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CONTACT:

Felicia Perkins

Email: gallery@wbap.org

Press Kit: www.wpab.org

Official Site: www.wpab.org

Rock and Roll Never Forgets

Paintings on Life, Love & Music by artist Christine Cozza

Opening reception: May 26, 2006: The Wisdom Bridge Arts Project is proud to present Christine Cozza's *Rock and Roll Never Forgets* exhibit.

Cozza is an established Chicago artist who has had numerous solo exhibits in the Chicago area, work in corporate and private collections globally, and has received several awards for her work. The emotion music provokes is Cozza's main influence, which is demonstrated through multiple mediums in her work from ranging from painting to graphic design.

The Wisdom Bridge Arts Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the arts to the residents of Rogers Park and the Chicago area, especially children. The members of WBAP believe exposure to the arts effectively unifies communities and gives the residents a creative outlet. Previous WBAP events and programs include a solo exhibit of published political cartoonist Tim Jackson, an annual music festival and a summer theater camp for children in Rogers Park.

The opening reception for *Rock and Roll Never Forgets* will be Friday May 26th from 7 to 9 p.m. and is open to the public. The WBAP gallery is located at 7543 N. Paulina St., off the Howard Red Line stop. To contact WBAP email gallery@wbap.org or visit the website www.wbap.org. Regular gallery hours for viewing are Fridays 4-7 p.m.

Opening reception:

Friday May 26, 2006

7pm

Wisdom Bridge Art Gallery

7543 N. Paulina

The Gateway Centre - plaza level

Chicago IL 60626

www.christinecozza.com

www.wbap.org

To request interviews, press kits & photos please contact the artist directly
Christine Cozza 773.856.5174 or cozza@bigmonkeypress.com

Artist's Bio



He who fights with monsters should look to it that he himself does not become a monster. - Friedrich Nietzsche

Artist Christine (Flores) Cozza was born in Chicago IL on December 24, 1968 of Puerto Rican and Greek parents. She spent much of her time as a child moving between both parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

This was a confusing and lonely childhood marred by violence and abuse.

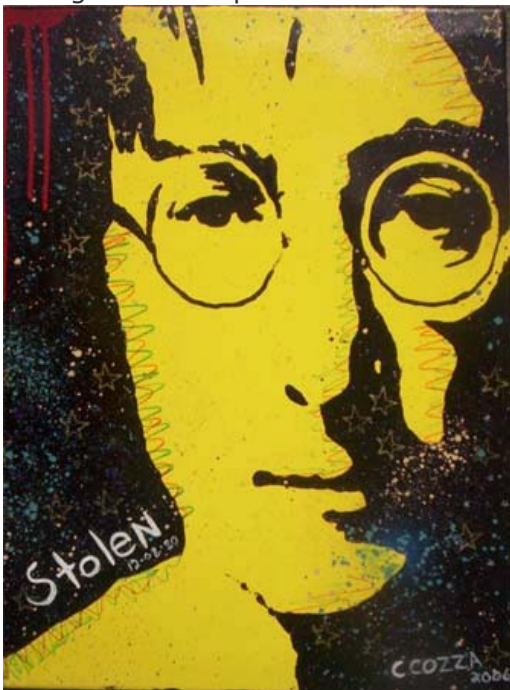
It is in that chaos and uncertainty that Christine escaped into a world of words, music, art and darkness. It is also in that world of words, music, art and darkness that had saved her. If a Shaman is, as Joseph Campbell states, an individual who has survived overwhelming psychological experiences, that would be Christine.

Christine is a prolific, self-taught, visual artist that has experimented with many different mediums and artistic styles intermingling mixed media and typography. She also writes, is a published poet, plays guitar and piano, is a sought after poster artist and has even collaborated with renowned artist, Bob Masse; pioneer of the emerging psychedelic art genre. Some well-known people that own Christine's work include the late, Carlos Cortez, radio personality Buzz Killman; guitarist Derek Trucks; author, Steve Elliott; and artist, author, Tony Fitzpatrick

Balancing environmental, social, economic, aesthetic concerns, Christine pays homage to the men and women who have innovated and inspired between craft and genius, entertainment and art, music and poetry, composition and improvisation, struggle and beauty, scandal and spiritualism.

