



Brian M. Viveros

Interview by: Amanda Thomas

I was recently privileged to interview celebrated fetish artist Brian M. Viveros who is known for his erotic paintings of doe-eyed beauties with cigarettes dangling seductively from their lips. Recently Viveros has been using film to deliver his dark and haunting message. His paintings are typically a mixture of oil, airbrush, acrylic, and ink. This introspective artist takes a jaded look at society at large and his work will challenge even the most cynical eyes.

What was your earliest creation? How old were you when others realised you had a talent?

WOW lets see, lets see what I see. My earliest creation was probably Star Wars characters & drawings. I was really into Star Wars as a kid and I can remember drawing my own comic based on the film. I was also into the classic monster films that I used to draw a lot & have vivid memories of good times. My parents were the first to realise my talent, I must have been around four. My father would draw all the time and show me how to put anatomy together. We would battle each other drawing characters and monsters and see who could come up with the most clever & strongest creation. This was a fun exercise as a kid and its funny because a lot of those elements I used in those drawings still play a part in my paintings today.

Who are the artists that inspire you?

I have a lot of Artist and Directors on my roll call list that I really look up to and are an inspiration to me. BIG shout outs to PICASSO, WARHOL, SCHIELE, BEARDSLEY, KLIMPT, MUCHA, FRAZETTA, DALI, H.R. GIGER, JODOROWSKY, MAYA DEREN, ARRABAL, HERZOG, KUBRICK & QUAY BROTHERS.

Do you take inspiration from every day occurrences, or is your work more abstract?

Some of the themes come from whatever I'm into at the moment. I figure out how to translate that into a painting. I just take it day by day and let things unfold. I observe a lot so I take a lot in and usually write down my ideas or do a quick doodle so I don't forget. Often times a specific word or song can lead me into what my next painting will be.

I have seen that you are now experimenting with film, do you think that this will become your predominant medium?

I'd like it to, but drawing & painting will always be in my blood. Both are like great drugs, they're very addictive but sometimes one is more addictive than the other. I really love making weird, abstract, surreal films but the thing is that there's not much of an audience for this type of movie. It's too bad, so sad. Open your eyes people before I gouge them out ha-ha! Experimenting

with film actually started in 2005 with my first short surreal movie - Dislandia. After making that movie I was hooked. Making films is truly a deep passion of mine and I'll continue to make them till the day I die. For all of your readers you can view all my film work for FREE at: www.dislandia.com

What influences your choice of medium?

I stick to the same medium that is mixed media. My paintings are a drunken mix of oil, acrylic and airbrush on maple board. I like to keep most of my paintings to 18 x 24". For me it is the perfect size for what I do. My frames also play a huge roll in my work. I collect a lot of antique frames and they add so much more to the piece. They go hand in hand together like coffee & cigarettes, the frame and the painting are one.

What do you hope that people get from your work?

A sense of STRENGTH and POWER. The approach is simple for me, to create a sexy strong smoking girl using bold and simple elements. With her empowered stare I try to seduce the viewer and bring them into my DirtyLand world. My Smoking Girls are HEROINES, they are not victims in anyway. The blood that spatters them is from a battle that has been won. They are a true force to be reckoned with sporting helmets, boxing gloves, bullfighter jackets and wrestling gear. This arm-of-me have been through it all and will FUCK YOU UP! Ha ha ha!

Do you plan your artworks before you start or do you create as you work?

I definitely plan. The ideas and rough sketches come quick but the execution for me is what takes some planning. Once the drawing and concept is really tight the painting part is easy. For me, it's getting the concept as STRONG and CLEAR as I can for the viewer. This can take some time as I really like to capture these specific poses and stares & 'the moment' so sometimes the drawing can take a lot of reworking. It's all good in the hood though. It's gotta be just right.

I notice the recurrence of tobacco products through your work. Is this because many now frown upon tobacco? Perhaps a sort of Custer's last stand for the cigarette?

The smoking thing started in 2000 and it's really just something I decided to do as a signature piece & trademark. I smoke cigarettes so I wanted my paintings to smoke cigarettes. It just kind of stuck and it always reminded me of the old black & white flicks when the woman would be smoking all sexy, there's something bad & naughty about it, and I like that.



Fight Club II, 2010

If you could have been born at a point earlier in time, when would that have been, what era would you have liked to be an artist in?

Probably the surrealist movement in the 1920's, more towards the late 20's when they were experimenting with surreal films and just doing crazy shit. I would've started my own ' Panic Movement ' Panique! Panique! Panique!

Who have you been proudest to call a fan?

My dogs Lexi & Lola

What do you have planned for next year?

Make more films, do more Art exhibitions for the world to see, drink more beer, smoke more cigarettes, go to the bullfighting academy and just keep creating. My VIVEROS clothing line will be out by then but I want to spread the word to your readers and let people know that I do have exclusive Viveros Teez out for men & women on my 'SHOP' page so go get one or two three at: www.brianMviveros.com