

ARTIST-ACTIVIST FRANCESCA GALLIANI BRINGS HER MESSAGES OF EMPOWERMENT TO FASHION

ART / CULTURE
December 08, 2017 5:00 PM

Post tumblr. +

Modern day social activism can be found and utilized everywhere from social media to organized protests. With so many different mediums to express one's values, virtually anyone can have a voice. Such is the case for **Francesca Galliani**, an established Italian artist and photographer who expresses her principles of liberation, human rights, and empowerment through her photographs. Whether she's capturing the beauty and authenticity of two men interlocked in passion or lensing a portrait of transgender youth, there's always a palpable sense of genuine emotion that runs through her work. It's that raw vulnerability and emotion in her subjects that's enabled her work to be displayed in galleries and exhibitions all over the world. Galliani understands the importance of standing for what you believe in and has always pledged to use art as a form of such expression. An active ally and member of the LGBTQ community, she never wavers in her resoluteness and longs for the day acceptance and equality for all are ingrained in our society. It was during Pride Month in 2015 in New York City, where she currently resides, that she first branched out into clothes and now has a line of t-shirts, sweaters, and jackets called **Made in Me 8** that are both screen-printed with her gelatin silver print artwork and hand-painted. Galliani manually works vintage t-shirts and modifies them with raw edges, collages of different materials, unfinished seams and metal details. These pieces of "wearable art" are imbued with social messages of hope and acceptance such as "Love Wins," "No Bullies," and "Transgender Rocks." TWELV caught up with Francesca to learn more about her upbringing, the universal nature of her work, and why she's not done yet.

TWELV: Have you always been interested in art and photography?

Francesca Galliani: Certainly not always. I grew up in Italy but didn't have any artistic inclinations until I moved to the U.S. when I was 19. I decided to enroll in art school in Washington D.C. and took classes for fun. I was always pretty good at drawing, but I also took a basic photography class where I learned how to really use a camera. I fell in love with photography almost immediately, and I spent a lot of time in the dark room with my photographs. My instructor was very supportive and really encouraged me to pursue my newfound passion. I discovered how much life photography gave me, and in many ways, it suspended me and enriched me. I went to Corcoran School of Art and received my BFA there.

TWELV: How did you find your niche after college?

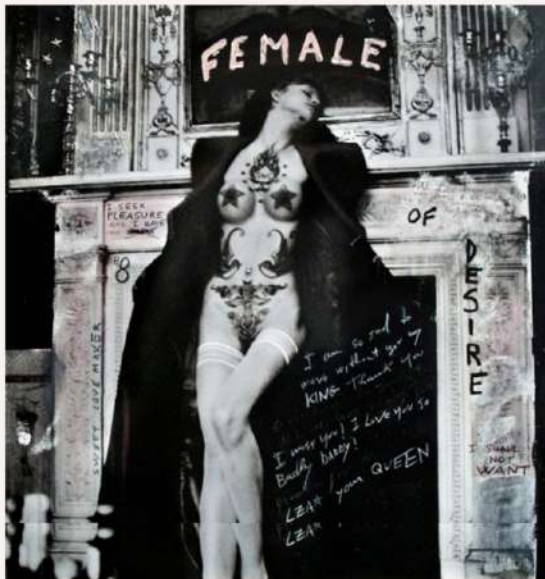
FG: My heart was really in the fine arts, but eventually I began to engage in fashion photography. I was interested in fashion from an artistic point of view, where I sought to create a mood and transmit a message. With my clothing line, I'm going back to fashion but from a totally different point of view. I really admired Robert Mapplethorpe as someone who really put himself out there. I practiced fashion photography with magazines in Milan, where I travelled to 2-6 times a year. It's really the market that's embraced my work the most. Eventually I moved to New York City in 1990 after living in D.C. for 8 years.

TWELV: How do you go about choosing your subjects and capturing the image you want?

