

START WITH ART

QUICK CULTURE'S NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL: *ARTIST, DORA DE LARIOS*



Dora de Larios

To understand the enormous talent of Dora de Larios, one must look at her beginnings. Raised in Los Angeles by Mexican immigrants, Dora's father was a scientist and chemical compounder who was employed by the famous cosmetic icon, Max Factor. In fact, Dora's father was the one who developed PAN-CAKE makeup for black and white films and went on to modify the pancake formula when Technicolor became popular in the 1930s. Her mother also worked at Max Factor as a production manager and was responsible for time management on the assembly lines. Dora related an amusing experience to me when, as a teenager, she "helped" her mother out on the assembly line and had a Lucy Ricardo-conveyor belt moment. It was on the lipstick assembly line and Ludmilla, a newly-arrived Russian immigrant, helped her clean up the pile-up, saving the day and her pride.

Dora's artistic interest started as a painter in junior high school. Her passion was so great that she paid for art classes from a local artist by mowing lawns. He humbly accepted the 50 or 75 cents she gave him for each lesson. In high school, her focus changed from painting to ceramics. Her ceramics teacher, Mrs. Johnson, recognized her as a serious talent--so much so that she gave Dora the keys to the ceramics studio at school so Dora could continue to advance her craft after hours. When it came time to graduate, this teacher, unbeknownst to Dora, applied for scholarships in Dora's

name. To everyone's joy, Dora was fortunate to have choices and got into both the renowned Cranbrook Academy of Fine Art in Michigan and the celebrated Oakland Arts and Crafts School (now known as California College of the Arts.) Cranbrook, famously known as the cradle of American modernism, still continues to have a significant impact on the world of art, architecture, and design. Outstanding artists, architects and designers such as the Saarinens, Ray and Charles Eames, Florence Knoll, Jack Lenor Larsen, Donald Lipski, Duane Hanson and Hani Rashid have been a part of Cranbrook's community of artists. The California College of the Arts boasts of alumni who include ceramicists Robert Arneson, Viola Frey, and Peter Voulkos; the painters Nathan Oliveira and Raymond Saunders; the filmmaker Wayne Wang; the conceptual artists David Ireland and Dennis Oppenheim; and the designers Lucille Tenazas and Michael Vanderbyl, The latter school, still based in Oakland but now with an additional campus in San Francisco, was thought to be too liberal vis a vis the days of Haight Ashbury by Dora's father. And, Cranbrook was too far from home. A third, USC, was chosen--- close to home and revered by Dora's father. Dora graduated with a BFA degree and maintained her scholarship status with a minimum of a 3.8 average every semester.



Earth

Her first job after graduating from USC was at I. Magnin department store as a window dresser, not unlike the humble beginnings of two very prominent contemporary artists--- Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns. They also initiated their careers by being window dressers for Bonwit Teller. Andy Warhol's fame had a similar start. After graduating Carnegie Mellon, he began as a shoe illustrator for newspaper ads at I. Miller. I wonder where the original sketches are today!

At age 27, Dora went to Florence to hone her skills and refine her sense of beauty. She adopted and defined them by seeing her art from these distinctive viewpoints:

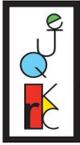
- the artist who creates the object
- the object itself
- And the third most important component---
- the viewer



My Life

Those three elements combined with visual inspirations that range from Rembrandt to Van Gogh; auditory cues from arias of opera and her keen appreciation of all cultures shape Dora's art. And, as an homage to her heritage, Dora's art delivers a narrative influenced by the pre-Columbian view of reality as a multi-layered universe. Her creations are simultaneously contemporary and classic-- clean lines which are often integrated with multiple materials. It is that combination of materials that reminds me of the traditional

(continued on page 3)



COOL STUFF

COFFEE MONA LISA

It measures 20 feet high and 13 feet wide and took a team of eight people three hours to complete. Each coffee cup was filled with varying amounts of milk to create the different sepia shades of the painting.

