

Pam Stoddart

When did you first consider yourself of a professional? I don't think I am a professional. But maybe just recently, when I started to really get my stuff out there.

How long have you been in this studio? Nine months.

What is your medium? I work in acrylic, sometimes liquid ink and oil pastels, too.

What brands do you use? Matisse, although it is very expensive and I always forget to close up my paints. I did learn this trick where I put my mixed paints in a Tupperware container and seal it shut when I'm done. It keeps them from drying out. This is so helpful because it is almost impossible to create the same color twice. I also use Golden and Liquitex.

How do you price your pieces? I price them by size and how long it takes to do it. I also try to be realistic about how much someone will pay for my work.

Do you work on one piece at a time or do you go back and forth between a couple? I'm always working on multiple pieces, especially if I'm creating a series.

How do you come up with titles for your paintings? When I find inspiration for a painting I'll sometimes base the title off of that. For example, if I get inspired by a photo of someone lying under a blanket, I would make the title something along the lines of "Blanket." Right now I'm working on a series based on drugs and their chemical structures. So the titles are based on the name of the drug, like cocaine might be "Jitters" or "Snow White" and Ambien might be "Awake."

Do you listen to any music when you are painting? Yes! Always. My music depends on my mood. Pandora has definitely changed my life. I'll listen to anything from classical to Eminem. I really love that one. Reggae is fun. Also, if I hear a song on the radio I like, I just plug it into Pandora.

How often do you clean your studio? I never clean. I should probably go over and clean up those wet brushes right now, actually. I do try to clean up after myself. I never wear shoes either, good thing I have this foam floor. It used to be in the other room but I decided to move it in here.

Where did you go to college/get your college degree? I didn't get an art degree. I went to the University of Colorado for engineering and computer science. I always took art electives whenever I could. I ended up graduating with an English degree. Then I moved to California and went to Laguna Beach College of Art and took classes. When I moved to NYC, I took classes at Parsons for fun. I was always taking as many classes as I could.

Do you sit or stand when you work? I mostly stand.

Is there a specific item you always have when you're working? A favorite tool? My pallet knife -- I have so many in all different sizes. I use them to mix and paint.

What inspires you? Something I see. I take pictures of everything with my iPhone camera. I'll see something and think "I want to paint that." Also art and magazines inspire me. I'm always flipping through pages and tearing them out to use for inspiration.

Do you have any advice for young artists? Definitely. Someone once told me that no matter what, go to your studio for 30 minutes a day. Force yourself, like it's exercise. It's amazing what you can do when you don't want to work. I tried this for a while and I was pleasantly surprised.

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