

A PIVOTAL *Pursuit*

To understand the mind-set to capturing form, Rachael Bryant sits down with Natalia Mancilla, the Peruvian figurative artist, who unveils how a true artist's journey is ever-evolving

Tell us what attracted you to the world of art

My creative journey has been a deeply personal and rewarding one. I've always been drawn to the life of an artist, but it wasn't until six years ago, that I decided to take the plunge and pursue formal academic training.

I enrolled in art classes at MIFA (Miami International Fine Arts) a well-known Atelier Art School in Miami.

This environment fostered a strong sense of discipline and commitment to craftsmanship, which are essential qualities for any artist looking to grow and excel.

Over the years, I've devoted myself to honing my craft, jumping on experiences that allow me to experiment with different techniques and styles, helping me develop my creative voice.

Where do you find inspiration?

My creative journey is a deeply introspective one. I've found that my most authentic and compelling work emerges when I tap into my inner world.

I've always been profoundly influenced by the timeless beauty and craftsmanship of classic realism. Among the artists who have left an indelible mark on my creative vision, John Singer Sargent stands out as one of my all-time favourites. Sargent's mastery of form, his ability to capture the essence of his subjects and the exquisite details, have



been a guiding light.

Is there one specific medium that helps capture your artistic vision?

Choosing a medium among the ones I work with is challenging; each has its unique charm and presents distinct hurdles. However, if I were to pick one, I'd say oils hold a special place in my heart.

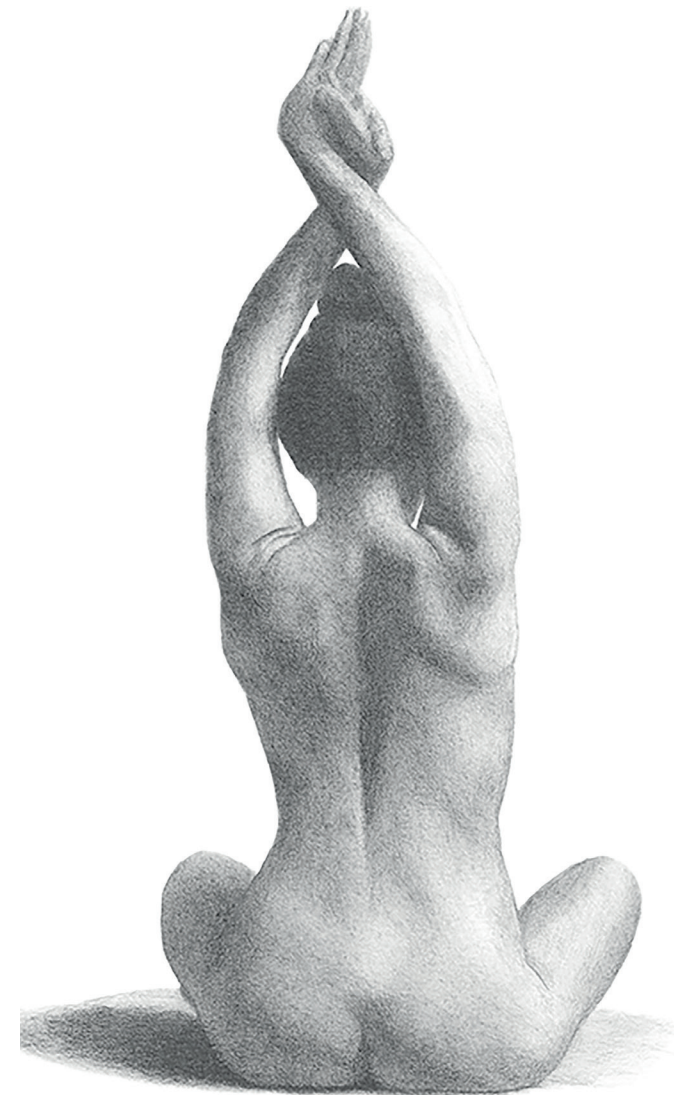
Oil paints offer a captivating blend of challenge and forgiveness that continually draws me in. What I love most about them is their versatility; they allow me to explore a wide range of techniques and styles.

When capturing true form, have you found it translates more in monochrome or colour?

I find the choice between working in monochrome or colour to be an artistic dilemma, and truth be told, I appreciate the unique qualities of both. Each offers its distinct advantages and challenges, and I've come to appreciate them for different reasons.

When working in monochrome, there's a certain elegance and simplicity that I'm naturally drawn to. The absence of colour allows me to focus on the core elements of form, texture and shading. It's a process that demands precision and a keen eye for contrast and tonal values. Monochrome pieces often convey a timeless and classic quality, emphasising the essence of the subject without the distraction of colour.

Working with colour on the other hand, opens a world of expression that I deeply enjoy. It allows me to infuse my art with emotion, atmosphere and depth and evoke specific



moods that may be challenging to express in monochrome.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Continue practising your craft every day and never lose momentum. Life constantly presents challenges and distractions, and while it's okay to pause, it's crucial not to let them become prolonged periods of inactivity.

One of the most valuable lessons I've learned, is the importance of consistent practice. Every stroke of the brush, every sketch and every moment spent honing skills contributes to growth. It's not just about talent; it's about dedication and perseverance.

Talent is a precious gift, one that not only brings value to your life, but also to those around you. Art has the power to inspire, evoke emotions and connect with people on a profound level. Don't neglect this gift; nurture it, cherish it and let it flourish.

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