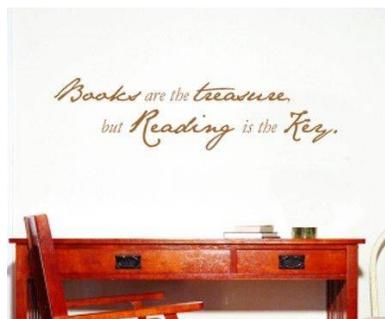
The different colors were created by adding no, little or lots of milk to each cup of black coffee. It was created for The Rocks Aroma Festival in Sydney, Australia, and seen by 130,000 people who attended the one-day coffee-lovers event. 3,604 cups of coffee were used. Elaine Kelly, from event organizers of the Sydney Harbor Foreshore Authority, was delighted with the result. She said: "Each coffee cup was filled with varying amounts of milk to create the different sepia shades of the painting. "We wanted to create an element of surprise and a sense of fun in the way we engaged with the public. Once we had the idea of creating an image out of coffee cups we searched for something iconic to reproduce - and opted for the most iconic painting in history.



"The Mona Lisa has been reproduced so many times in so many different mediums but, as far as we know, never out of coffee. Watch the YouTube Video – stop motion of the process: [CLICK HERE](#)

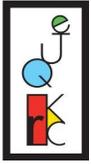
BE YOUR OWN MAGRITTE...

[WriteMyWalls.com](#) personalizes your wall decor with your favorite vinyl wall quotes, monograms and wall letters. Select one of their standard wall quotes, themes or wall art OR create custom vinyl wall lettering of your own. Write My Walls lettering can be applied to painted walls, windows, mirrors, wood, most wallpaper and most tile. Write My Walls is easier than stenciling yet looks painted on.



ART JOKE

A thief in Paris planned to steal some paintings from the Louvre. After careful planning, he got past security, stole the paintings and made it safely to his van. However, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of gas. When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied, "Monsieur that is the reason I stole the paintings. I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh!" See if you have the De Gaulle to send this joke to someone else. I figured I had nothing Toulouse.



EDITORIAL ((continued from page 1))

Greek sculpture of ancient times which present themselves today quite differently than they did then. The buildings were colored in brilliant hues with detail sometimes coated in gold. The sculpture whether bronze or marble often used ivory, gold and jeweled inlays. For the human form, glass and gems were frequently inlaid for the eyes.

Upon visiting her studio it is easy to see how Dora incorporates aesthetics and technology with patience and tenacity. These innate talents are clearly inherited from her father's artistic ingenuity and the organizational proficiency of her mother. Each creation starts with a distinctive concept, followed by a detailed sketch and a precise step-by-step orderly process of the chemistry of the medium. Treat yourself and see Dora's unique interpretation of one of humankind's first inventions--- one that has been evolving for centuries--- the art of ceramics.



Life Force

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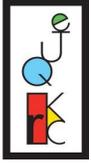
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MORE COOL STUFF

WEARABLE ART?

Before I saw the set of pictures below, I never thought there was something special about folding cloth. Now, I have to say, "Something that is ordinary, doesn't mean it cannot be special. Sometimes, art just needs to go one step further than what we are doing in daily life."





MORE COOL STUFF

CAMOUFLAGE ART:

Liu Bolin, the 35 year old artist from Shandong, China has mastered the art of camouflaging himself against virtually any background. The talented Liu Bolin says his art is a protest against the actions of the Chinese government, who shut down his art studio in 2005 and persecutes artists. It's about not fitting into modern society. Despite problems with Chinese authorities, Liu's works are appreciated at an international level.

Liu often works over 10 hours straight on his art to achieve masterful perfection.



CINEMA: CINEMA: 26 Films That Changed the World of Visual Effects. [CLICK HERE](#)

This clip is from UKRAINE'S GOT TALENT! This young Ukrainian girl tells an entire story via pushing around sand on a table. She uses nothing but sand and her hands to create these images. It is a sand animation of WW2 in Russia. The songs are also about that horrific time but what an amazing artistic talent! [CLICK HERE.](#)

ARCHITECTURE: Check out Pivoting Skyscrapers [CLICK HERE](#)

FASHION: Here's a glimpse into the future of fashion from 1930. They weren't too far off base! [CLICK HERE](#)

ONGOING TOURS

We are continually posting new scheduled tours for our 2 most popular tours...the **Museum Tour for Kids** and our **Modern Art** both at the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art**.

Visit our website: www.quickculture.com for dates & times.

Written and Published by Ellen Greenberg and Charlotte Robinson, co-owners of Quick Culture.
