

Celebrity Interview - Angela Cartwright

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Happy Wednesday everyone! We're feeling a little under the weather here because we're experiencing something like the GLOOMIEST JUNE on record (or something that feels like that). I may have to blog about ARK building this week!

I thought I'd shine a little sunshine on your day and share my interview with Angela Cartwright with you!

Angela Cartwright is known for her acting roles in Make Room for Daddy, The Sound of Music and Lost In Space and has been a photographer and artist for more than four decades. www.angela-cartwright.com/MULTIsmile%20sm.jpg Her work is exhibited and collected internationally.

Angela's book Mixed Emulsions – Altered Art for Photographic Imagery was released in November 2007. This book was inspired by her collections of altered art Beyond the Pale and Soul Dwellings explores Angela's hand-painted photography and her unique altered art techniques.

She partnered with artist Sarah Fishburn to co-author In This House - A Collection of Altered Art Imagery and Collage Techniques which was released in July, 2007. They collaborate on another book In This Garden - Explorations In Mixed Media Visual Narrative released in April 2009.

Angela and Sarah also produce and edit Pasticco Quartz a QQuality ART Zine three times a year.

EAS: We all know of your remarkable acting in the past but have you always enjoyed the visual arts?

I have always loved art. As a very young child I always had coloring books close at hand. My father was a technical artist and later an art director and I loved watching him draw. In my teenage years I was seduced by photography, that passion has never gone away. I intersperse art into my daily life as much as I can because it makes me so happy.

EAS: What does the perfect day of creativity look like in the life of Angela Cartwright?

A perfect day is one where the ideas are abundant and the art just flows...When I am not interrupted by some pressing appointment or phone call and I have the day to myself...It helps if the coffee is robust and the music is loud...

EAS: When you're stuck creatively how do you get out of that kind of funk?

First of all I don't agonize over it...life pauses and sometimes takes a breather...so when I do feel a little drained I take a walk...I water my garden...I put on the history channel...I call up a friend to join me for lunch...Some days I believe I am just not meant to make art..

EAS: You seem to be involved in everything from photography to clothing design do you have a favorite medium?

Its hard to pick just one art medium... but here are a few of my favorite art things.....acrylics and watercolors and cold press paper...rapidigraph pens and graphite pencils, transparent oil paints and inks...oil sticks...cotton yarn, hankerchief cotton and silk...molding pastes and oh yes...gesso...I LOVE gesso!

EAS: As a follow up to question 4...how do you juggle all of your creative endeavors.

I have always been good at handling several things at one time. I think it comes from being a child actor and having to go from rehearsal to school and back to rehearsal and focusing on what you are doing at the moment.

Quarry Books/Rockport Publishing had asked me to write a book about the varied techniques I use to color and hand paint my photographs and some of the ways I embed those images and use them in my mixed media art... So I wrote Mixed Emulsions – Altered Art Techniques for Photographic Imagery. It includes a huge selection of my photo art and all this information that was rolling around in my head. It was a relief to get it down on paper even though it was stressful and exhausting to do by myself with the deadline I had been given. I had several projects going on at the time and I just had to remind myself to put one foot in front of the other, and to breathe. When you author a book you use both sides of your brain and you just have to focus on what side you are using at the time.

My other projects like my clothing company ac studio 9 has been all consuming as well, but it helps to have a partner like Connie Freedman who shares the same vision as I do and is in the thick of it all with me. From fabric to image choices for the studio art brooches...from the website to the sewing details...every part of it has been an invigorating and new challenge.

EAS: What are you working on now?

Besides expanding the clothing line in anticipation of Fall, I am working on #7, the latest Issue of Pasticcio Quartz - the quality art zine I write, edit and publish three times a year with fellow artist Sarah Fishburn. Every issue is a combination of new art from dozens of established and emerging artists, interviews, quips, quotes and more. It is tons of work but we have a blast doing it. It keeps us on our toes that's for sure.

And...I just finished up an article for Where Women Create. A new book coming out next year that explores the studios that artists work and create in. It got me thinking about enlarging my studio and having it open to the outdoors. I am getting the urge to work on some larger pieces...and I like to jump on it when the muse hits me.

And there is also the ongoing maintenance of my websites which I design and produce myself. So I have plenty of things to keep me busy right now, but I'm happiest when I'm busy.

EAS: Any dreams of what you'd like to work on in the future?

I'd like to work on some sculptural pieces I have swimming around in my head...I also have some watercolor and sketch experiments that I have been wanting to do for the longest time...and I just returned from a European trip that has inspired a brand new photo art exhibit.

EAS: Here at Everyday Artist Studio we always love to ask. What inspires you ?

Information...colors...beauty...history...music...travel...dreams...family and friends...there is inspiration everywhere...

EAS: Your books IN THIS HOUSE and IN THIS GARDEN are a collaborative project. Can you tell us how working with other artists affects the outcome of your work?

I am always amazed at how one word can spark such diversity and my newest book In This Garden sparks plenty. Each artist interpreted the word GARDEN with their own unique style of art. There are tons of ideas, techniques and an insight into each artist on every page.

I don't think working with other artists affects the outcome of my own work...but it does lift me up and make me a better artist. While we may oooh and ahhh over what others produce, in the end you have to let your own voice spill out into your work...You may be influenced by a certain style...but you have to put your own spin on it...You've got to let go and jump in with both feet...and that's when the magic happens, when you become a bit unruly and speak your art.