
Welcome to Arc Studios News! This newsletter features events and activities of artists, nonprofit professionals and micro business owners that are part of the creative community at Arc Studios & Gallery 1246 Folsom Street San Francisco.



Arc Studios News June 2020

A Conversation with Nathalie Fabri

Arc Studio #101
By Sherri Cornett



Literal bright spots in these months of pandemic fear, Nathalie Fabri's colorful and happy urban landscapes bring light and lightness to my soul. Like the empty streets in cities around the world earlier this year, her paintings and murals are devoid of human figures, but not devoid of hope. The playfulness and oversized floral-patterned overlays create environments that invite the viewer into a place of joy. "Welcome, welcome in, welcome back . . ."

Sherri Cornett: What a pleasure to open your website and have so much color flood into me. I also see it in your studio ... vibrant, striped rugs, twinkle lights hanging in front of a vivid orange curtain. Color seems to be . . .

Nathalie Fabri:

The mainspring in my work! My desire to create erupts from a yearning to see these colors interact on the canvas. Bold, contrasting, exaggerated colors and light create a mood to engage viewers.

SC: What do you think your viewers see?

NF: It is such a joy for me when someone tells me how happy they feel from looking at my work. I want them to see how beautiful cities and houses are . . . How a person perceives the colors may influence the story they create when looking at the piece. A friend recently told me that my paintings really represent who I am and that my personality is all over my work. People seem to see me as a happy, warm, loving person and my paintings tend to represent that feeling of happiness and comfort.

SC: Would you tell me about your focus on homes?

NF: As a child, we moved every two years. My father was with the United Nations. Home was wherever we were. I was exposed to art from around the world and I loved the color and contrast in art from Africa, Haiti and the Middle East. I try to convey that sense of home, with orange and yellow lights full of promise shining in every window I paint.

SC: On a different tack and related to our Covid 19 crisis, I see on your Instagram account that you have been painting and taking photos of yourself wearing a bubonic plague mask. There is a playfulness in these also.

NF: It started out as a joke. I found the plague mask in our Halloween box, and wanted to take a funny photo with it, which led to creating absurd, humorous or somber scenes with the mask. I think about my mood and my body language. I set up the scene, take the photo, sometimes give it some tweaks and post it on Instagram. I am calling it my Doctor Plague series and hope to have a show and/or make a book with the images and my thoughts during the quarantine. I was a little unfocused in my painting and this was a fun distraction.

SC:

It seems like a helpful way to recharge. What else do you do to keep the creative process going?

NF: Art is life for me. It is therapy. It is mediation. It is so much a part of me, as is anything related to self-care . . . like finding love with an experience or a person or the

magnolias growing outside my window. If I am feeling sad, I am unable to paint . . . but then I will turn to photography or illustration, or simple printmaking . . . no matter what, the creativity needs to flow and the energy is there for it.

SC: So, you have a variety of outlets for your imagination.

NF: Yes. I have also dabbled in drawing and jewelry making. I once lived in a VW bus and moved in and out of New Mexico. I learned to make deerskin pouches and paint on animal skulls. Recently, I went to CCSF to remind myself how much I love creating ceramics. For now, I mostly use acrylics on canvas and wood panels.

SC: And you also create murals!

NF: There is something very liberating about painting big, on a surface that is not canvas. My favorite interior mural was in Boston where I transformed three bedroom walls, floor to ceiling, with images that transitioned from nature to the street this couple lived on. I have also done exterior murals, some with other brilliant artists, and a large garage door mural. I have yet to work on the scale of needing scaffolding, but I would really love to do that someday.

SC: And . . . you just recently came out as the artist behind the public art project Mission Kiss.

NF: Yes! I posted on Facebook that I had a secret project, asked readers to trust me and that I would reveal the project if they donated \$5 towards it. I made enough money to buy wooden hearts, stickers and a drill. I painted couples kissing within the heart. In February, I bombed the Mission with the hearts and asked people who saw them to post with #TheMissionKiss. Last week, I began adding masks to the paintings.

SC: Art has indeed been a constant in your life! You have rather recently moved into a studio at Arc.

NF: Yes, in February. Luckily, I was able to have one open studio before the pandemic hit. This showed me that there is so much potential to meet art lovers and get exposure to my art. The artists at Arc are amazingly talented. I'm really honored to be a part of Arc. You are a professional artist surrounded by professional artists. It is where I want to be in my art career.

SC: And, lastly, congratulations for landing a space for your works at Secession Art & Design!

NF: Thank you. It has been amazing and encouraging to find a place where my art can shine. I am happy to share my experience with that with anyone who is interested!

Links:

Website: <http://www.fabrikations.com/>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/nathalie_fabri_artist/

Mission Kiss Project: <https://www.instagram.com/themissionkiss/>

Secession Art & Design: <https://www.secessionsf.com/art>

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Mission Kiss Project: <https://www.instagram.com/themissionkiss/>

Secession Art & Design: <https://www.secessionsf.com/art>

Debra Reabock

Group Show

City Art, 828 Valencia St, San Francisco, July 1 - Aug 2 .



Barbara Pollak-Lewis

A Cut Above

Arc Project Gallery
1246 Folsom St, San Francisco
Exhibition May 16 - June 30



Stephen C Wagner

SFAN Professional Development Programs for Artists on-line via ZOOM

with Stephen C. Wagner, Artist, Gallerist, Instructor,
and Professional Development Educator,
San Francisco Artist Network

During this time of sheltering-in-place, Stephen now provides one-on-one consultations on-line via Zoom with artists to develop strategies, goals, and actions plans. Set up a one-hour Zoom session for \$85 to answer your specific questions and discuss goals for your art & career.

