

KAREN SANTOS

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S O P R A N O + V I S U A L A R T I S T

KAREN SANTOS, BFA - ARTIST CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Music, Opera and Performance, Vancouver Academy of Music. Completion: 2016
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Visual Arts, University of British Columbia, 2008

INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

Art in the Venue, Solo Exhibition, Performance Works Gallery, Vancouver, BC. October - December 2015
Shattering the Silence, Leigh Square Community Arts Village, Coquitlam, BC. September - October 2015
Midnight in Paris Series, Mary Olson Hall and Telus Studio Theatre, Vancouver, BC. April - May 2015
Silence Lifted, Place des Arts, Coquitlam, BC. September - November 2014
ILLUMINATING THE DARKNESS, White Rock Community Centre Gallery, White Rock, BC. June 2014

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Oxygen for the Soul, The Reach Gallery, Abbotsford, BC. February - March 2016
Expression in Abstract, Deer Lake Art Gallery, Burnaby, BC. February 2015
Discovery: Fire, Seymour Art Gallery, N. Vancouver, BC. January 2015 c
Music for Art and Concert, West Vancouver Community Arts Council, W. Vancouver, BC. May 2014
Twisted, Port Moody Arts Centre, Port Moody, BC. February 2014
Discovery: Air, Seymour Art Gallery, N. Vancouver, BC. January 2014
Art Rental Program Show, CityScape Community Art Space, N. Vancouver, BC. January 2014
Showcase Exhibition, Glitz Entertainment, Vancouver, BC. December 2013-January 2014
Anonymous Art Show, CityScape Community Art Space, N. Vancouver Community Arts Council, N. Vancouver, BC. November, 2013
Ten Squared Fundraiser, Federation of Canadian Artists, Vancouver, BC. November 2013
International Artist Day Festival: Anonymous 12"x12" Canvas Show, White Rock Community Centre Gallery, White Rock, BC. October 2013
Art in the Park, Minnehada Park, Coquitlam, BC. August 2013
Artists in the Garden, It's About Thyme Nursery, Burnaby, BC. August 2013
Canada Day Artisan Fair 2013, Evergreen Cultural Centre, Coquitlam, BC. July 2013
UBC Graduation Show, Today's Special, Vancouver, BC. April, 2008
UBC Painting Exhibition, UBC SUB Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC. March 2007
UBC Digital Arts Exhibition, UBC SUB Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC. November 2006

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2016 [Art Finder](#)
2016 [Saatchi Art](#)
2015 On The Fringe Hair Design
2015 Burnaby Arts Council
2014 West Vancouver Community Arts Centre
2014 [Open Door Gallery](#)
2014 Port Moody Arts Centre Society
2013 - 2015 Seymour Art Gallery

PRESS

[The Source: forum of diversity- "Through silence, art speaks: Karen Santos' mixed media exhibit"](#)

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Karen Santos is a Vancouver-based Mexican artist who has been devoted to the arts and to painting since she was four years old. She began her artistic training at an early age under the close tutelage of her mother, an avid painter, art teacher, and art psychologist herself. Karen continued her studies with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Arts from the University of British Columbia. She subsequently completed a Bachelor of Music in Opera Performance at the Vancouver Academy of Music.

With this background, Karen's work is inspired by the relationship between art, music, and psychology. Working mostly with wax and oil, she creates abstract expressionist portraits of the music as an alternate means of conveying the music itself. Karen has married both forms of art in new and groundbreaking ways demonstrating that only someone with her incredible tenacity is able to understand both disciplines so intimately and join them so eloquently.

Karen is a member of the Seymour Art Gallery and Burnaby Arts Council. She has participated in various art exhibitions in the Greater Vancouver Area and has sold works internationally, including Mexico, the United States, and Australia.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work explores the symbiotic relationship between psychology and art. As a singer and a painter, I am interested in the portrayal or communication of our qualia. Qualia are "experiential properties of sensations, feelings, perceptions and, more controversially, thoughts and desires," which are inherently subjective, as we can only experience or perceive feelings in our own mind. Our inability to explain or to share our internal qualia means that we are alone in our minds because we are only able to experience within our personal consciousness. When plain language fails us, can we communicate our qualia through visual art? What is art for if not to communicate what language cannot?

Working mostly with wax and oil, abstract expressionist portraits of music emerge as an alternate means of conveying the music itself. Marrying both forms of art in new and groundbreaking ways is the vehicle with which I portray my ineffable raw feelings. The process of painting with wax is such that as the wax melts and hardens it creates texture and layers before me that result in a colourful portrait of a psychological state in a given moment. An abstract snapshot, recording the various psychological affects inspired by the experience of singing or simply listening and being a part of the music. A portrait of the music, if you will. Every step of the artistic and musical experience is recorded in each painting as a reflection of a journey. My hope is that the viewer connects with the work and experiences an emotional journey of their own.

For more information, please visit: www.karen-santos.com