rather than

a bright cartoony plethora of paints, which I find too distracting. I always create with my eyes and inner self. My hands are only a tool, a trowel—think Captain Hook—and I never smile at a Crocodile.



Gary Reef

www.garyreef.com

I am a bower bird, I collect, I recycle, I try to turn the ordinary into extraordinary and discarded things into treasure. Burning, dropping, splashing, carelessness, cutting, scratching, layering, experimenting would be some words to describe my process. I care less for image and outcome; my work isn't about that. I live for the moment, the now and if something good comes as a result then I am pleasantly surprised.



Roxanne Evans Stout

www.rivergardenstudio.typepad.com

Through my art I would like to convey the feeling of connecting, timelessness and re-creation. When I look at nature, or walk down a street in an old town, everything makes itself noticed to me—from a decaying leaf, a white moth on a metal wall, the expression on a person's face, to the colors in the air and all around me. As an artist I am constantly learning and growing.

Art is my passion, my love, my soul.



Michelle Ward

www.michelleward.typepad.com

All my jammies are speckled with paint. I am fortunate to have a home studio that is my daily destination. It is filled with abundant supplies and books and rarely will you find a clear space on my table. While I love being surrounded by my favorite things, I frequently find myself happiest with just a surface to paint on, a few brushes, and some handmade tools. It's not about your workspace, or your materials, it's about plugging in, getting messy and seeing what emerges.



Donna Watson

www.donnawatsonart.blogspot.com

In the moment. I sift through black river rocks from Japan. The light and shadows draw me to the edge. The changing seasons are in black, white, gray with a touch of color. The textures and layers are weathered and rusty with a subdued patina. I look for dots, marks and circles on surfaces. There is a quiet strength in the riverbed as I seek memories and feelings.

Bound by nature and the passage of time, I find solitude. Balance.



Judy Wilkenfeld

www.redvelvetcreations.blogspot.com

My mixed-media art works, Visual Anthologies™ tell the story of a life or lives, past or present. I use layering and the recontextualization of the materials to build the history of the subject matter. My pieces portray the good and the bad, happy or sad elements of life and sometimes, the complex subject matters of the persecution of races, religions and minority groups that are tackled with the utmost of sensitivity. To communicate the message of tolerance and understanding is imperative in my pieces.



Judy Wise

www.judywise.blogspot.com

There is a thread through all my work. A search and a love of the search. Without the passion for the search and a love of the materials (wax, paint, paper, clay, nature)–life has no meaning. I am looking for my stubborn idea of beauty and often enough I find it. That is enough for a lifetime of devotion.



Linda Woods

www.colormetrue.com

I am an artist, author, and a rule breaker. I eat cookies for breakfast.



Jill Zaheer

www.jazworks.blogspot.com

I turn and the clock flashes 11:11 (the date my mom passed away), rainbows shine with the blink of an eye, I think of someone and they appear—these are all synchronistic events that play a major role in my creativity. I incorporate these occurrences into my works. My art is the expression of who I am—reflected in my work through color, vibrancy, varied materials, layers, textures and ultimately, the optimism and excitement I have in life which can be seen in my smile.

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