FG: I choose my subjects based on the project I want to work on. And for each shoot, I always aim to start from a blank slate and then listen. I have these intimate conversations with my subjects that will allow me to form an element of trust. Having that connection is very important to me. In school I did some nude self-portraits, and for me, it was always a way to access emotions from my subjects that clothes would otherwise prevent by being a wall of sorts. I like to showcase beauty in all its forms. I've shot nude men together as well as beautiful, erotic, sensual women but who are also very strong. My work is grounded in socio-political elements that I hope are brought out with each shot. Two men in love, kissing, for example, presents a message about basic human rights. And I started photographing transgender women in the nineties.

TWELV: How do you see art, in particular your work, affecting change in society?

FG: We've come a long way with LGBTQ rights and acceptance but still have a long way to go. Unfortunately, there is still a lot of violence, particularly towards trans women of color. As far as my work goes, I want to bring out the beauty and



dignity in these people who've been rejected by society. My next project, for example, will be with one person as opposed to the multiple subjects I've shot together in the past. And I'm taking it further and hope to capture and explore the different sides of our sexuality. In order to bring about change in society, art has to think outside of the box. There's something very immediate about work that's pushing boundaries, because it sparks dialogue right away. Looking at our past-- Stonewall, the AIDS crisis-- all this brought so much awareness. Education, arts, teaching demonstrations, standing up for our rights-- it all contributes to progress.

TWELV: Why do you think your work has resonated with so many different galleries and exhibitions worldwide?

FG: Everyone can relate to the human condition. Emotions are universal and my work is rooted in that. Conceptual art is intellectual, but the work I do is more human in nature.

TWELV: The LGBTQ community is of particular importance to you. How has this impacted your work?

FG: This hits very close to home for me. This is my community and it's important to carry this message wherever I go. The way I express myself and advocate for my community is through my art and it all starts with awareness. Through my work, I hope to break barriers of preconceived notions and help advance my community's causes this way.

TWELV: How did Made In Me 8 come about?

FG: The name itself is made up of two parts. I chose *Made In Me* because my art comes from within, and I take it to another level. And then I chose to add 8 because it's always been my number. I was born on 8/8. It started during pride in 2015, the year gay marriage was legalized. I made some t-shirts for my friends with the words "Love Wins" and everyone wanted to know where I got them. This allowed me to take my art to the streets and make it more accessible for a wider audience. The screen-printed shirts have my original art work literally printed on them. I chose artworks that express my point of view. They start a conversation, which is very hard to do with so many different strong points of view, especially in this divided climate. The hand-painted shirts have strong messages of hope and acceptance. There is power in words and they draw you in more. Context is everything.

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PHOTO CREDIT: FRANCESCA GALLIANI

Instagram: @madetnme8 / Facebook: Made in Me 8

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INTERVIEW: ADRIANA WYNNE FRENCH-AMERICAN MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST

French-American multi-disciplinary artist studying a BFA degree at Parsons school of Design in Fine Arts and acquiring a minor in Museum and Curatorial Studies.

February 24, 2025 9:59 PM | ART / CULTURE



POINTILLISM REVIVED: RISING ARTIST CAIRO DWEK CONNECTS THE DOTS

Cairo Dwek left behind her life as a model in Los Angeles to pursue her aspiration of becoming a fine artist.

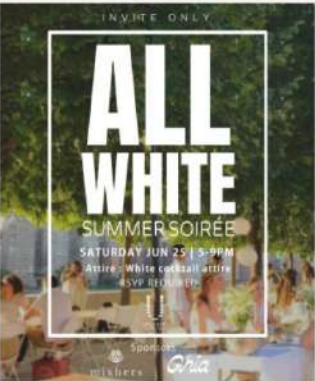
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CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL INTERVIEW: BENEATH THE ESSENCE OF CLAY

Christopher Russell spent his youth in a small town outside Boston, Massachusetts. According to his kindergarten report card, he had an "unusual talent for art".

March 24, 2023 10:54 AM | ART / CULTURE



ALL WHITE SUMMER SOIRÉE PARTY

ALL WHITE Summer SOIRÉE Party was held on June 25, 2022 and the night started out with the beautifully dressed guests.

