

Gerardo La Porta

(Italy)

Modern Art



"I interpret everyday vision through portraits, eye expressions, the light falling on flowers and plants—observing everything with a watchful eye and blending elements of Pop Art and Abstract Figurative styles. My work is an amalgamation of art and design, rooted in the natural environment and enriched by dynamic, meditative patterns that emphasize harmony and connection. Inspired by the interplay of architecture, nature, humanity, and wildlife, I pay meticulous attention to detail, pushing creative boundaries by experimenting with new materials and styles. My goal is to evoke moments of calm and solace, encouraging a deeper appreciation of patterns and connections in both human and natural realms.

Portraits hold a special place in my work. I focus on capturing the light, the gaze, and the quiet moments reflected in a person's expression, emphasizing their state of mind and inviting viewers to see themselves in the art. Each painting is a statement of positivity, with African-tribal lines serving as symbolic elements that chronicle my journey.

My art is autobiographical—a documentary of life's shared experiences, encompassing human emotions, natural landscapes, and the contradictions that make us human. Through bright colors, overlapping brushstrokes, and detailed patterns, I seek to create meaningful connections that inspire and uplift."

Gerardo La Porta is a distinguished portrait artist celebrated for his vibrant use of color and unique fusion of Pop Art, figurative abstraction, and modern impressionism. Born in Eboli, in the heart of southern Italy, his artistic journey began in secret, nurtured by a deep passion for creativity and a determination to follow his calling despite the expectations of his upbringing.

As a young man, Gerardo honed his craft during quiet moments shared with a neighbor who shared his artistic curiosity. These formative experiences laid the foundation for his mastery of oil painting, which he later expanded to include acrylics and watercolor. His work reflects a profound fascination with the interplay of light, form, and emotion, drawing inspiration from his Italian heritage, personal experiences, and a deep appreciation for natural beauty. Gerardo's artistic expression bridges diverse influences, from the bold patterns of African tribal art to the overlapping brushstrokes and vivid hues of modern impressionism. His work celebrates the vibrancy of life, weaving together themes of human connection, personal growth, and the harmony between humanity and nature.

In recent years, Gerardo's art has evolved into a deeply personal and autobiographical exploration of life's shared experiences, capturing the universal beauty of the human spirit. Through his portraits, he invites viewers to pause, reflect, and find solace in the dynamic yet meditative patterns that define his work. Today, Gerardo La Porta continues to push creative boundaries, using his art to foster meaningful connections and inspire a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of life.

[View his Solo Spotlight Show](#)

Interview

1. Your art blends Pop Art and Abstract Figurative styles with African-tribal influences. How did you develop this unique combination, and what inspired you to integrate these elements?

"The Figurative was the basis of my self-taught studies, most of the art students are doing as well, then I came across and pushed towards the Abstract which I consider a form of rebellion against what are the principles of classical art. The fusion of the two styles came as experimental paintings, then I received appreciation and greater requests, so I continuing on this way until I defined my own style. The African-tribal influences are due to my travels around the world and the love for everything related to Africa. I am very influenced by PopArt because I am comfortable making a portrait with characters that are very close to Comics. Everything match in my soul, my Art vision."



Portraits are central to your work. What draws you to focus on the human gaze, and how do you capture a person's state of mind through their expression?

"I'm looking for moment of the expression of the face, the eyes specially, they show their soul, it looks like a fotograf, a forever vision of what the Artist can see on, and tell to everyone what is the feeling of the portrait. This is what I'm thinking when I paint."

You describe your art as an autobiographical documentary. How do you decide which facets of your life or experiences to translate into your paintings?

"We remember above all the beautiful things, the beautiful moments of life, to suppress the sad mood of the moment; all of this pushes me to choose the images that convey happiness, the places I have been and the people I have met, because I want to convey the positivity of life, a better world, the sense of freedom that can be found and felt anywhere in the world, and therefore within each of us."



African-tribal lines play a symbolic role in your work. Can you elaborate on their significance and how they connect with your overarching themes?

"Tribal lines are a link between the ancient world and the modern world, Many of these signs are still evident today, although they are very developed in the art of decoration, in the interiors of apartments; for me this connection is eternal, I recognize it in everything that surrounds us, wherever we turn, there is a reference, this is combined with the beauty which Africanness is expressed, and I love it. It is a world to be discovered because it still hides many truths that we do not know, and with my art I try to get as close as possible to its beauty."

