

THE HEDONIST

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ART / ZOOMIN

Artist Peter Triantos | The Quintessential Quest For Colors And Passion Beyond Borders

Virgilia Virjoghe / © July 6, 2018

A spectacular weekend in June in Toronto created the perfect canvas for my meet and greet with artist Peter Triantos, a moment in time that would become an extremely inspiring and emotionally charged encounter. Way beyond his skilled approach to colors, the very prolific artist is a super-human with unmatched energy and buoyant passion, someone you would expect to see on stage giving a TED-talk on the power of happiness, inner fulfillment and therapy

through colors: "Passion is my fuel", he tells me. "People may think you need food to function. For me it is about a constant flow of energy. I feel the joy of creating with every fibre of my body and am constantly driven by passion, a desire to create. I don't ever stop painting and love working on multiple canvases at the same time..."

I discovered Peter on social media through ground breaking gallerist Philippe Hoerle-Guggenheim, the owner of HG Contemporary in New York, who represented him at the Auckland Art Fair in New Zealand. I was instantaneously drawn to the state of well-being his art exudes and the eclectic spectrum of emotions it generates through breathtaking brush strokes of abstract expressionism. It seems as though the emotions are layering on top of each other the same way his colors do: intense and joyful, unequivocally thought-provoking and relentlessly mind blowing.

The tour of his three galleries and studio has been arranged by his beautiful wife Seraphina, reminiscent herself of an art work. If Botticelli would have painted Asian women they would have looked just like her, and her wonderful personality facilitates our special interaction, rather evocative of a longtime friendship.

If the first gallery comes across as a tribute to happiness, the second suggests almost an intimate trip to a futuristic Paradise where multiple senses are engaged through colors and diffusive music that beautifully compliments the art. It's quite obvious that the artist has a penchant for vibrant colors and creating art that can be easily perceived as therapy of the senses.

At that point my heart was already captivated as much as my eyes and a quote from "Little Prince" came to mind: it is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.

On our way to Peter's studio I catch a glimpse of the overly charming Toronto, and I am quite enchanted. The space itself is divine: it's art, art, art. Large paintings, tapestries and sculptures. An avid collector himself Peter owns beautiful pieces by Picasso, Dali, Miró, sculptures from the XVIII century... His personality is larger than life, and we connect immediately; not sure if it's our Balkan heritage that brings us so close together or the fact that he has an immense love and sense of appreciation for people.



Jelly Bean #38, 2017, acrylic on canvas, 72" x 54"

July 8th 2018

ARTIST PETER TRIANTOS

His humble roots, arriving to Canada at the age of five with his family all the way from Greece, didn't stop him for following his dreams. "I don't believe we are born to be artists. We discover our passion in time, we develop it and further cultivate it. It's a progression. It's work and resilience. And loads and loads of passion... I was not trained to become an artist, I saw a friend of mine drawing and I was so captivated that I started to emulate what he was doing. Suddenly the soul of an artist emerged, and I found myself creating non-stop. I am self-taught and I feel lucky that we have nature as an inspiration. Us artists, we are tricksters: we steal from the nature". "Are you a thief?" I jokingly say, and then he turns to me smiling: "I feel like a papagallo. I look at nature and then recreate it... That is the reason that people love my 'Napa Valley' collection so much: they can identify symbols from nature, the birds, the vivid colors, and can relate to them because they are recognizable elements.

Sometimes when people look at art they think energy comes out of the painting and reflects on you. It's actually quite the opposite: the energy draws you in, in a mysterious way. I believe the power of art is being underestimated". "Is it because of the highly mediated aspect of consumerism?" I ask him. "Yes, absolutely. People should buy art that brings them true happiness, not invest in trends. Art is therapy, happiness therapy..."



His "Jelly Bean" collection found homes all over the world, in private homes and commercial spaces. He collaborates with architects and interior designers and does lots of commissioned work. No matter how busy he is, he often makes time to do a quick installation of his art in clients' homes because it makes him happy to see their joy: "My art is a thank you note to the people I love and that includes my clients of course".

A beautiful and generous soul, he is equally excited about life and love: "My wife is the best thing in my life," he tells me "I fell in love with her as soon as I laid eyes on her. Aside of being very supportive, she has an astute business sense. The first day she started working at the gallery, she sold all the paintings there". They look at each other in awe and I remark that they are a modern version of Gala and Dali. Inspiring and loving each other just like in a fairy tale.

His other love: four kittens that were found in a garage on the verge of death. He takes me to see them and four pairs of tiny eyes are staring at me. As soon as he opens the little gate, they start jumping around and climbing the sculptures. "Is it okay that they climb these art pieces?" "Absolutely. I love them, they can do as they please. You can tell how amazing people are by how happy their animals are."



Black and White #3, 2017, acrylic on canvas, 40" x 30"

July 8th 2018

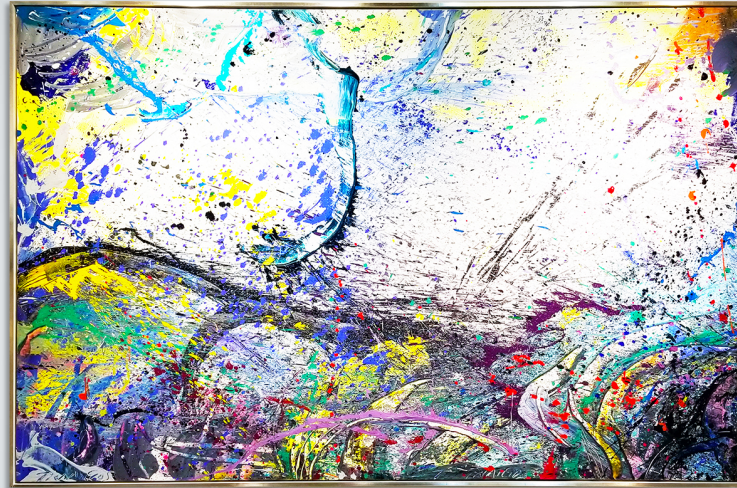
ARTIST PETER TRIANTOS

2018 has been a great year for him: a May opening at the Infinito Gallery in Tribeca in New York, where he created a painting in only seven minutes and a half, to the sound of an orchestra, under the direction of brilliant young conductor Jonathan Bingham. The art has been auctioned off to benefit Sidney Kimmel Cancer Centre at Thomas Jefferson University. A passionate philanthropist, he frequently donates his art work to Baycrest Brain Project, Brain Matters Charity, Mount Sinai Hospital, and the Gold Medal Plates Olympic Foundation, among others. The Art Fair in Auckland New Zealand on May 2018 cemented his collaboration with HG Contemporary and on June 12th-17th he participated in the Scope International Contemporary Art Basel.

This is just the beginning of a major artistic journey full of optimism and magic. As one of his artworks says: "If this was a magic blackboard to do as we wish..." What truly makes Peter Triantos a great artist goes way beyond his talent. It's his humanity, amazing spirit and humble attitude toward his talent: "I don't feel like it's me who created this it's like someone else is painting with my hand and speaking through me".

As I am getting ready to say good bye my heart feels full: the mesmerizing art, the joyful kittens, Peter and Seraphina left a beautiful mark on my heart... and as I wave good bye Lenny Kravitz's song "Again" comes to mind: "I wonder when I will I see you again... and I shall hope it will be rather very soon".

"PASSION IS MY FUEL,
LOVE IS THE KEY"



Napa Valley #25, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 72 x 108