

**YOU USED TO LIVE IN DUBAI, BUT YOU'VE MOVED TO SAN FRANCISCO ALMOST 2 YEARS AGO TO STUDY AT THE ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY. AFTER YEARS AS AN ARTIST AND FILM MAKER, EXHIBITING YOUR WORK, AND WORKING IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY, WHY DID YOU DECIDE AT THE AGE OF 36 TO GO BACK TO UNIVERSITY?**

In Hungary, people of my age had different possibilities than younger people do right now. It was more difficult to travel than it is now. I always wanted to study abroad to learn and gain experience, but I didn't have the chance. When I turned 36 everything went so smoothly. I believe that was the right time to come here.

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN SAN FRANCISCO SO FAR?**

That's a hard question because I'm filled with new impressions. I need some distance in time and space to understand them, but I already know that San Francisco helped me confirm some thoughts. For example, art is a hard work, ego is dangerous, my roots are very important, and I have to stay in the present.

**HOW DID AMERICA CHANGE YOUR ART? DID YOU TAKE ANYTHING WITH YOU FROM DUBAI?**

The USA is a huge and varied country and I've only experienced living in San Francisco, where there is a big South American and Asian community. Murals and Chinese painting techniques piqued my interest. In Dubai I did research in Arabic art and the richness of motifs. Calligraphy amazed me and this forced me to think about my roots: Hungarian folk art and design. On the other hand, Dubai was a very important turning point, like San Francisco is a chief station in my life. Dubai was the first place where I worked abroad, and it made me solid. San Francisco is the first place where I study abroad and it dissolves me. As an artist I need both and I believe all of these experiences shape my art in an unconscious way.

**I KNOW YOU HAVE CERTAIN ASSIGNMENTS AT UNIVERSITY, BUT DO YOU GET TO CHOOSE YOUR SUBJECTS NOWADAYS OR DO YOU ONLY PAINT WHAT THEY ASK YOU TO? THE REASON I'M ASKING THIS IS BECAUSE I KNOW IT'S HARD TO PAINT ON COMMAND, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN DOING THIS FOR YEARS. DO ASSIGNMENTS REMIND YOU OF THE CORPORATE WORLD, WHERE YOU HAVE TO BE "CREATIVE" RIGHT ON THE SPOT?**

This university is in the middle, which is a good place to be. They keep the focus on the skills and the creativity at the same time. There are many assignments for both, stringent requirements guides the students toward their own style. Instructors don't say what to paint and how, but they teach and require the elements of painting, drawings, color theory, composition and design. Exercises help you find the way to make a living doing your own art.

**SAN FRANCISCO IS A FAMOUS CREATIVE HUB. COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THE CULTURAL SCENE THERE? WHAT DO YOU SEE ON THE STREETS? WHAT INSPIRES YOU?**

As I mentioned before my wife Diana and I continuously stay in this city. This is good because interesting thoughts lay on the streets. I've already spoken about art or philosophy with taxi drivers and I've had many interesting conversations in a cable car or in a bus stop. It is amazing. For an open-minded person, San Francisco is a gold mine. In San Francisco different cultures are able to live together and this quality inspires me on every level. I was born and raised in central Europe, where Eastern and Western influences always formed the culture together. This is my tradition; I guess I fit in San Francisco.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER UNIVERSITY? ARE YOU PLANNING TO STAY IN THE STATES?**

I have certain plans for the future. As everyone else, Diana and I are strongly attached to our home. We miss our family, friends, language and culture. We would like to go back to Hungary, but life is unpredictable. Especially here. We are open to changes.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING TO THE ARTISTS IN DUBAI?**

I do not have any special advice for artists who live in Dubai. I would say the same as I usually do to my musician or painter friends: keep on and work hard. I know it sounds too simple, but in my opinion, artists are makers. They are people who create things; therefore they have to work hard. For me, painting, graphic art or cinematography are passions; professions that never end. I have to do it all the time. If I can't at least I have to think about it which is more tiring.

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# tibor simon

FEATURED ARTIST



**YOU USED TO LIVE IN DUBAI, BUT YOU'VE MOVED TO SAN FRANCISCO. ALMOST 2 YEARS AGO TO STUDY BY THE ACCESSIBILITY OF ANY UNIVERSITY? FOR YEARS AS AN ARTIST AND FILM MAKER, LOVING YOUR HOME, AND WORKING IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY, WHY DO YOU DECIDE AT THE AGE OF 30 TO GO BACK TO UNIVERSITY?**

In Hungary, people of my age had different possibilities than younger people do right now. It was more difficult to travel than it is now. I always wanted to study abroad to learn and gain experience, but I didn't have the chance. When I turned 30, everything went as smoothly. I believe that was the right time to come here.

