

From humble art beginnings, to a solo show in 2007, to now—having earned artist-in-residence status at the Rauschenberg Foundation, Yassi Mazandi has quickly become a recognizable force in the art world.



Without formal training, Yassi employed passion, perseverance and the encouragement of a loving husband to pursue her art career. She experimented with every medium—drawing, sculpture, painting, and photography—and he praised every sketch and scratch along the way. Eventually, her art caught the eye of Patti Birch, a noted collector and trustee of the Metropolitan Museum, who taught Yassi how to look at art. This year Yassi received some prestigious news. She was invited as one of the first four individuals to become artists-in-residence at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation program on Captiva Island, Florida.

Why art? Sustenance, interpretation.

Is taste subjective? To a degree, but by and large you either have it or you don't.

Three loves? Art, Nature, Humanity.

Do you have a favorite piece you've created? Yes. The moment I made it, I knew, even if it did not survive my process. It survived.

Your first solo exhibition? Yes. Flux Gallery, Chinatown, LA, 2007

Among your contemporaries, whose work do you admire the most? Tim Hawkinson

The least? Copycats

Favorite artists? Milton Avery, Van Gogh, Tim Hawkinson, Lee Bontecou

Favorite music? Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," guitarists Marc Antoine and Paco de Lucia, and singer Joso Spralja.

Favorite museums? Gulbenkian, Whitney, Guggenheim, the Met, Norton Simon, Hammer, MOMA. I love museums.

Favorite period? Cycladic

Favorite galleries? Blum & Poe, Honor Fraser, Marc Selwyn

Describe your style? Western Eastern

If you weren't an artist, what would you be? Impossible



Impeller, charcoal and ink on paper

Blum & Poe Gallery J.B. Blunk Installation view, 2010, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles



Impeller Flower Bed, English porcelain and powder-coated steel, 12" to 45" tall