



Curiosity and Passion: Adélia Clavien

UP Time Art Gallery's job is to inspire and fascinate through Art. Our artists create works that portray our emotions, our causes, our lives. The public always wants to know who is behind the work. Who is the artist? What does he think? What life story led to the work?

Today we talk to Adélia Clavien.

Adélia makes curiosity her path to new discoveries, to which she dedicates all her talent and energy. Her passion for art manifests itself with intensity: Music, Dance, Photography and Painting are instruments for her to express her firm and very own vision of life. Playing sax or composing her images, it is her personality that makes itself present and gives us a real example of what life is like when we live what makes us happy.

In this interview, Adélia talks about Switzerland, her first steps and her vision of Art and society.

How did art come into your life?

I always liked art and I was always very curious. This led me to discover the pleasure and charm in dance and music. I am also self-taught. I learned several languages to be able to communicate with people. I think it's great to be able to chat wherever I go. This is how I am: I want to know, I want to do it, when I'm curious I go ahead. Music, photography, painting, became great passions.

What made you live in Switzerland?

It's an interesting, even funny story. When I was 18, I lived that adolescent thing, I wanted to leave home, travel. I went to visit my sister who lived in Switzerland and I fell in love with the country. Switzerland is beautiful, wherever you go, it is wonderful, you feel like you are in a postcard. I felt really identified with the country. At first I came with a friend. The plan was to go around the world. And the world tour came to an end in Switzerland (laughter), we never left here. I always come back to Portugal to visit my family, but it has been about 40 years since Switzerland won my heart. The Swiss say I'm more Swiss than themselves. I am very "square". When I do anything, it has to be done well. I have a very Swiss way of working. In

Portugal I am also told that I became very “Swiss” and could not live there anymore. If I came back to Portugal I would want to revolutionize some things and it cannot be. Anyway, today the trip between Portugal and Switzerland takes an hour, an hour and a half. Distances are nothing these days. We have to live where we feel good, where we are happy and I am happy living in Switzerland. I identify myself with the distinction, with the culture, with the education, with the civism with so many things that I would like to see more valued in Portugal although things have evolved there. They are different countries and cultures. I fell in love with Switzerland, I think I'll stay here for the rest of my life. We'll see. Future will tell.

Have you ever been to Brazil?

I have never been to Brazil but I think that every Portuguese has Brazil at heart. I don't know if it's like that for Brazilians too. I think so, because there is something between us, it is part of our stories, yours, mine, regardless of the past, colonization. I've always loved Brazil. It was always in my heart. I know one day I will visit Brazil. It is a dream, I could have gone many times. But I'm afraid of flying, it's so far, so many hours of flying ... I've been to Cuba. It was complicated. It cost me a lot of sleeping pills. But it was so beautiful!

One day I'm going to Brazil!

Your biography features a multifaceted person: music, painting, computers and photography. How did you develop these gifts?

I don't know if I developed. My mom was a business person who really liked music. Since I was a little girl I was surrounded by songs, I started playing at the age of 8. It started spontaneously, these things have no explanation. I think that gifts are part of the personality of each one of us and some people are dedicated to developing them and others are not. When I feel that there is something that interests me I go ahead and try. If it doesn't work, it didn't work. If I feel I have a gift, I will research, I will do my best to learn, to know, to develop.

In your Art you portray the Feminine a lot, there are famous women from past decades. Talk about it.

In my images I bring famous, non-famous, anonymous women, the female predominates but there is room for the male as well. There are striking faces that "speak" to me, looks, ways, attitudes that attract me. It has nothing to do with politics, it has to do with beauty. They are faces that simply attract me. Of course, there are certain personalities that I portrayed and that I always have ideas for them. This is the case with Marilyn Monroe. I always loved Marilyn for her extreme beauty. She has a sweetness, a sadness inside. I don't know why, many times I start a portrait and when I realize I'm already at Marilyn again. Marilyn, Charles Chaplin,

Hugh Grant (this one I haven't published yet), Leonard Cohen, who I haven't published yet. They are faces that say something, that are expressive, that I appreciate and have that little thing difficult to explain: I like it. I paint more women, I don't know, maybe because we are more beautiful (laughter). What prevails is the moment. I have a huge bank of images: photographs, structures, flowers, objects, young people, women, animals and when I decide what to do, suddenly I have already chosen the woman again. The explanation may be in the eyes. Women's eyes say a lot. Maybe it's because of that.

How did you develop your style?

