WORLD ART NEWS

Exploring Creativity: An Exclusive Interview with a Versatile Artist Mary Lai

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Mary Lai in her studio. Credit: ML Studio

Mary Lai | Photo by ML Studio

Mary Lai is a versatile Korean-American artist based in Los Angeles, California, whose creative ethos centers around the belief that “Art is a universal language that can resonate with anyone.” Her visionary approach finds expression in her dynamic contemporary artwork, which seeks to uplift and evoke profound emotional responses.

With over two decades of experience in the creative industry, this esteemed designer has collaborated with renowned brands and showcased her work at prominent art fairs and galleries worldwide. Here is her Exclusive Interview with The World Art News.

How would you describe your artistic style, and how long did it take you to refine it?

My style can be described as vibrant, modern/contemporary, and playful. It has evolved through several series over the past five years. As an artist continually exploring new mediums and techniques, I believe I have found my creative groove. However, I hesitate to claim mastery of a singular style, as my journey is one of ongoing experimentation and refinement. The beauty of an artist’s career lies in its longevity, and I anticipate further growth and evolution in the years to come.

Cloud 3 Magenta Aura by Mary Lai Studio

Can you pinpoint any significant events in your career that have influenced your artistic development?

The pivotal moment in my career occurred with my relocation from New York to Los Angeles, a transition that marked my shift from designer to artist. Drawing upon a decade of experience in design, I seamlessly integrated my knowledge into my visual art practice. The move to the West Coast profoundly impacted my artistic evolution across various

dimensions.

Who are your favorite artists, and which works have had the most profound influence on you, and why?

While I admire numerous artists, my top three would include the classics: Picasso, Warhol, and Kusama. Beyond the brilliance of Yayoi Kusama's artwork, I find inspiration in her personal journey as a trailblazing female Asian artist. Her resilience in overcoming obstacles resonates deeply with me. Witnessing the trajectory of pioneering artists like Kusama underscores the enduring impact of their work and legacy.

Good Eye by Mary Lai Studio

What advice would you offer to emerging artists aspiring to pursue a career in art?

Success in the art world is not instantaneous; it requires dedication and perseverance. I encourage emerging artists to prioritize consistent creation, immerse themselves in art communities, and actively engage with exhibitions and galleries. Over time, they will discern whether art is a vocation they are truly passionate about or if it remains a fulfilling avocation. While alternative paths may offer expedient rewards, genuine fulfillment lies in pursuing one's artistic passion wholeheartedly.

How do you perceive the evolving landscape of the art market?

The evolving art market presents a promising landscape characterized by increased efforts to champion diversity. Historically marginalized groups, including women and artists of color, are gaining long-overdue recognition. Embracing a diverse array of voices enriches the artistic narrative, fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment within the art world.

Dream Portables by Mary Lai Studio

How do you overcome creative blocks or periods of low inspiration?

I find that altering my surroundings serves as a catalyst for inspiration during creative lulls. By breaking from routine and exploring new environments, I often rediscover my creative spark. Additionally, I advocate for unbridled experimentation, embracing every idea without judgment. This approach transforms perceived blocks into opportunities for exploration and growth.

Do you actively participate in art exhibitions or fairs, and if so, what has been your experience with them?

Participation in art exhibitions and fairs is integral to my artistic practice, with involvement in at least one event per season. While experiences vary, I view each opportunity as a chance to amplify my artistic voice and expand my audience. Direct engagement with collectors and viewers at these events provides invaluable feedback and fosters meaningful connections.

Rise Above by Mary Lai Studio

How do you stay abreast of trends and developments within the art world?

Residing in a vibrant creative hub like Los Angeles affords me access to the pulse of the art world. I stay informed through regular visits to art shows, galleries, and museums, often accompanied by fellow artists. Additionally, I augment my knowledge through art podcasts and audiobooks, ensuring continuous immersion in the evolving landscape of contemporary art.

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