

Sandra Nitchie

Sandra Nitchie's portraits of famous figures incorporate the motif of Day of the Dead figure La Catrina to mysterious effect, creating tension between what is seen and what is known. A skeletal character popularized during the Mexican Revolution, La Catrina was initially a satirical symbol of class revolution. More recently, the figure has been transformed into an icon of death incorporated into Mexico's Day of the Dead celebrations that commemorate the ancestral past. After moving to Mexico, Nitchie began using the inimitable symbols and scrolls of La Catrina as a mask applied to celebrity's faces. In her portraits of John Lennon, Amy Winehouse, Liz Taylor, and Elvis the artist questions: what is revealed and what is hidden, what is authentic and what is imagined?

In *La Catrina, Frida Kahlo I*, Nitchie depicts modern Mexican portraitist Frida Kahlo with the blood red eye sockets and sutured lips of La Catrina. Holding a large flower and clothed in her traditional Tehuana dress, Kahlo's enduring image is as ingrained in Mexican visual culture as La Catrina's. The combination reinforces the questions of gender, race, class, and coloniality that both La Catrina and Kahlo have come to symbolize.

www.sandranitchie.com

www.Agora-Gallery.com/ArtistPage/Sandra_Nitchie.aspx



La Catrina, Frida Kahlo I Acrylic on Canvas 30" x 24"

Brian Treadwell



Untitled VIII (Quintessence Work) Acrylic on Canvas 30" x 24"

Brian Treadwell's energetic, abstract canvases seek to strike a balance between color, line, shape, and rhythm. Utilizing predominantly acrylic, oil, and pastel on canvas, Treadwell incorporates both figurative and organic shapes layered in a seemingly endless manner upon registers of bright, monochromatic color. The artist's compositions brim with vitality and fervent movement as sharp lines and gestural brushstrokes interrupt the precision of his geometric shapes and patterns. Works such as *Untitled VIII (Quintessence Work)* (2017) pulsate with an almost nervous playfulness through contrasts in vibrant, cheerful colors and an all-over composition. Reminiscent of Basquiat and the later works of Mondrian, Treadwell demonstrates a keen awareness of both past and present conventions.

A Georgia state native with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Treadwell perpetually seeks to develop his art outside of his comfort zone, believing that art is a form of "self-alteration" in the world we currently inhabit. The artist finds inspiration through a series of thematic contrasts, as he explains: "I am interested in the profound with the mundane, passion with frivolity, creation with destruction, behavior with morality." The artist currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

www.ARTmine.com/ArtistPage/Brian_Treadwell.aspx