

Monochromatic Minds | Pre-recorded artist talk  
Miriam Ramsey who goes by the artist name Jane DaVigo

15:10

I'm Jennifer from the Jennifer Lauren gallery, and today I'm joined by Miriam, who goes by the artist name of Jane DaVigo, and today we're going to be talking about her work.

15:24

So hi Miriam

Hello Jennifer.

15:28

So can you tell me a little bit about your life.

15:33

Yes, well my life, I'm happy to be here. I was born in Spain. can I look into your eyes is that all right.

15:45

Yeah.

15:48

I was born in Spain, which is not far from England. I had a lovely Happy 15 years in Spain, followed by quite a miserable 15 years in London. And then a very successful 15 years in London, I believe, because I was surrounded by arts by them, and the amount of support, I've gotten is embarrassing. Yeah. so it made my life happy. But, at same time, it was tough love. support is a back seat. I call it like a back seat and cinema, you know, if you want to be in. You've got to get up and go over, you know, yeah it's embarrassing to be so forward. and you tearaway the screen, jump into the film, you know. but you need nails.

17:16

I like that analogy. So, can you tell us when you started going to actionspace, and how many days a week do you go there.

17:28

actionspace, I started roundabout When I was 42. So that would have been in 2018 or 17. it transformed my view of my self from someone that was a person that was isolated and lonely

and struggling to a loved person that had something to give you know. And that was amazing. Yeah.

18:22

And how often do you go there.

18:26

Well, it the day starts off on Wednesday, I jump out of bed, and it's actionspace day, you know, it's kind of like, go. Love pencils, color, friends, you know, if I had another life I'd live it again the same. That's how I feel

18:54

it was a very positive thing for you to start going there then.

18:58

Yes, it was amazing. And what I think is that as much as I love Spain. I just don't think that they had the foresight to set up something for my particular condition. So, like full to take someone like me, and really well, just nurture that is not biological it's a mental nurture that wasn't available to me in my country of origin. Even though the Music speaks to me, The lifestyle doesn't. Yeah.

19:58

So it was the right thing coming to England

20:02

It was lovely. Yeah. The first 15 was tough.

20:09

So Miriam Do you want to tell us about these drawings that were in the show that we can see, there's one on the screen now. the one with the little car.

20:38

little America.

little America is something that lisa wanted to call little America but I wanted to call small America. And

It's the English word small, like my understanding of English might imply that I don't understand, like the fact that my dual nationality I'm half English or Spanish, and that it might imply that I'm not understanding the fact that I'm wanting to say small America. She suggested little America would be a

better word, I have decided to stick to small America, because that's the one I want small America, because I like the word. Oh, and I like America. That's it really it symbolizes freedom.

22:24

So the next one on the screen is my twin hurts my head.

22:31

Yeah, my twin hurts my head came from a feeling that I've purged I think that I purge every day. Hmm. So I feel that the darkness was something so huge that if I hadn't had that pen. My life may have taken a turn for the worse. I needed a black pen to talk back to me, and explain why my twin hurts my head. And then it was kind of...

Are You okay?

yeah, it's just because I just feel so silly that a human being is so complex, a pencil is just a stick can actually be so kind. Because a complex person is very beautiful but also very frightening.

And the stick, can be something that can show you your own darkness. Like, by talking back to you. You know by exorcising. I call it luck. Yeah. my twin parts My head because she's my twin, because we're together. We're bound twins are bound.

24:29

thank you for sharing that Miriam, this one on the screen now it looks like there's like a bathtub at the front of it with two people with TVs for their heads.

24:40

Yes, that one. it's a very happy one. I think my life is very happy at that point. Yeah And my life is usually happy and my twin hurts my head is very difficult and then even happier. so it's more like a butterfly shedding a kind of shedding the silk, you know, cocoon. I went for a walk around hammersmith. It was just the reflection of the water on the river, and the sun, the sunlight on the River Thames. I just felt there was so much light, It was just amazing. And I just had to have it all my hands on TV heads. I had to put the blue with the hairy things and you know and the camel in the background, I just had to have it. I had to have it all over. Yeah, on the paper. a sense of having everything. Just, I don't think it's a desirable feeling but it's a nice feeling.