July 21, 2022 7:05 PM | ART / CULTURE



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AMERICAN BALLET THEATER SUMMER GALA

Spring/Summer of 2022 has seen a rushing return of events, dressing up, and the social calendar.

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OLAF BREUNING INTERVIEW

OLAF BREUNING Interview is now



RYAN MCGINLEY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Standing before the images created by Ryan McGinley, one becomes entranced by the irresistible visions of freedom and joyous irreverence.

February 27, 2020 4:57 PM | ART / CULTURE



WOLFORD LEADS THE SUSTAINABLE FASHION REVOLUTION WITH DUAL CRADLE TO CRADLE CERTIFICATION

Making History With The Aurora Collection

August 20, 2019 9:08 PM | ART / CULTURE



INTERVIEW: LISA ANN MARKUSON ON MODERNIZING HAIKU

The minimalism of Haiku poetry—it's English form dictated simply by the syllabic pattern 5-7-5—allows this traditional Japanese verse to span languages, cultures and ages.

May 17, 2018 4:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



INTERVIEW: BETTINA WERNER'S PIONEERING USE OF SALT IN ART

Being an artist isn't just a matter of creating paintings or sculptures in a particular medium, it's about making your mark on history.

February 13, 2018 5:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



ELIZAVETA LITOVKA 'FLOWIERDY' FOOTWEAR SCULPTURES INTERVIEW

Naïve Beauty: Flowierdy

May 29, 2022 11:12 PM | ART / CULTURE



INTERVIEW: GRACIE ELLISON PORTLAND BASED ARTIST

Gracie Ellison is a self-taught Portland based artist who focuses on canvassing portraits of grumpy and solemn faced women with use of patterns, textures and colour. She was drawn towards canvas...

October 10, 2019 11:40 PM | ART / CULTURE



INTERVIEW: FAHREN FEINGOLD CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ART

The name of contemporary American artist Fahren Feingold has become synonymous with fluid, feminine watercolours in her...

June 25, 2018 6:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



INTERVIEW: ILLUSTRATOR ROBY DWI ANTONO ON HIS STARTLING SURREALIST IMAGERY

In a single painting, Indonesian artist Roby Dwi Antono combines a breastfeeding lamb, a kiwi bird, power ranger, crocodile, and a child.

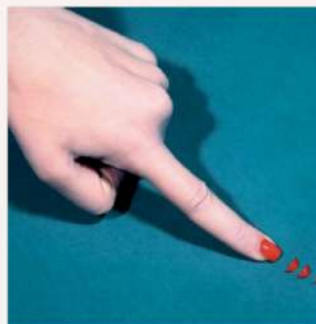
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SHIOTA CHIHARU EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

TWELV interviewed performance and installation artist Chiharu Shiota and discussed her personal and professional life, as well as her inspiration and what plans she has for the future. The COVID-...

August 29, 2020 5:06 PM | ART / CULTURE



MAURIZIO CATTELAN INTERVIEW "MAD SCIENTIST"

MAD SCIENTIST by MIGUEL FIGUEROA

September 17, 2019 9:23 PM | ART / CULTURE



ZIP III OPENING MARCH 9TH

Like it or hate it, we live in a fully connected digital world these days.

March 07, 2019 10:00 AM | ART / CULTURE



INTERVIEW: REBECCA LEVEILLE'S SOLO EXHIBIT "THE END OF LOVE"

Certain artists have captured the zeitgeist of a particular time and place in such a powerful way that history will forever be represented through their images.

May 04, 2018 12:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



"ONE YEAR OF RESISTANCE" RECALLS AN UNSETTLING YEAR UNDER PRESIDENT TRUMP

During President Trump's inauguration week, curator Indira Cesarine hosted a group art exhibition entitled Uprise / Angry Women in response to the election.

January 17, 2018 5:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's said in a tweet on February 24 that "Now, more than ever, we need concrete support."

