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Unfettered

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Doraelia Ruiz Artist Statement

My life has been built on high wire tensions between the two vastly different worlds I live between. I live somewhere between illusions of minority success and harsh realities of not having a trust-fund in an elite world. I'm neither here nor there. Painting is my one refuge where I can combine the vastly different worlds I exist in and between. My works are the only semblance of a home that doesn't vanish .

In my paintings, I am toying with ideas of broken portraits, inept portrayals, tarnished reputations and dreams, and how our circumstances alter how we are displayed to the world at each given moment.

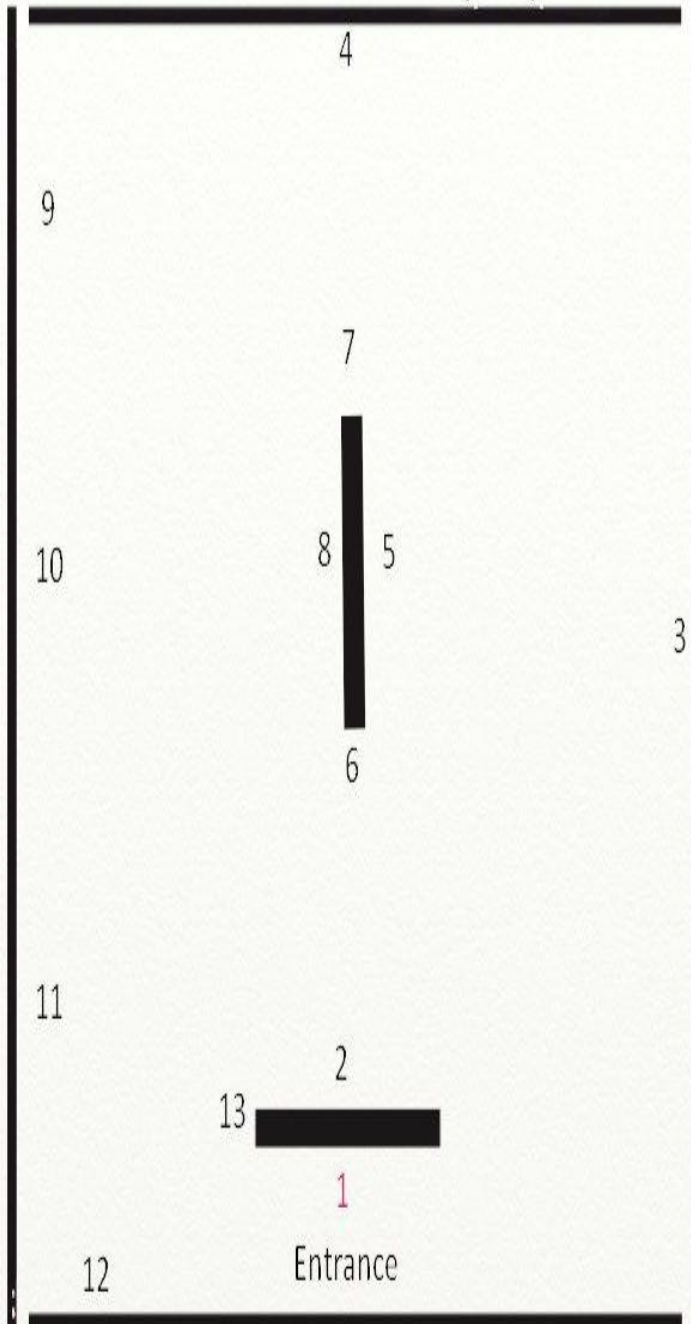
In keeping with this quest, I have taken photographs of real paintings in my studio and uploaded these slides into a digital painting program. Once in the digital realm, I begin to "break" the image apart using a wide array of programming tools. I also collage them with other paintings and other photos of mine.

The aim twofold, on one hand, I wish to dissect and examine what compositional elements of each painting contribute to a dynamic image and it's ultimate manifestation. On the other hand, like to annihilate an image's own personal history and craft something new out of the destruction; out of it's own devastation. I find I can mirror my personal history within remnants or pieces of an image and the story it told. I make it mine by destroying it's own essence and re-fabricating it in a more complex way.

I am looking at an image not for what it is, but what it could be in a different context or environment. These paintings, like myself, become alienated in their own space. Their tension creates a wonderful violence that leaves its mark on the new image they jointly create. Their strengths are in their vices and there is great power in that.

Tracey Emin once awoke in her filthy bed after a depressed alcoholic binge, said "this is me" and showed her deepest flaws and humanity to everyone. She accepted herself and openly shared her darkest side with the world. I find incredible strength in that and I look for that type of honesty in my studio. Unflinching honesty.

Doraelia Ruiz Gallery Map



1. Self-Portrait
2. Brilliant Catastrophe
3. How a Cowgirl Says Goodbye
4. Underachiever
5. MoMA
6. Blue Collar
7. Sonic Napkin Dispenser
8. Garden and Vine
9. El Chapo
10. Murica
11. Rot In Hell
12. Livianos
13. Virgin Mary Birthday Cake