Your style has been described as "Modern Impressionism." How did this evolution in your technique come about, and what does this style bring to your art?

"I followed an interview with David Hockney, a contemporary artist, who exalted this trend, and I found his works where he manages to give a new vision of it. Fascinated, I began to use his technique and I felt at ease, considering it personal. Other influences I took from Erin Hanson, another contemporary artist, very expressive."



How does your Italian heritage and upbringing influence the way you approach your art, particularly in terms of color and form?

"Living in the south of Italy is synonymous of sunny landscapes, bright colors, full of vitality, and that's what I've taken with me on my travels, what I've found in many other places I've been; My soul is full of colors that I distribute on my canvases, which are my mirror."

Nature and connection are recurring themes in your work. What is it about the natural world that resonates so deeply with you as an artist?

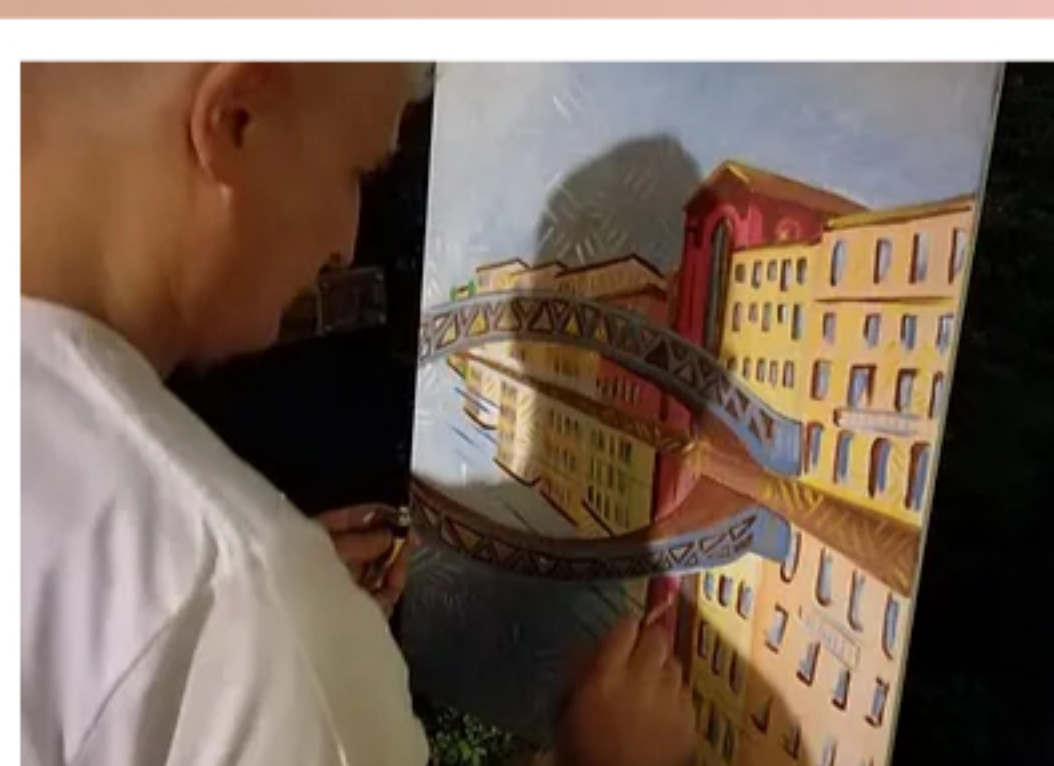
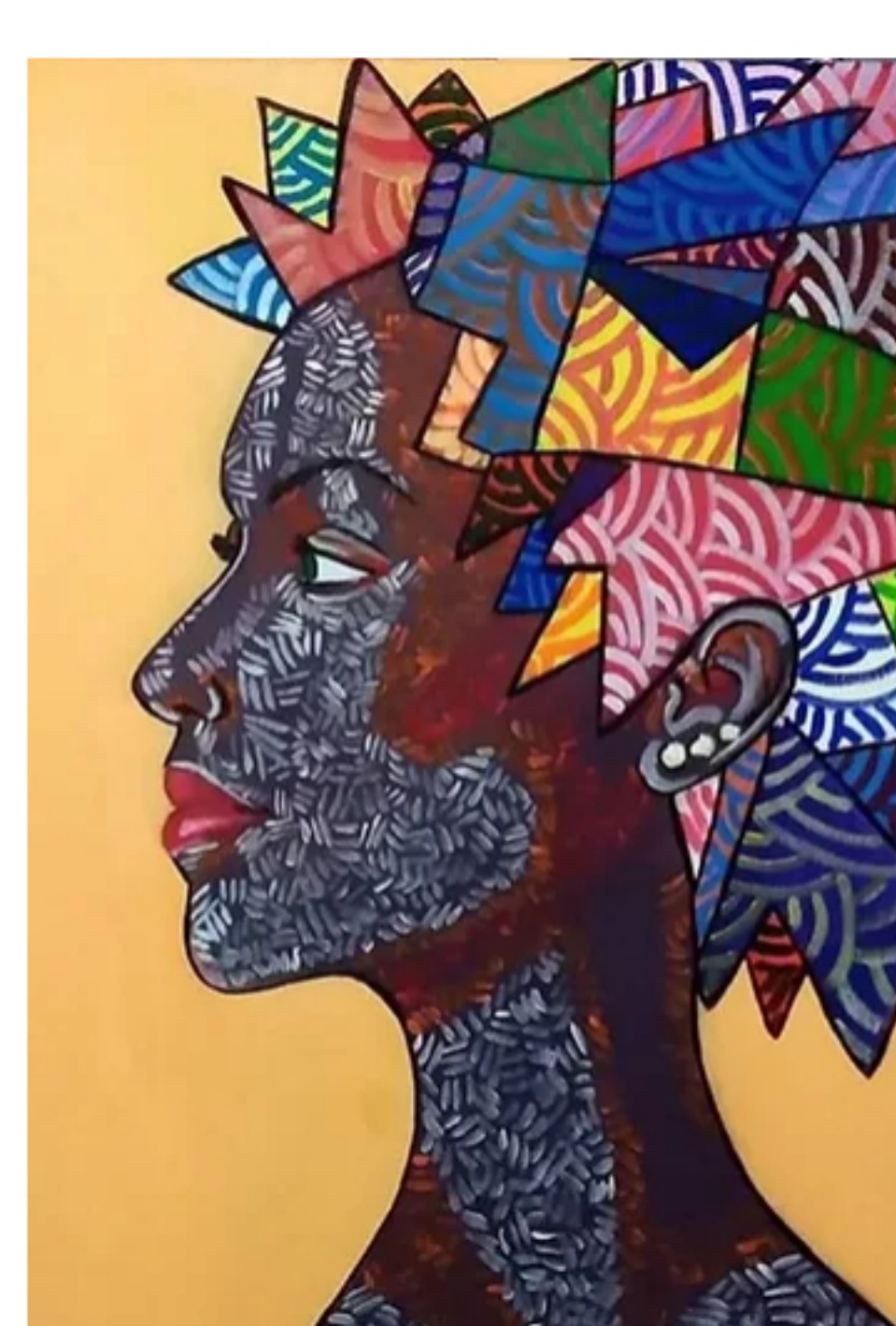
"Deeping myself into the nature its always brings me tranquility, reflection then leads to happiness: sometimes a dark moments, or bad weather, I've been inclined to portray an imaginary landscape, which always conveys tranquility, reflection and happiness. My open diary."

You experiment with oil colors, acrylics, and watercolor. How does the choice of medium affect the mood or message of a particular piece?

"I don't know when I use oil, acrylic or watercolor for paints, except when it's on demand; most of the time it depends by the mood or the desire to try a specific technique. I use watercolor when I am short of ideas so I start drawing and use it, it relax me, or to sketch for an important painting."

You aim to evoke calm and solace through your paintings. How do you balance this with the vibrancy and dynamic energy of your bright color palette?

"I feel the energy that passes over my whole body and reaches the brush and the color palette in preparing the color, it is an uncontrollable symptom, I am as hypnotized by the mind (I have already schematized the picture in my mind) and by the colors."



If you could collaborate with another artist or art movement—past or present—who or what would it be, and why?

"I would like to work and meet David Hockney in person, I am intrigued much by his vision of the world in a Pop key mixed with the Impressionist style. I am fascinated also by his way of working with the iPad, which I think will have a strong following among modern artists."

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[Youtube Solo Spotlight Show](#)

