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Check out Noemia Felipe's Artwork

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LOCAL STORIES



Today we'd like to introduce you to Noemia Felipe.

Noemia, we'd love to hear your story and how you got to where you are today both personally and as an artist.

Since very young I was used to draw, having any paper available. My favorite subjects were the images of people and animals showing on calendars. My father noticed how much focus and effort his little girl dedicated to those drawings and one day, I was 9 years old, he brought home a book about Pierre-August Renoir. I fall in love to the images on the book and Renoir's biography

and, I felt as I got a friend: a good friend with the same passion as I. So... since then, I discovered that “to be an artist” was possible and I decided to be an artist. I still have the book with me... Other Great Masters have won my heart, as Michelangelo, Bernini, Alphonse Mucha, and so many... In 1986 I graduated with Bachelor in Fine-Arts at FEBASP, São Paulo, Brazil, with emphasis in Painting. Develop Sculpture always was a dream to me: I took workshops classes in Brazil in terracotta and bronze in figurative and when I moved to USA I dedicated most of my time in improving my sculpture skills and in mixed-media also. I am fortunate I have been involved in this field for decades: Art always was present in my life, or as student or as full-time artist (as it was in Brazil with commissions and selected exhibitions), or as teacher in History of Art and Painting (Brazil), and Figurative Sculpture in Clay in Florida, USA.

We’d love to hear more about your art. What do you do you do and why and what do you hope others will take away from your work?

My work is a representation of the feelings through the human body expression. While I am creating a piece, it can be a painting or a sculpture, I let the feeling that I have at that moment to flow from my heart to my hands. While I am working there is no outside world around me: it is me and my work. Everything start with a feeling: from this feeling I start to sketch and make notes, even sometimes in poetry: would be the subject nice in painting?... Would it be nice in sculpture?... Or both?... I keep those sketches and notes for the moment that I can effectively start the project. So, I have a collection of them, from many years ago up to now a day. The feelings that are the subjects in my work are: love; hope in overcome from the struggles of life and joy of life. I work in oils, acrylics, collage, pastels, charcoal, clay, bronze and with find objects.

When I start a work, it can take one day up to one year and a half, it depends. As example I can mention: with love as subject “Brazilian Tango”; hope in overcome from the struggles of life and don’t give up are present in “Key to Perfection”, “The Collector of Memories” and “A Ship to Cross the Sea of Suffering”, joy of life can be finding in “The Gentle Dance of Life” and “Blue Summer”. I have a strong

connection with the sea, music and my favorite animals that are horse, lion and the white heron, so, those elements are sometimes present in my works. Despite my work comes from own experiences when someone meets my work I expect that it brings a good well-been, that sensation that when we listen a music we like and we start to sing the lyrics, or when we read a poem and make us believe in the beauty of all the moments we have in life.

Artists face many challenges, but what do you feel is the most pressing among them?

The field of art is a huge and diverse field of work. I can speak for myself: being dedicating more than thirty years to art, sometimes as full time artist with private commissions, selling my own creations on selected exhibitions, or been instructor, I had moments of great success and joy, and I had moments of completely “not-sure-what-to-do-to-survive”, Fortunately, those “not-sure...” moments I have used to create sketches and notes as I mentioned before. Life, to me, is like a giant wheel: sometimes on high, sometimes on low.

Different times in life, different challenges... Thirty years ago one of the biggest challenges an artist could face was how to advertise the art: everything was in magazines (extremely expensive), folders, TV or getting shows. Now a days with the internet helps a lot to spread the news about our work. Now a days, at least to me, struggles to investing in material, in preparing portfolio, in order post cards, business cards, in support a website, in get professional photos, those I believe are the biggest challenges to an artist: dedicating most of the time – and money – in be our own photographer (or hiring one), be our own agent, our own vendor, at the end I, as an artist, have left few time to dedicate to what I like most: create. So, to me, the biggest challenges artists are facing today, based in my own experience, are: management of time and of money. Not so different from other careers, right?... But it is okay: the good news is life move on... and challenges help me to grow... I would like to thank the invitation to this interview and the opportunity to talk my work.

Do you have any events or exhibitions coming up? Where would one go to see more of your work? How can people support you and your artwork?

People can see my body of work visiting my official website: www.noemiefelipe.com. Also on Instagram follow noemiaalonsofelipe. On YouTube there is a video with my Presentation as Featured Artist on the “Artist at Work” Program at Boca Raton Museum of Art, in 2016. During the Presentation I give a brief about my Biography and I talk about the Lost Wax Casting process, since the work by the artist with armature and oil based clay, step by step in the foundry up to the finishing in bronze: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O22pLq0kXVo>. To see my work in person I have two events coming: I will be showing some of works during the Open House at the Boca Raton Museum The Art School as Instructor for “Art Clay: Figurative Sculpture”. The Open House will be on August 25th, from 1pm to 4pm. The Boca Raton Museum of Art the Art School is located at 801 W Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33486.

My work “The Collector of Memories” will be on display in the “Replenish and Rejuvenate Faculty Exhibition” at Boca Raton Museum of Art, from August 30th to September 23rd. The Boca Raton Museum of Art is located at 501 Plaza Real, Mizner Park, Boca Raton, FL 33432.

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- **Other:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O22pLq0kXVo>









Image Credit:
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