

Meet Susan Lizotte

February 20, 2024



We were lucky to catch up with Susan Lizotte recently and have shared our conversation below.

Susan, so many exciting things to discuss, we can't wait. Thanks for joining us and we appreciate you sharing your wisdom with our readers. So, maybe we can start by discussing optimism and where your optimism comes from?

As a neo-medievalist painter I view the world through a lens of history and art history. I see history repeating itself (i.e. the pandemic of 2020 repeating the Great Plague of 1347) and the patterns that emerge tell a story of human perseverance. That gives me tremendous optimism. We as humans have had obstacles, disease, wars and still there are times of great peace and people working together to solve issues. In my work I have contrasted Medieval/Renaissance art with what I see happening currently to tell a new story of what has happened and reworked into new paintings to tell a new story. Some may see that as a warning, but I prefer to think it has a deeper meaning about human resilience and an endless optimism that the future is always in our own hands if we change or adjust things.

Thanks for sharing that. So, before we get any further into our conversation, can you tell our readers a bit about yourself and what you're working on?

I'm currently working on a new painting series titled "The Fool's Journey" based on a deck of Italian Tarot cards from 1491. The series riffs on these ancient tarot cards as a metaphor for the human journey. The Fool represents us, as we each begin our human journey beginning with childlike innocence and wonder. The series progresses with paintings that go on to tell a story unique to tarot, depending on the vertical orientation of upwards or downwards, each painting has different meanings. Even death means a new beginning rather than a grim end. Each painting will have a different meaning depending on which other painting is next to it or below it, all arcane adventure that can be endlessly curated. Paradoxical meanings, and counterintuitive meanings abound and I love that the paintings can tell such a complex story. I love these tarot paintings as a synecdoche for our humanity's struggles. Ultimately the paintings are an invitation into a game of self discovery.

Looking back, what do you think were the three qualities, skills, or areas of knowledge that were most impactful in your journey? What advice do you have for folks who are early in their journey in terms of how they can best develop or improve on these?

Understanding what you want to convey with your art is an all important skill. and I think knowing what medium is best to convey what you want to say is another, whether it is through painting, watercolor, sculpture, graffiti or paper cutouts. Thinking about what you want to say is the hardest thing. And for me knowing how to paint, knowing color theory, how to create my own exact palette, all are necessary skills. lastly, getting your art photographed properly is essential or you can't share it with anyone!

One of our goals is to help like-minded folks with similar goals connect and so before we go we want to ask if you are looking to partner or collab with others – and if so, what would make the ideal collaborator or partner?

Collaboration is wonderful and working with others always brings new ideas to the table. I have collaborated with quite a few people and companies and its been a joy. I am open to a collaboration, please contact me! Painting is such a solitary thing, I think and create in my studio. It is incredible to come up with new ideas to connect with others and get creative in the process.



Image Credits: Alan Shaffer photography

Contact Info:

Website: <http://www.susanlizotte.com>

Instagram: @susanlizotte

Facebook: @susan.lizotte.5

Twitter: @susanlizotte