**WHAT DO YOU LEARN IN SAN FRANCISCO TODAY?**

That's a hard question because I'm filled with new impressions. I need some distance in time and space to understand them, but I already know that San Francisco helped me explore some thoughts. For example, art is a hard work, ego is dangerous, my taste is very important, and I have to stay in the present.

**HOW DID AMERICA CHANGE YOUR ART? DO YOU TAKE ANYTHING WITH YOU FROM DUBAI?**

The USA is a huge and varied country and I've only experienced living in San Francisco, where there is a big South American and Asian community. Murals and Chinese painting techniques opened my interest. In Dubai I did research in digital art and the richness of media. Calligraphy amazed me and this forced me to think about my route. Hungarian folk art and design. On the other hand, Dubai was a very important learning point. In San Francisco is a great culture in me. Dubai was the first place where I worked abroad, and it made me bold. San Francisco is the first place where I truly started and it shocked me. As an artist I need both and I believe all of these experiences shape my art in an unconscious way.

**KNOWING YOUR GREAT COUNTRY, COMMENTS ON UNIVERSITY BUT DO YOU GET TO CHOOSE YOUR SUBJECTS? MANDATORY OR BY YOU ONLY? WHAT ABOUT THEM? ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND THEM? IS BECAUSE I HAD TO GO TO WHAT IS LEARNING, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE MISSING THE 10 YEARS, DO COMMENTS REMIND YOU OF THE CORPORATE WORLD, WHEN YOU HAVE TO BE 'CREATIVE' BASED ON THE STREET?**

The university is in the middle, which is a good place to be. They keep the focus on the skills and the creativity at the same time. There are many assignments for both, stronger requirements push the students toward their own work. Teachers don't say what to paint and how, but they teach and require the elements of painting, drawing, color theory, composition and design. Exercises help you find the way to make a living doing your own art.

**SAN FRANCISCO IS A FABRICAL CREATING AREA. COULD YOU TELL ABOUT THE CREATIVE SCENE FROM WHAT DO YOU SEE ON THE STREET? WHAT MOVIES WATCH?**

As I mentioned before my wife Diana and I continuously stay in the city. This is good because interesting things happen on the streets. I've already spoken about art and calligraphy with her and I've had many interesting conversations in a cable car or in a bus stop. It is amazing. For an open-minded person, San Francisco is a great place. In San Francisco different cultures are able to live together and this quality impresses me on every level. I was born and raised in central Europe, where Eastern and Western influences always formed the culture together. This is my tradition; I grew up in San Francisco.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER UNIVERSITY? ARE YOU PLANNING TO STAY IN THE STREET?**

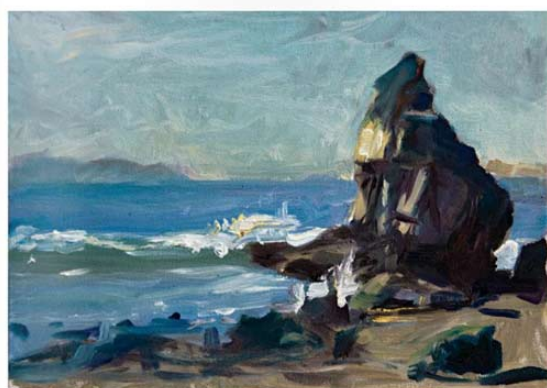
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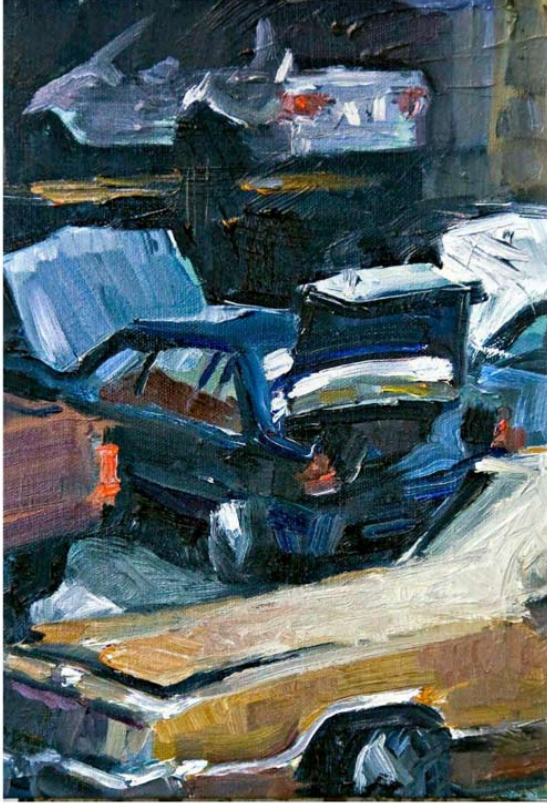
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