

Time living abroad influences perspective

Christina Jarmolinski
of Salisbury



What type of art do you create?

The art I create is contemporary, abstract expressionism with emphasis on the spiritual, figurative and recently, pop art.

Describe your work.

Art is my life. This has become my mantra. I love to experiment, finding different venues to express myself. My work is colorful, funky, edgy and then serious and contemplative, determined by what I want to express. I consider my work spiritual and deep, although sometimes covered with a cloak of humor.

When did you start making your art?

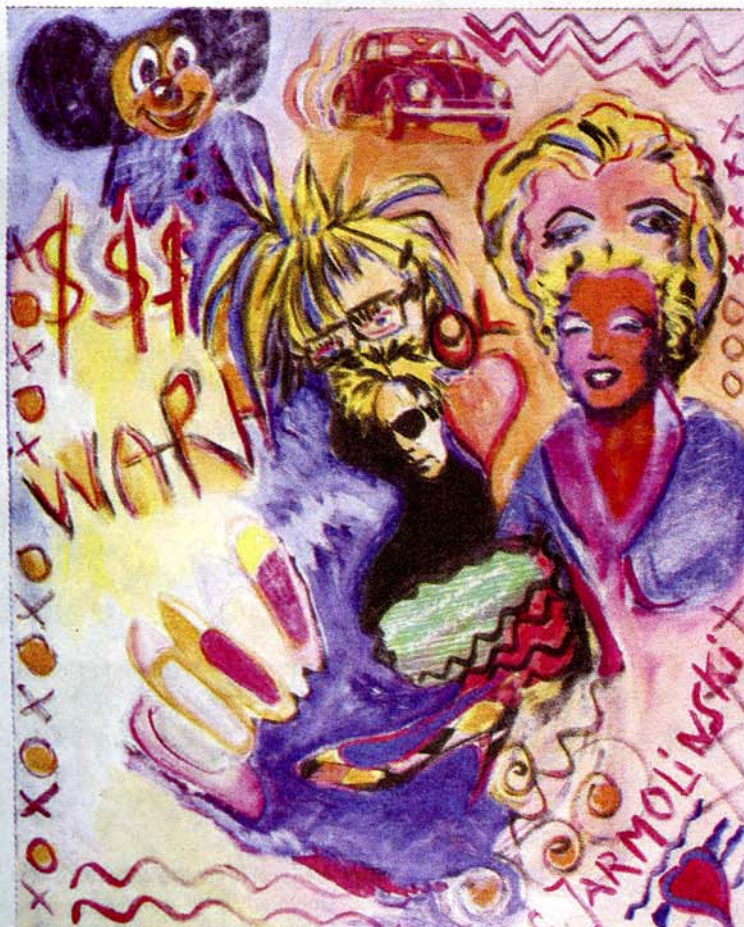
Having my high school diploma from Connecticut in my hand, I went to Europe to study in Munich. Next I studied art, primarily watercolors in the famous Austrian Expressionist, Oskar Kokoschka's Art School in Salzburg, Austria. My further art studies were at University in Trier, Germany. It was there I found my love of acrylics to express myself better than watercolors.

Working as a stage designer at the Opera House in Augsburg, I painted large-scale canvases as backdrops; subsequently, I continued painting large formats. I had the opportunity to work extensively throughout many years in the studio of a well-known sculptor/painter and art professor Erich Schmidt-Unterseher in Germany, who became my mentor and greatly influenced my art.

What inspires you?

Above all, life, nature and the ocean, with its explosive beauty, and worldly love inspire me.

Being American and living abroad, with its various cultures and extensive travels throughout Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland and India, have offered me a wide perspective



"Marilyn and Andy" is a collage by artist Christina Jarmolinski.

of life. For a while I was influenced by the architecture, especially the Baroque and Renaissance churches in Germany and Italy. I had the opportunity to view the masters of art of those periods, which I loved, Tintoretto, Amerighi da Caravaggio, Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo. I also traveled to Spain to see Salvador Dali, a modern surrealist, visiting his museum, which he designed.

I was greatly attracted to the intensive colors of Indian daily life: the markets, with their beautiful, brilliant colors of the Indian spices, the aromas and the graciousness of the Indian women in their bright saris. After living in India, my palette became colorful, abandoning the dark tones of my earlier works executed in Europe.

What are the challenges of creating your art?

I paint and let the feelings flow, sometimes confronted with restrictions, for instance, in my figurative and portrait works. I am impressed and thrilled when I am understood. I am an author of my art. I work telling the truth. I invent stories and spin yarns in my art. I talk about life — its beauty and spirituality. I am a visual artist and enjoy this challenge.

Do you make a living

through your art?

Art is a business. As a freelance artist, you need discipline to work, but above all you must love it.

Yes, I do. I also offer workshops in my field.

Do you have a job outside of your art?

No. I am thankful to have many collectors and lovers of my works in the U.S. and in Europe.

In the future, I intend to teach interested students in my studio in Salisbury. I will be offering workshops in abstract painting and mixed media in the Art Institute & Gallery in Salisbury and in the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

Who is your favorite artist?

Of the classical modern artists, my favorites are Wassily Kandinsky, Jawlensky, Picasso, Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg.

Where in the community can your work be seen?

In the Art Institute & Gallery of Salisbury's "Mid-Atlantic Regional Juried Exhibition," on display during September. Also on my website: www.jarmolinski.com.

What do you think the Eastern Shore can do to improve its arts scene?

You cannot do enough to



"Two Girlfriends Under a Tree with a Dog" is an acrylic on wood by artist Christina Jarmolinski of Salisbury. DAVID MARK HALL PHOTOS



Jarmolinski created "Cat in the Moon" as an assemblage in acrylic.



Jarmolinski's "Two Girlfriends Reading Under a Tree" is an acrylic-collage on wood.

promote art. It is important to include the public in the local art scene. Art should be presented as often as possible to the public, especially children.

More media and artists' participation in public areas, such as charity auctions, are definitely of significance for all causes.