

JOANNE ARTMAN GALLERY

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“CONNECTING THE DOTS” - A Conversation with America Martin



JA: The lines, color, and geometry in your work contribute to a strong emphasis on compositional narrative. What do you expect of yourself as a storyteller?

MARTIN: The only thing I expect when I make art is to forget about everything entirely except the making of art. Time with its bougainvillea thorns always reminding you of its sharp minutes does not aid to the frame of mind for making art. To make art you must allow room for boldness to be expansive. I create my own world with the things I make. I paint, draw and sculpt the things that are pleasing to my own eye. Forms in joyful exuberance or calm strength and repose. I create a world where clothes are optional and nature is everywhere. Where birds and animals sing you songs under fruit trees in the light of the sun or shaded from heavy blossoming vines.

JA: What internal or external obstacles do you find yourself facing when creating your work? How do you overcome these challenges?

MARTIN: The obstacle always found in the making of art is that the heart and eye are so much faster in the making of a painting or sculpture than the time it takes here on earth. To make a sculpture can take weeks while -I've already seen it done and complete before I've touched steel or paint.

But here is the other wondrous part in the inherent slowness of snail paced life. The process that happens when laboriously dragging bags of plaster from one side of your studio to the other- Is you say to yourself Hot Dam! What if I made the next thing out of THIS or THAT - and because of how the slow things in general take it allows you to grow and evolve your notions and create new solutions to new problems and oh but gee wezz! That's just the very best.

JA: What makes a beautiful silhouette?

MARTIN: So many things, light, color boldness, vibe good shapes.

JA: How would you define beauty in 140 characters or less?

MARTIN: Beauty can look one million different ways. But I find beauty must have or be about one or more of these elements: truth, confidence, kindness, warmth, understanding, dignity and peace.

JA: Why do you love what you do?

MARTIN: I am in love with so much of this wild wide world. To be lucky enough to make art, which is essentially making visual Valentines declaring my admiration for the things I find wonderful, is a joy, honor and blessing.