

Fire Island Chronicle

Volume II Issue 8

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August 14, 2015

Fire Island Celebrates Art

Jane & Max-Digital Artists of Fair Harbor

By Laura Schmidt

Jane Sklar and Max Cartagena have been recognized by many prestigious organizations for their spectacular, original digital artwork. The two met back in high school in New York City but did not begin their collaboration until many years later when their paths crossed at a high school reunion. Ever since then Cartagena has been Sklar's great friend and mentor.

After Cartagena showed Sklar the ropes and basic techniques, she took off in her own direction and the two now create wonderfully, one-of-a-kind artwork. The duo recently took first place under the "Mixed Media" category at the Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibition this spring for "Dancers 1," a piece featuring Cartagena's photography and Sklar's artwork.

"The judging process is strict and competitive from one of the oldest and most respected art organizations in NYC, The Salmagundi Club," says Sklar. "This award was for innovation and is something I am most proud of to date."

According to Sklar, the two received high praise from both potential buyers and critics at the exhibition. Many told them that their work was like nothing anyone was creating today in the world of digital art.

With their technique and style ever changing, it's no wonder these two are being recognized for their great work more and more each year. Finding inspiration in people like the late-great Miles Davis, artwork and music around them and, of course, from each other is what influences their work the most.

"It's in constant motion," says Cartagena about their art. "This year's output ignores the approach my work from last year utilized."

Cartagena predicts next year's work will be "a whole other left turn" blaming his short attention span on the frequent changes. Each of their pieces is different in subject matter and style and they strive for diversity. For most artists it can be quite difficult to know when something is "finished" but these two seem trained on knowing when that moment has arrived.

According to Sklar, "experience is teaching me that those "A ha!" moments reveal themselves sooner than later."

Some other talents these two have include songwriting and recording, painting and the design and production of jewelry.

In their spare time, Sklar enjoys bargain hunting at flea markets, collecting old campaign buttons and other items like coins, stamps, and rocks and minerals.

Cartagena and Sklar have worked relentlessly to create authentic art and have great things planned for the future. Embedding their work on aluminum has been their number one choice recently to present their art, but they are exploring the idea of wood as well, which would be creative and inventive. I'm sure many people are looking forward to new work in the future from these two incredibly talented artists.

To view Max and Jane's artwork, photography and many accomplishments you can visit their website at maxjersey.com/jane-sklar.html.