My style? Which one? Pop Art? Abstract? Naive? Lately I'm more focused on Pop Art, kind of stuck in the abstract. Unfortunately, because I like to do abstract art a lot, but I'm finding no time. And the public is really enjoying Pop Art. It started like this, in a joke. I always made a lot of photo compositions, I always liked that. Twenty years ago (I always keep my photos, I love to review them) I already did my compositions. Rather simpler, over time they became more and more interesting, deeper, and carry a whole message. It is a very beautiful style and it is very pleasing. The more I see that it pleases, the more I invest, I try to do better and better, stronger in order to really make an impact.

And the first of this Pop Art series started in a joke. I always took pictures, so I took a lot of pictures of my partner's daughter. One Christmas I didn't know what to give as a gift, teenagers today have everything, so I thought: Why not make a picture like that, special, with one of Marina's beautiful pictures? And I made a 100x100 cm frame, a large frame, a beautiful composition, 7 or 8 photos. It was very beautiful and she loved it. That's how it started.

We know art reflects the social context of its time. How is it characterized in current times and what would it be reflecting on the world in which we live?

Art, of course, reflects the world we live in. And what we are experiencing today is a mixture of many things, a lot of information and perhaps that can also be said of my Pop Arts. Small pieces of information, sometimes half hidden, many details, many messages about our society that I want to pass on, sometimes even unconsciously. When I'm doing my compositions, everything is very fast, but sometimes it seems that there is something that attracts me and makes me reach a photo and I feel: This is what I'm going for! It is not studied, it is very spontaneous what I do and then when it is finished I ask myself: but why did I choose this image? I don't know. It has nothing to do with politics, facts, personalities, it has to do with what I feel at the moment. With my spontaneity, what speaks to me, what attracts me and that's what I try to pass on to my projects. Let them convey what I really felt.

In the end I say: this is what I wanted with this image! At that moment I feel like I managed to create and I'm happy with myself.

In your evaluation, what is the artist's role in society?

I question the very term "artist". I am passionate about Art and discovery, I am curious. I think the artist has an important role in society but he is not always well interpreted. His influence often comes later. Sometimes recognition doesn't come in his life period. Only when he is no longer with us is he discovered, admired and understood by the public. Often the artist lives as anonymous. No one really understands his message. But his role is very important. By providing aesthetic pleasure, identification and a whole set of messages that are both poetic and social.

Which painters do you most admire?

Painters I admire? There are so, so many... I am a great admirer of everything that is Surrealism. I really like the Classic, the Contemporary, I really like the madness of a Degas, the gift of a Goya, Toulouse-Lautrec, Dante Gabriel, Dalí, Michel Salvati, Hans Dahl, Pierre de Courtois, Antoine Watteau. I really like Michelangelo, the Chinese Zao Wou-ki. Today, digital platforms allow us to meet a huge number of wonderful artists. We hope that they can one day be recognized and that they also leave their marks in history because unfortunately when talking about artists, for the big museums (these big companies), they are always the same, we already know: it's Dalí, it's van Gogh, it's Goya. We have so many millions of artists. I thank you very much Marisa and everyone who works to highlight the artists of today who, perhaps, will also mark their presence in the artistic history of the future. Hope so. There is room for everyone, it's a big book.

Which of your artworks would you highlight as a milestone in your artistic life?

I would highlight an image of Marilyn Monroe, that had and still has a big impact. It was one of the first, in red. "I love America", was the one that made me be invited to exhibit in America. It was exposed and sold there. It has been sold in different editions. It is a work that touches me. That marks me and will continue to mark me because it is a strong work. It has a crack in the middle, reminiscent of Marilyn's life: the beautiful and the dark side. We also have a beautiful side in our lives and a side of sadness and drama. It's the work I would highlight.

What is your message for those who are starting in Art?

I think all people who have art at heart, be it painting, dance, music, all arts or passions, have to go ahead. We have a personal commitment to try to express, to try to show others what we feel, without being overwhelmed by comments that

sometimes try to bring us down. You cannot be impressed by them. If you have an idea, a passion, you have to go through with it, realize it. It is very important to bring our dreams, our passions to reality. And just when we are at the beginning of the journey, we need to be strong because many may not appreciate, admire or understand what we want to express. So there can be negative criticism and it can have a destructive effect. The artist must be strong and believe in his own art. Then he can move forward. Our passion first. And then, everything else.

We fight, we seek and we are aware of our own art, so whether others like it or not, let's go ahead. One day it will only bring us happiness because there comes a time when people like, appreciate and are finally able to understand what we transmit. It is a prize, a great satisfaction. In summary, the important thing is to never surrender and believe in yourself.

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