

CONVERSATION WITH TANIA CALVO



Tania Calvo is an emerging artist from Vanuatu, making a name for herself with her passion for arts and culture. Inspired by her diverse ethnic background and a deep connection to Vanuatu's artistic heritage, Tania is launching her career with a strong commitment to self-expression. A firm believer in being true to oneself, Tania lives by the mantra: "Always be your true self," infusing her art with authenticity and a vibrant spirit.

From a young age, I was deeply drawn to stories—especially the ones rooted in the cultural richness of Vanuatu. Whether it was painting, drawing, or crafting something by hand, I found joy in translating these tales into a visual form. I remember listening to custom stories as a child, eyes wide with wonder, and feeling the urge to capture them somehow—to make them last.

It wasn't until I was about 15 or 16 that this passion fully bloomed. That's when I truly began to understand that art wasn't just a pastime for me; it was a language I felt most fluent in—a way to preserve and share our culture, emotions, and heritage with others.



On personal creative education, and creative education viewed locally and globally

I haven't had any formal training—I'm entirely self-taught. My journey has been shaped by observation, exploration, and a lot of trial and error. But I do believe strongly in the power of creative education. Artistic training, whether formal or informal, helps individuals develop not just technical skills, but also critical thinking, emotional expression, and a sense of self.

In many places, including my own country, creative education is still undervalued—yet it holds the potential to unlock confidence, empathy, and imagination in young people.



On their journey to arts

My art is storytelling in disguise. Every piece is a thread in a larger tapestry of shared experiences—dreams, emotions, traditions, and wonder. I especially love creating art that makes children dream, but it's not just for kids. The feelings I try to capture—joy, fear, nostalgia, curiosity—are universal. My works reflect what makes us human, and through them, I hope to convey the stories and spirit of Vanuatu's culture.

Messaging with art

I believe that art does reflect contemporary life—it mirrors our values, struggles, and aspirations. Artists are often deeply sensitive to what's happening around them, whether it's social change, cultural evolution, or personal hardship. At the same time, art has this magical ability to transcend time. A single piece of work can carry the soul of a moment or speak across generations. In that sense, it's both timeless and rooted.

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I haven’t yet ventured into selling my art online or working with digital galleries. But I do see enormous potential there — especially for artists from underrepresented regions. What we need are more accessible, well-curated online spaces where artists can showcase high-quality work and connect with buyers directly. National platforms that represent artists from each country could make a huge difference. And artists would benefit from support in building professional websites and learning how to market their art digitally.

Online galleries and marketing artwork online

