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MidMo Etsy: Morli Wilcox and her paintings

by BECKY NEEMS on OCTOBER 24, 2013 2:00 PM · 1 COMMENT

Morli Wilcox has multiple crafts: she paints, she sews and she loves music. She is a musician and helped arrange [Lodgestock Festival](#) in September. Wilcox has been mentioned before on Vox for [opening up a studio](#) in the [North Village Arts District](#). This week VoxTalk had a chance to talk with her about her art on [Etsy](#), inspirations and upcoming projects.

Vox Talk: How did you get started?

Wilcox: I started around 8 years old. I just began exploring painting in my playroom by myself upstairs. I was already interested in and drawn to the biological aspect of abstract design and pattern because my father's office was right next to my playroom. He was a surgeon, and I used to flip through his huge collection of *National Geographics* and medical journals. We lived in this older neighborhood in Dallas, Texas. I would walk up and down the street door-to-door trying to sell my paintings to my neighbors for a penny. I had somewhat of an understanding that I wanted my work to be seen.

VT: Did you have influence from your mom?

Wilcox: My mom had art shows at my house. She was very much into the art/design community. I was exposed really early on to art. The [Dallas Art Museum](#) is amazing.

VT: How else are you inspired?

Wilcox: It dawned on me searching for my niche that there's definitely a metaphysical realm of my inspiration. It comes from the ability to stop thinking and just allow an energy to take the place of thought to become a spontaneous action through my paintbrush and canvas. If you look at my work you can see that they're all different, but you can see they have a similarity in which they're very pattern oriented. I start with a particular movement and as the layers continue, patterns will develop and come to surface, and it's like the whole thing is one living thing, but it's a pattern of many different things interconnected.

VT: Have you ever felt nervous to show you're work?

Wilcox: That's probably been the biggest psychological barrier. There's a period of doubt that I think every single artist, specifically painters because I've heard other painters talk about this, goes through. Even when you start a piece, you'll like it at first, then you'll go through this incredibly self-scrutinizing doubt. I'm a musician. It's the

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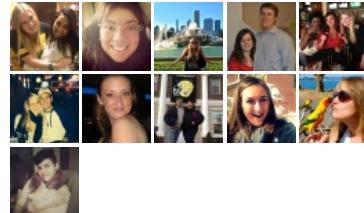
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same thing. It's just part of the whole process. If we didn't doubt ourselves we wouldn't push ourselves to grow further.

VT: What would you describe your work as?

Wilcox: I've become focused on abstract expressionism. I call it "chaos theory expressionism." I can do portraits. I can do landscapes. But I can't let myself completely go when I'm trying to copy something that's in front of

me. Abstract work is the only work I've discovered that you're able to let yourself go. The rules create themselves as the piece develops. I've been compared to Jackson Pollock before. When I compared his work to mine it wasn't that they looked the same, but it was more of once I started researching more of a mathematical process of his work that I had to admit to myself that we were similar as far as our application. Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Cindy Sherman are influences of mine. Not necessarily because of their style but more of their perspective.



Photo by Becky Neems



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VT: How are things going with Etsy?

Wilcox: For the past year I haven't been focusing on my shop as much as I could have, but it's all just a learning process. When started with Etsy October 2nd of 2009 I was incredibly successful. It seemed like every piece I listed sold, and within about three months, I sold seven pieces. The idea came up when a passing friend one time said, "Have you ever thought about selling your work on Etsy?"

VT: Any complications with Etsy?

Wilcox: The only part of Etsy I didn't like was the shipping. So that's why for many years now I've had an idea in my head to start doing a clothing line. So with clothing, you fold it up, put it in a box and you know it's not going to be destroyed or maimed. It will make it there safely.



Photo by Becky Neems

VT: Tell me more about the clothing line.

Wilcox: One of my ideas for the clothes I want to design is that they're all incredibly unique and incorporate vintage fabrics. The styles of aprons I've been wanting to start out doing have been all based on patterns from the '50s and '60s. The concept behind them is not only will they be vintage-inspired but also they will be vintage material incorporated. All the fabrics are re-purposed and recycled. That will be part of their uniqueness.

VT: Just aprons?

Wilcox: Not just aprons. Right now I'm working on re-purposing a work suit, a monkey suit, and I'm turning it into a dress. In order to make them I take the apron itself, and I draw a pattern on a large piece of paper. I'm looking at, "What can make this fit just a little bit better?" I don't want them to just be "functional." I want them

to be fashionable. I want to do a line of aprons and tea length work skirts that are for working in. That will be a focal for the coming year, just moving things and focusing on making an income rather than just developing as an artist.



Photo by Becky Neems

VT: Are you going to be selling the clothes on Etsy?

Wilcox: Yes. Not only am I planning on selling them on Etsy because I'm not scared of shipping them, but I'd like to also work up to doing a local art show displaying the designs on walls just like you'd do with paintings.

VT: Do you have any events coming up?

Wilcox: I'm hanging a (painting) series at the [Main Squeeze](#) on Ninth Street on Sunday November 3. I'll take it down the beginning of December. Art is such a personal thing when you're either looking at it to buy or producing it to be seen. You want it to be in a location where people accidentally see it. I think it's important to have things right there to be viewed, to be taken in, even by people who aren't coming into the restaurant. I want to allow my work to be collected on a broader scale because that's much more fun to not limit my collector audience.

Take a peek at Wilcox's [Etsy](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

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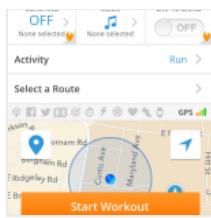
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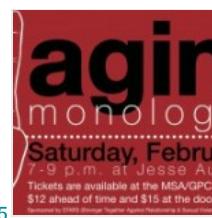
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