

School of Art (The New School) in NYC. Unfortunately, due to a family tragedy, my studies were cut short. Being commissioned by art collectors internationally and around the world, by magazines and publications over the years, to create paintings, portraits and illustrations were also highlights. Having my artwork selected by Saatchiart to be featured as one of the top ten portraits in a gallery in London, UK, and gaining a visa to the USA based on my artistic merits - the Visa for Individuals of Extraordinary Abilities and Talent- are most memorable.

My creative process is more about inspiration. If I'm not inspired, I don't feel like painting or creating. Travelling, music, fashion, movies, other art and artists, museums, galleries, reading, food and nature, all inspire me. For me to create, I need to truly love the image I am working from, or have some sort of emotional connection to the image. At other times my art paintings and illustrations evolve exclusively from my imagination.

When choosing a subject, I have to 'fall in love' with the image (I normally work from photographs), or have a connection of some sort. Sometimes it's a piece of prose or a lyric in a song that can be a starting point. At times, what I start with becomes something entirely different, usually the painting directs me and takes me on a journey.

I've been told by viewers and collectors of my art that there is a little bit of me within the paintings or illustrations. I think my work has a definite signature, a flair; an authenticity and honesty to it. I'm mostly self-taught so I've developed my own way of doing things to get the end result. I haven't been locked into a certain way of painting or illustrating, or any doctrine. Sometimes I have made what I thought was a huge mistake that has turned into a blessing and a much better outcome than I had imagined, taking me on a different journey.

Speculating on what makes a good piece of art is a very difficult concept to ponder. It's such a personal perspective. Seeing not only the talent, and the execution, but also the authenticity, and honesty behind it, is an important factor. When a piece of art 'speaks' to you; when it takes you away from yourself

