

Jelena Vukotić

Butterfly Junkie

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Mike Cahill

I have theories about where art has been and where it is going.

Prior to the 20th century we were in a classical time of art - classicism, romanticism, traditional realism - where the goal was beauty. The modern art world changed the subject from beauty to a question, what is art? What is the essence? What is true? And so from the beginning of the 20th century until around the 1970s we lived in an era of mathematical distillation, removing aspects of a work until it disappeared. As exemplified in the works of Munch, Picasso, Dali, Malevich, Lichtenstein, Warhol, Duchamp, John Cage, and countless others, variables were stripped away and the edges were found. From the 1970s until now-ish we lived in the sad clutches of post-modernism – a land where universal truths are viewed as pretentious and the whole world of it revolves around a self referentialism and a solipsism that is neither humble nor well deserved and ripe with an egoism only known in warriors of the past and social media-ers of today. Post-modernism was a safe next step. It walked in the room and it was cool, ironic, collar flipped up, and cool is intimidating and people got on board. Whatever. I hope we've had enough of post-modernism.

So now what?

I know what.

The great artists of the future will have knowledge of the history of art, the strengths, the flaws and the lapses of falsity, and they will possess an intuitive connection to the ether, the otherworldly, the magic all around us. They will show us now what art can really do. The higher level. The lightning rod that channels something beyond, something divine, and lets us experience it viscerally in all of our human cells. The ethereal is there to be tapped into. And as Paulo Coelho tripped into or channeled - small, connected earlobes are the sign of someone with a gift, a great gift. This woman Jelena, this Butterfly Junkie, with connected earlobes, has the ability to touch the other side and humbly return to us with windows into that space. The space that she knows privately but gives us freely, unselfishly, with the understanding that what she shows us will open the mind to scary and metaphysical realms of truth behind the mundane objects of reality. Life is more than tables and chairs. Take beauty, take truth, take craft, put it in the hands of a gifted someone who is neither ironic or cynical, someone who is half there and half here and you have what I believe to be the next phase of the art world.

And so I say now, there will only be a handful of voices that define what is to come. And Jelena is one of those rare few.





