

INTERVIEW SABRINA WORTH FOR MUSÉE MAGAZINE JULY 2015

1. What was your inspiration behind the Fallen Princesses?

When my daughter Jordan was 3 yrs. she began to be enamored with Disney Princesses. At the same time my mother was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and these two events colliding made me think about the realities and hardships of life: as opposed to the 'happily ever after' scenarios spoon-fed to us by popular culture. I began to imagine these perfect Princesses with troubles of their own and then conceived narratives that placed them in modern times.

2. Did you imagine all the reactions you would receive for this series?

I could never have imagined the massive response that I would receive from this series. When the Fallen Princesses first went 'viral' in 2009 I was inundated with press requests and personal letters. Mostly the reaction was positive and many thanked me for confronting the mythology around the Princess culture. Mothers wrote about their experiences with their daughters who have been enchanted by these characters and their displeasure with Disney, who appropriated the Princesses and have inserted a fluffy version of the original parable into the hearts and minds young children throughout the world. I heard from young woman who have grown up imagining a life where they would be 'saved' by a man who would provide and protect them, only to be disillusioned and left without the tools to deal with the realities of the world today. I was confronted with some negative feedback from those that had their own interpretation of the work, specifically Red Riding Hood and Jasmine. With Red the conversation revolves around fast food and obesity. Jasmine, a Middle Eastern character garnishes discussion about discrimination and completely misses the mark about woman at war, my main theme in this piece.

Also much of the criticism comes from those that don't fully understand the underline social critic that I offer within my work. Despite the many international publications and web sites that have featured the Fallen Princesses in the past, the series continues to go viral, and attract new eyes and much discourse.

3. Rapunzel is particularly a touchy image for a lot of people. Can you give a little background on this photograph please?

Rapunzel was the first piece that I conceived because it was inspired by my mother's Breast Cancer. I wanted to speak to the fact that Cancer is so prominent in our society and that regardless of age, social standing etc.. no one is immune. Also hair is so cherished in o and beauty standards today dictate what is sexy and what is not. Rapunzel's hair is essential to her narrative and I wanted to investigate how would she fair with the loss of it.

4. Do you get offended by the negative letters you receive in response to the series?

I try not to get offended but actually the opposite happens...I am excited by any response that my art creates. In fact discourse within my art is essential and welcomed.

5. How would you like to respond to all the critics?

There will always be critics out there making their positive or negative opinions known. I am all about free speech and I try to stay open to all views. I rarely respond to comments because the artist interfering in conversation diverts the whole point of art as a means of discussion and interpretation. I will however respond if my art is misrepresented and used for propaganda that I do not subscribe to eg...Alive!