

I started with Mickey Mouse and ended up with nudes. by Lisa Yuskavage

Lisa Yuskavage lives and works in NYC and she last exhibited there at Marianne Boesky Gallery in September, 1998. She will show in London at Greengrassi Gallery in February of 1999 and has been asked to participate in the Istanbul Biennial in September 1999.

01. What is your sex?

I'm a lady

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02. Where are you now?

At home. Second Street, NYC.

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03. What's your favorite year since 1968?

1982—the year that I lived in Rome.

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04. Do you think the 90's ever existed? What proof can you offer?

My passport.

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05. Is your definition of "free time" uncommitted space to fill up? If so, what does that say about the idea that artists are never on vacation? And what does that say about the connections between leisure, boredom, and guilt?

This is a very Charlie Rose type question. It is so leading. Besides the fact that I just went to Mexico on a vacation. I feel like I am working all the time because life influences my work so much. Other than that, I love painting most of the time. It is a great pleasure.

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06. Can you describe the reasons you make art and how those reasons have changed, if they have, over time?

I first started to make art because I was always in trouble as a kid and my parents' way of handling me was to send me to my room. While there, I started with Mickey Mouse and ended up with nudes. I think that my parents never figured out that I kinda liked being alone. I still do.

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07. How do you decide when a project is worth realizing?

I hate the word project unless it is about cleaning my closets. I make art with my instincts but I clean my closets because order is a project sometimes worth realizing.

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08. In the West, we seem to have developed a conception of culture which positions it as something used by children to form themselves. Children absorb music, movies, TV, etc., to create identities. One use which adults have for culture is to sell it to children, and thereby, in effect, to live off children. Other than these commercial transactions, what is it that adults use culture for?

I disagree with the phrasing of this question . . . it makes culture sound like a conspiracy. I don't care about culture, I like art.

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09. An artist, writer, filmmaker, or musician that particularly inspires you at the moment?

I have been really into Wyclef.

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10. What is the image that counts the most for you? (Please describe it or send one.)

The "Sacre Conversation" in San Zaccariah in Venice by Bellini. Four saints standing in an apse . . . bathed in the light of Venice . . . Madonna and Child on a throne . . . they are all rapt in a silent meditation . . . no action . . . just painting as the means of conversing.

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11. When you wake up in the middle of the night, how do you occupy time and space?

I never wake up in the middle of the night, thankfully.

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14. What would you do if you inherited a million dollars?

First, pay off my credit card bills and then find a great investment person.

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15. One of your favorite hotels?

The Metropolitan Hotel in London.

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