

CONVERSATION WITH DOLORES DELIA



Dolores Delia (Buenos Aires, Argentina) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Cairns, Australia, whose practice spans painting, printmaking, drawing, photography, and installation. With a background in Fine Arts, Art History, and Creative Photography, she works intuitively across mediums, often using collage and layering to explore the intersection of memory, emotion, and communication. Her process embraces imperfection and combines old and new materials transforming personal experiences into visual narratives. Her work is an ongoing exploration of how we process, distort, and connect through visual and emotional language.

On their journey to arts

I'm a 34-year-old Argentinian artist, currently living in Barcelona. Before that, I've lived six years in Australia. I guess I've learned different things in different countries, different jobs, both personally and professionally. I've always been very artistic, more interested and attentive to creative and sensorial experiences since a young age. When I finished school, I didn't know what to do with myself. I wasn't fond of studying and wasn't a good student at school. Eventually, I learned I loved studying, just all art-related things that that they don't properly teach you at school.

I loved art, but I was afraid to study it. It was interesting to understand that I was gonna get graded by drawing and painting, something so subjective. And I chose that path.



On personal education, and creative education viewed locally and globally

I have received professional training: I completed a technical degree in Fine Arts, a short program in Art History at the National Museum in Buenos Aires, and I also studied Photography. All short degrees. I started my Bachelor's degree with a specialization in Printmaking at the public university back home, did two years, and then decided to travel to experience other cultures and techniques. I gained some knowledge in ceramics there but learned most by myself, through classes and people. There are good options for creative education in my country. The public university system is excellent but demanding, with different programs addressing various creative disciplines.

What I feel is missing, though, is guidance on the non-artistic, professional side of a creative career. It took me a long time to understand art not only as a way of life and expression but also as a business. If you want to make a living from art, there's a whole dimension of the career that I, at least initially, was clueless about.

Messaging with art

My artwork is a bit of everything I guess. It touches my life experiences, traumas, it voices my concerns about what I consume in regard to different things, emotional, psychological, material levels. Each piece of work speaks of a different thing, each image that I've taken throughout my life, has a message. Each project brings new questions, new ideas, new concepts to develop, to research. New techniques to work on. And each piece connects with different people because of their own life experiences. I guess it is a kind of philosophical search, questioning things...

The project, I was working on by doing plates, explored the idea of "what we consume consumes us." What we put in our plates, not just food, but ideas, thoughts, feelings. Anxiety, body shaming, hypocrisy, what we do for the planet, the idea of freedom, etc. This project evolved into tracing the floors of Barcelona, working with the tiles, their history, and different marks on the street floors that connect me with today and evoke multiple meanings. It's really hard to explain. Perhaps checking my latest posts gives a better sense. As I see it: "Everything I turn into paper, into clay is a record of my invisible world, the subcutaneous fabric, the warp and weft of thoughts and feelings that feed me and overflow me with sensitivity."



On Art as a representation of reality or escape from it

I think art can be both. It depends on the artists, and what they want to communicate with. There's space for everyone whether to raise their voice or let the work speak for itself. I think there are artists that work with current topics and use their work in a more disruptive and strong way, like a means to express, and put voice to others, and it's amazing. Whether it's speaking for others, engaging in politics, addressing global warming or mental health, communicating through art, etc., artists are vessels in a way. I also think art has no confines of time or space whatsoever. Again, it depends on different artists. It's relative and deeply subjective.

Online galleries and marketing artwork online

I have little to no experience with online galleries. I do sell my work online and want to expand this, using the advantage of digital tools to reach a wider audience that connects with my art and what I express by it. I guess Instagram is a good tool for me.

But mostly I sell face-to-face, in my studio, doing open studios, sharing the space I work in. I'm a bit old school. The thing is, each time I move to a new place, no-one knows me. So, it's like starting all over again. It's not easy. People need to connect with what you do, and it's nice to be able to express, chat and engage more with the people that are interested not only visually but on a deeper level. Being able to see a piece, feel its textures, and talk with the artist is a unique experience.

I guess finding ways to help artists convey and share the behind-the-scenes magic of their creative process is valuable. People like to connect not only with a piece of work but also with what's behind it.