26:24

and Miriam Do you ever listen to music while you're making your work.

26:30

Oh yes, music, to me, is. Well, sometimes I have to pinch myself, you know, because I would say. Am I alive, you know, and then music tells me. Oh yes, you know, and you're not the only one, you know, and. And that to me is being alive, so I'm very happy when I listen to music so I would listen to. Miles Davis. Generally Miles Davis blue. he's just everything to me and Amy Winehouse and maybe the prodigy. There's nothing compares to music. But the thing is that outside of music is the physicality. And that's something that music doesn't tackle. You, you just feel the feeling, but you need to show. Huh, contain it. Yeah, and I think I want to go forward from the music to where it takes me. So, it's the result. my I think all my art is result of listening to music

that's interesting. So you've been sending me a few pictures of things you've been doing at home like on the screen now I've got like a pencil drawing of a man facing to one side, and then man in the background looks like he's sitting at the table with a coffee. So whilst you've been at home, actionspace is closed, can you tell us what you've been up to.

28:42

Yes. I've kind of transformed my life by tidying my flat. Yeah, I call it Lunatic level clean. Yeah. But then I have about some periods where I just need to make a mess. I read somewhere that Mondrian was very tidy and. And I feel that one of the paintings, I feel is a Mondrian that I have messed up for him, because it was quite painful. And in one of my poems I say, I the jerk, you know, because you just, it's not comfortable. It's too uncomfortable in a way that makes you comfortable to be uncomfortable. And so the mess reminds you that other people also suffer the same. No, I think, through my art, I can say I suffer that too. I like to be tidy. Yeah, well I can actually make a mess whenever I want as well. I live, because I won't flip. I won't flip I love life. But I prefer to hide if push comes to shove.

30:10

And I've got another picture on the screen now another one you sent to me where there's like two people and they look like they're in a pod.

30:19

Oh yeah Camden, these are all from Camden. I prepared it here, I'll bring a bit closer to the screen. Yeah, this one. That's Camden life and, I saw a lunatic. And I thought, that's a lunatic. And then I saw a man in the background. Yeah. And I thought that's not a lunatic. Yeah. And then it opens up and there's a woman. I love women. Wow. Yeah, I just love their energy. Here is the other one in a silver frame.

Yes, and I've got it on the screen now as well.

31:37

pigeons to me are creatures That remind me also of dinosaurs, you know, so I wanted to get to the nitty gritty in the bones of them. Yeah. Through bare bony wings. But I think because imagination starts somewhere. And I think it starts with survival. Yep. And that's why I was doing and so I put a banana underneath. Because I was going crazy. And it was like survival of the fittest.

32:35

I can see the pigeon legs and everything now and now you've said the wings it all makes perfect sense here.

32:45

It's nice to survive.

32:52

so you like write in poetry alongside doing your art, don't you. why is that so important to you.

33:04

well I love English words. call me an English word taught. I love English words.

33:16

And would you like to read as one of your poems.

33:19

Sure, It'd be a pleasure. Thankyou.

33:24

fox. I lay in grass. See my children play fair the park wardens. The moon seems too large my mate is my life. I, I'm hungry. I don't want to die. So I storm the bins, people look at me. I am the fox, that got the lot. fox

33:58

Wow.

34:00

And then you do images to go with them, don't you,

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yeah I do them with my phone.

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So Miriam we've come to the end is there anything else you'd like to share about your art with everyone.

34:36

Yes, I would like to say thank you.

That's quite all right.

34:43

And that's it, thank you, thank you for speaking lovely words, everyone,

34:49

and thank you for chatting with us today. wonderful. Really appreciate it.