March 02, 2022 7:16 PM | ART / CULTURE



BODY BEAUTIFUL EXHIBIT OPENING NOVEMBER 21ST

"BODY BEAUTIFUL"

A Group Show Curated by Indira Cesarine

OPENING RECEPTION: November 21, 2019

November 19, 2019 11:38 AM | ART / CULTURE



"GREETINGS FROM SWEDEN" BY RUVAN

Ruvan Wijesooriya is a self-taught American Photographer, who began by starting a skateboard brand before moving to working with clients such as Vogue, Samsung and many in the nightlife...

August 20, 2018 3:35 PM | ART / CULTURE



JÖRGEN AXELVALL'S "KÄR / LEK" PHOTO EXHIBIT IN TOKYO

For Jörgen Axelvall, photography is a language.

April 10, 2018 3:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



ARTIST MISHA KAHN'S ANTI-RIGHT-ANGLE EXHIBITION "MIDDEN HEAP" ON DISPLAY AT FRIEDMAN BENDA

available!
QUERIES OF A QUIRKY MIND

...

June 18, 2020 4:50 PM | ART / CULTURE



YAYOI KUSAMA INTERVIEW "AN OUTSIDER TO INFINITY"

In Yayoi Kusama's world, everything is a polka dot — the cosmos, the earth, the world, stars, the moon, and people.

November 19, 2019 8:30 PM | ART / CULTURE



FIAC 2019 ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

FIAC 2019: Artistic programme

July 13, 2019 6:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



OUSSAMAH GHANDOUR'S JOURNEY FROM AD-MAN TO PAINTER

Do you remember that episode of Mad Men when Don Draper decides to quit the ad business and follow his true calling as a painter?

May 03, 2018 10:00 AM | ART / CULTURE



ARTIST-ACTIVIST FRANCESCA GALLIANI BRINGS HER MESSAGES OF EMPOWERMENT TO FASHION

Modern day social activism can be found and utilized everywhere from social media to organized protests.

December 08, 2017 5:00 PM | ART / CULTURE





INDIRA CESARINE'S "ONLY YOU" ART SERIES VISUALIZES EMOTIONS AFTER BETRAYAL

New-York based artist Indira Cesarine premiered the video format of her art series "Only You" at Art Basel Miami in 2010...

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JUST CAVALLI RESTAURANT & CLUB OPENING IN PORTO CERVO

From the brand that fully embraces the bold and vibrant Dolce Vita lifestyle, now comes the ultimate nightlife experience. On July 14th, the...

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INTERVIEW: LIN DAI, CEO OF HOOCH, THE GAME-CHANGER DRINKING APP

Hooch is here just in time for the holidays! The Hooch app is the first-of-its-kind, subscription-based drinking app, offering customers 30 free drinks a month for just 10 dollars.

December 06, 2017 3:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



YAYOI KUSAMA TO OPEN NAMESAKE MUSEUM IN TOKYO

On your mark, get set, go! Yayoi Kusama enthusiasts will be delighted to know that tickets to the venerated Japanese artist's namesake museum go on sale August 28.

August 24, 2017 5:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



CHROME HEARTS MIAMI TRANSFORMED INTO CANDY SHOP AND GALLERY FOR ART BASEL

Chrome Hearts is celebrating Art Basel at their Miami retail space with a pop-up confectionary and café, alongside the launch of group exhibition in their second floor gallery. The...

December 06, 2017 1:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



THE WITTY POP ART OF ALESSIO FRANCESCHETTO

Minimal, quirky and straight to the point, all uniquely describe the work of artist Alessio Franceschetto, a superhero of graphic art.

June 01, 2017 3:00 PM | ART / CULTURE

Artist Misha Kahn lives in a world free of right angles.

December 08, 2017 4:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



ASHLEY JUDD & GLORIA STEINEM ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT APNE AAP BENEFIT

The award-winning actress Ashley Judd, luminous in a bisque maxi-dress, was feted at a Manhattan soiree on Thursday night.

October 02, 2017 2:00 PM | ART / CULTURE



CHAPPY'S "DRESS THE D" HALLOWEEN CAMPAIGN PROMOTING SAFE SEX

The new-on-the-scene dating app Chappy has gained recognition for its mission and success in producing more meaningful...

October 31, 2017 4:00 PM | ART / CULTURE