"In my own conflicted sense of identity, in longing for purpose, intensely felt, with fragmented experience and knowledge I remember what Picasso once said, "Anyone who likes my art is a masochist".

With that being said, I am a hack, I am a fraud and I paint because I have to. It is easy to get lost in life sometimes...so much beauty, so much sadness, and so many contradictions. It is only in liberating my subconscious that I can befriend my inner genius, have empathy for my self-defeating monsters and have them over for cocktails."

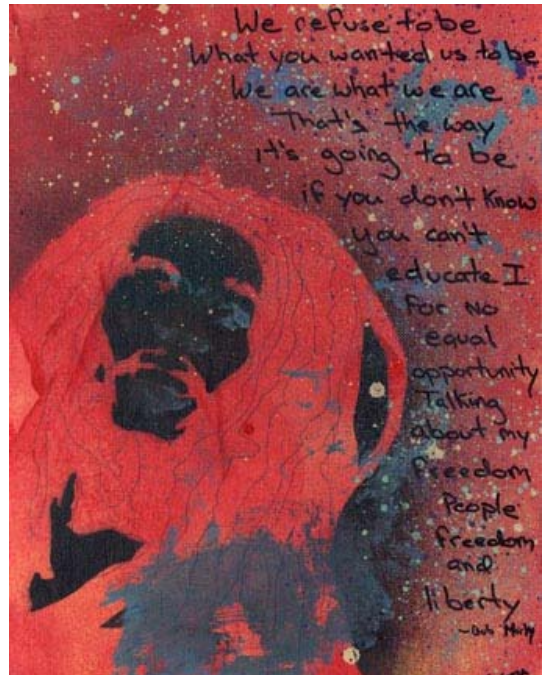


With such a wide range of influences from Basquiat to Picasso, Kahlo to Cortez, Van Gogh, Bearden, Rousseau and Cezanne; it is in study of their highly psychological and un-stylized works that Christine had educated herself.

Christine says that she would rather die than live in a world without art, music and love. Her paintings have also moved people to tears. Her mother recently asked her why she does not paint like Monet or paint flowers. Christine does not like Monet. She does love flowers.

Christine Flores-Cozza: The manifesto that Ricardo Flores- Magón is holding states: "This stuff of 'art for art's sake' is an absurdity and its defenders have always gotten on my nerves. I feel such a reverent admiration and love for art that it causes me great distress to see it prostituted by others who are incapable of having others feel what they feel nor think what they think, hide their impotence behind the slogan of " 'art for art's sake.' "Do you feel that the artist has a responsibility to convey messages in their art that make people more politically conscious?"

Carlos Cortez: I think that is one of the obligations the creative artist has, because art can only flourish under freedom. If art flourishes under freedom or the artists who are strong enough and courageous enough can fight, can use their art to fight tyranny, repression and that. Of course an artist, his obligation, a creative artist, whether it's a visual artist or a non-visual artist has to express what he or she feels the strongest about. And it would be useless to say to someone who has no particular sociological convictions that they should be sociological in their art. That would be something like the forced "People's Art" of the Soviet days. It has to come from the heart, from how one feels. A lot depends upon the awareness of the artist in question. If the artist is only interested in the commercial world, well, then sociological, humanitarian concerns are not for them. Of course the truth is that the artists who do make it on art alone are few and far between. Those who are fortunate enough to have patrons and steady patronage. Usually a person who is a creative artist does it as a sideline. I am often asked by young people about making a living at art. I tell them,



"Do you want to make a living of art, or do you want to make a life of art?" If you want to make a living of art, I can't help you. But if you want to make a life of art, I will give you all my encouragement. Because the truth of it is, those who make a living on art alone are few and far between. Entertainers, you know, like musicians and singers and actors can get a little steadier recompense. And that is why I think that, to me, I agree perfectly with Ricardo Magón: the concept of art for art's sake is absurd. It's like saying a hamburger for hamburger's sake. You do not disrupt the structural integrity of the hamburger by eating it.

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