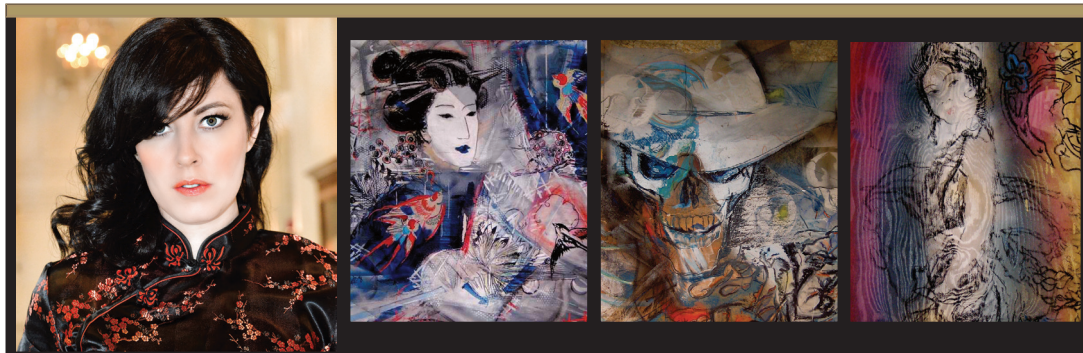


art for the heart

Mandara Wolfe



Living in a city crowned “#1 place to get discovered” it’s no accident that creativity, talent, beauty, motivation and determination flourish in Los Angeles. Pride and skill are everywhere. That said... occasionally we can cross paths with someone who rises above exceptional, and moves unencumbered within a climate of brilliance. Meet Kris Kaliakin. Born and raised in Malibu, he is in every sense a true Angeleno who lives an LA kind of life. A seasoned surfer, he’s been riding ocean waves since he could walk, has shaped surfboards and taught surf lessons, and loves music. Something else Kris loves is art. He attended Loyola Marymount University where he majored in Graphic Design, while playing for the Mens Division 1 Water Polo Team. He transferred to Otis College of Art & Design and left with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Illustration in his back pocket. As an illustrator/graphic designer with a detailed eye on apparel design, Kris works with art directors for distinguished action sports brands; in fact, he has a T-shirt line under his own label. His forte is hand done, flat graphic acrylic artwork showing humorous characters with emphasis on line, and bright colors. Kris is invited to participate in art shows across LA where art lovers can meet him, and drool for hours over his artistic talent — as my family, friends and, I along with thousands of others have done for years.

LA Artist Kris Kaliakin

MW: How do you get inspired for all of the characters you create?

KRIS: “I get inspiration from the classic 1930’s animation as well as tropical beach-related imagery. I love lighthearted humor, as well and providing a sense of beauty and relaxation to an audience.”

MW: As an artist myself, I feel what we create is reflective of one’s mind. Do you think technique is school learned, or a pure extension of one’s imagination?

KRIS: “I think technique can be both. For me, I have a graphical style with clean lines and strong color, but it was through mentors I had, that I learned how to apply my style in a compelling and professional manner.”

MW: Where do you see your art in 10 years?

KRIS: “Hopefully, I’ll be honing my craft and showcasing my work in different venues. I would love to have my own solo show in the future if the opportunity presents itself.”

MW: What do you love most about your art, and who are some of your favorite artists and why?

KRIS: I love making art that makes people excited and feel good about themselves. There is not a whole lot of deeper meaning behind my work, but I would like people to appreciate the painting process, and the product as a whole.

Some of my favorite artists who achieve this are the Australian artist couple DABSMYLA, also Jeremy Fish, Luke Pelletier, and Jay Howell to name just a few. Each of these talented artists have acquired very unique styles of their own that are not only fun, but clean, and technical — all at the same time. ■

kriskaliakin@gmail.com
kriskaliakin.com

